

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Red Willow School District #73-0017
McCook Public Schools

Will begin immediately following hearings Monday, July 8, 2024
Junior High Conference Room
700 W 7th St
McCook, NE 69001

"It is the mission of McCook Public Schools to equip all students to succeed in a complex global society"

Please arrive at the Board meeting at the start time, because the Board reserves the right to change the order of items.

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Roll Call
 - 1.2. Recognition of Open Meeting Law
 - 1.3. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Reports, Communications & Public Participation
 - 2.1. Board accepts public comments
 - 2.2. Presentation on career and college Readiness by the building principals.
3. Approve the consent agenda, which includes the minutes and financials
 - 3.1. Approval of Expenditures/Payroll for June 2024
4. Reports from Staff Members and Committees
 - 4.1. Administrator's written reports: Please review prior to the board meeting
 - 4.2. Policy Committee
5. Superintendent's report

Area Membership Meeting

- Our area membership meeting will be in North Platte on August 20th.
6. Lunch Price Increases
 - Part of our annual operations involves addressing the deficit between what MPS charges for lunches and the mandated rates set by the Federal Food Services. To narrow this gap, we are requesting a ten-cent increase for student meals.
 7. This adjustment is crucial to ensure that we maintain our access to free and reimbursable lunches for qualifying students under the Federal Food Services Program.
 8. Early Retirement Incentive
 - We are developing an early retirement incentive to encourage certified staff planning to retire to notify district administration early in the school year. Early notification is crucial in this competitive employment market for securing high-quality staff to fill our vacancies.
 - By financially encouraging staff to notify administration between October and December, we enhance our ability to seek out and recruit high-performing teachers.
 - The incentive operates on a descending scale, with greater incentives for those who notify us in October compared to those who notify us in December.
 - This incentive is available only to staff who meet certain requirements, such as specific age and years of service with the district.

- Funding for this program will come from our Early Retirement Incentive Fund, which is designated solely for this purpose and has not been utilized since our previous early retirement incentive plan ended over a decade ago. The fund has enough money to fund this incentive for several years, and cannot be used for any other purpose.

9. School Calendar Correction

- I am writing to inform you about an error in the calendar that was presented in February and approved in March, which has resulted in us being one day short of the contracted days for staff. To address this, we can either add a student day or an additional staff in-service day to the calendar to meet our contractual obligations.
 - I recommend adding a staff in-service day in May. This option will cause less disruption to the calendar and impact fewer families. Additionally, this extra time allows us to plan a high-quality in-service training session. Staff will benefit from focusing on the training without the distraction of classroom responsibilities.
- The alternative is to add a student day, which could potentially impact more families and the planning of local organizations. While our current calendar exceeds the hours required by NDE and includes several built-in "snow days." If the McCook area experiences a terrible winter, extending the student year at a later date could be done to ensure the district meets the department's hours requirements.

10. Faraday Bag Test

- I am bringing some Faraday bags for the board members to see and test.

11. Director of Business Services report

12. Board member comments

13. New Business

13.1. Approve new lunch prices for the 24/25 school year.

13.2. Approve interlocal agreement committee membership for community parks: Grant Norgaard, Jeff Gross, and Charlie McPherson.

13.3. Approve the policy package 5000s -- Students, as presented to the Board of Education, and remove the following policies currently in place: 104.01, 404.061, 404.07, 502.011, 502.012, 502.02, 502.03, 502.031, 502.05, 503.04, 505.05, 504.02504.06, 504.19, 504.19R1 506.02, 506.08, 507.01, 507.13, 508.01, 508.012, 508.12R1 508.13, AR501.13, 611.01, 611.02, 611.07, 801.04, and 801.06.

13.4. Approve Policy 1501 Emergency Exclusion of Persons from School.

This policy was held for approval until the 5000s were approved because of a reference to Policy 5101.

13.5. Approve the policy package 8000s -- Internal Board Policies, as presented to the Board of Education, and remove the following policies currently in place: 201.2, 203.01, 203.06, 202.02, 202.021, 204.01, 204.07, 204.10, and 204.12.

13.6. Approve the Superintendent's contract and compensation.

13.7. Approve update to the 2024-2025 school calendar.

14. Positive Comments

15. Adjournment
16. Items for Review

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Red Willow School District #73-0017
McCook Public Schools
6:00 PM Monday, June 10, 2024
Junior High Conference Room
700 W 7th St
McCook, NE 69001

1. Call to Order

1.1. Roll Call

Attendance Taken on 6/10/2024 at
6:00 PM

Agenda Item: Roll Call

Regular Board

Scott Barger

Tom Bredvick

Brad Hays

Mike Langan

Charlie McPherson

Teresa Thomas

1.2. Recognition of Open Meeting Law

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Reports, Communications & Public Participation

2.1. Board accepts public comments

Brad Randel questioned the cell phone policy. He was curious about the faraday bags and why not just keep the phones muted or in the front of the classroom.

Andi Cappel supports the school with the new policy,

Kate Seigfried supports the policy and believes they should not be in school at all.

Anna Lebay was curious about the policy and the faraday bags.

Aidrian Randel thinks that cell phones should be muted and in the building.

Jasmine Martiniez Conroy says that she believes that without phones the test scores would be improved, and likes the policy because of the emergency.

3. Approve the consent agenda, which includes the minutes and financials

3.1. Approval of Expenditures/Payroll for May 2024

I move to Approve the consent agenda Passed with a motion by Tom Bredvick and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Tom Bredvick: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie

McPherson: Yea, Teresa Thomas: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

4. Reports from Staff Members and Committees

4.1. Administrator's written reports: Please review prior to the board meeting

4.2. Policy Committee

Mr. Bredvick stated the committee worked on policies for 3 hours, and they are encouraging you

to approve the policies on new business tonight. Mike Langan explained the process as to how we are going through policies and matching our existing policies with those of the legal council.

4.3. Activities Committee

The activities committee met concerning the district adding NSAA bowling as a sanctioned sport. And is making the suggestions to the board to approve.

4.4. Committee on American Civics

Grant spoke about the American civics meeting that was held prior to the board meeting. He presented how and when we teach American civics by grade level and scope and sequence, and they looked at CRT and CRT data.

4.5. Superintendent's report

Elementary Summer School

- The elementary summer school program runs from June 3 to June 27 at McCook Elementary School, serving students from Kindergarten through 5th grade. Both breakfast and lunch are available for pickup at the school, which students can either take to class or bring home at the end of the day.

Principal and Director Evaluations

- I have two evaluations to complete, and both evaluations are scheduled to take place this week.

Board Retreat Tuesday

- Board members will attend a retreat on Tuesday, June 11, at 5:30 PM in the Junior High Boardroom. No official board action will be taken during this retreat.

4.6. Director of Business Services report

Monthly Business Manager Board of Education Report

May 2024 for June 2024 Board Meeting

May Lunch #'s = 9,789 Meals served. 6,074 meals served during 1st week of summer school.
Financial #'s = After 75%% of fiscal year = General Fund YTD Revenue is 75% YTD Expense is 66%

All Funds YTD Revenue is 86%, YTD Expenses is 74%

Facilities - Updates

Restroom (room # 323) is now complete

Cleaning has been completed on the SH gym. H2I is returning this week to paint the center logo and install volleyball sleeves.

Tennis court surfacing is scheduled for July 2024

Concrete is being replaced by the SH Auditorium

On going HVAC projects are underway
Kitchen work is being completed per summer schedule
Carpet is being replaced at Central
Painting crew is painting in the district.
Carpets are being cleaned
Upcoming Projects
Elementary school Vanities/sinks in the Kindergarten Wing
All grounds are set to be overseeded and aerated
Bond Project
Sampson's and W Design are working on final design and cost estimating the project.
Federal/state Reports filed in May:
District hours in Session
1138 6-12th grades, 1132 K-5th grades, 450 PK
Student transportation mileage
104,861 route miles
153,853 for Activities
Title I services provided
Title 1 - non Public consultation and delinquent report

5. Board member comments

There were no comments.

6. New Business

6.1. Approve the student discipline policy, which includes revisions to student cell phone usage during the school day.

I move to approve the student discipline policy, which includes revisions to student cell phone usage during the school day. Passed with a motion by Teresa Thomas and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Tom Bredvick: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie

McPherson: Yea, Teresa Thomas: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

I recommend that this policy be approved.

6.2. Accept resignations

There were no resignations.

6.3. Approve the policy package 4000s--Personnel, as presented to the Board of Education, and remove the following policies currently in place: 406.02, 205.02, 206.041, 402.01, 402.05, 402.06, 404.061, 406.05, 406.08, 408.05, 416, 508.03

I move to Approve the policy package 4000s--Personnel, as presented to the Board of Education, and remove the following policies currently in place: 406.02, 205.02, 206.041, 402.01, 402.05, 402.06, 404.061, 406.05, 406.08, 408.05, 416, 508.03 Passed with a motion by Tom Bredvick and a second by Teresa Thomas.

Scott Barger: Yea, Tom Bredvick: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie

McPherson: Yea, Teresa Thomas: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.4. Approve the policy package 9000s-- Bylaws of the Board, as presented to the Board of Education, and remove the following policy currently in place: 201.01

I move to Approve the policy package 9000s-- Bylaws of the Board, as presented to the Board of Education, and remove the following policy currently in place: 201.01 Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Tom Bredvick.

Scott Barger: Yea, Tom Bredvick: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie

McPherson: Yea, Teresa Thomas: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

I recommend the Board approve these policies.

6.5. Approve McCook & Central Elementary Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year.

I move to Approve McCook & Central Elementary Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year. Passed with a motion by Teresa Thomas and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Tom Bredvick: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie

McPherson: Yea, Teresa Thomas: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.6. Approve Jr. High & Sr. High Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year.

I move to Approve Jr. High & Sr. High Student Handbook for the 2024-2025 school year. Passed with a motion by Tom Bredvick and a second by Teresa Thomas.

Scott Barger: Yea, Tom Bredvick: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie

McPherson: Yea, Teresa Thomas: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.7. Approve the district administrators' compensation package, allowing for a maximum total salary increase of \$36,000.

I move to Approve the district administrators' compensation package, allowing for a maximum total salary increase of \$36,000. Passed with a motion by Tom Bredvick and a second by Teresa Thomas.

Scott Barger: Yea, Tom Bredvick: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie

McPherson: Yea, Teresa Thomas: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

6.8. Accept Donation (\$1,222.70) from MNB Bison Debit Cards

I move to Accept Donation (\$1,222.70) from MNB Bison Debit Cards Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Teresa Thomas.

Scott Barger: Yea, Tom Bredvick: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie

McPherson: Yea, Teresa Thomas: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

I move to Accept Donation (\$1,222.70) from MNB Bison Debit Cards

6.9. Approve NSAA bowling as a high school activity starting during the 24-25 school year. I move to Approve NSAA bowling as a high school activity starting during the 24-25 school year. Passed with a motion by Mike Langan and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Tom Bredvick: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea, Teresa Thomas: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

I, the high school administration, and the Activities Committee all support the addition of bowling to the list of NSAA supported activities offered at McCook High School.

This program would start in the 2024-2025 school year.

7. Positive Comments

Teresa Thomas has heard a lot of positive comments about the new playground equipment. She talked to some kids that love the new equipment.

Tom Bredvick stated that food insecurity in the state of NE is real, and he was extremely positive about the amount of food that was served for the summer food service.

Charlie McPherson commented on the amazing work being done by the maintenance and custodial staff so far this summer.

Mike Lnagan felt like the facility enhancements have been amazing, test scores are great, the food service is providing great service. He feels like things are good.

Jeff Gross thanked the bus drivers. Our route drivers drove 104,861 miles, and our activity drivers drove 153,853 miles.

Brad Hays congratulated all the spring sports athletes and coaches

Grant Norgaard thanked all our social studies teachers for all they do to ensure that all the Americanism policies and standards are being met.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

9. Items for Review

9.1. McCook Public Schools Policy - Sections 6000 and 7000

McCook Public Schools

Revenues for May June for July 2024 Board Meeting

[Fund] 01 - General Fund

Account Code	Description	Actual (Date)	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
01-1-01100-00-000-000	Local Property Taxes	(\$466,651.44)	(\$8,885,898.00)	(\$7,758,178.05)	(\$1,127,719.95)	87.30
01-1-01115-00-000-000	Carline Taxes	\$0.00	(\$3,700.00)	(\$4,222.84)	\$522.84	114.13
01-1-01120-00-000-000	Public Power Dist. Sales Tax	\$0.00	(\$295,000.00)	(\$295,459.80)	\$459.80	100.15
01-1-01125-00-000-000	Motor Vehicle Taxes	(\$72,249.12)	(\$810,000.00)	(\$636,960.06)	(\$173,039.94)	78.63
01-1-01323-00-000-000	Tuition - District - Sped	\$0.00	(\$15,000.00)	(\$15,000.00)	\$0.00	100.00
01-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$10,559.16)	(\$39,482.00)	(\$71,790.42)	\$32,308.42	181.83
01-1-01911-00-000-000	Local License Fees	(\$250.00)	(\$7,500.00)	(\$7,755.00)	\$255.00	103.40
01-1-01921-00-000-000	Police Court Fines	(\$1,310.00)	(\$3,000.00)	(\$5,249.58)	\$2,249.58	174.98
01-1-01960-00-000-000	Other Local Receipts	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,800.00)	\$1,800.00	0.00
01-1-02110-00-000-000	County Fines & License Fees	(\$5,801.00)	(\$47,500.00)	(\$70,477.39)	\$22,977.39	148.37
01-1-03110-00-000-000	State Aid	(\$554,656.00)	(\$5,546,560.00)	(\$5,546,560.00)	\$0.00	100.00
01-1-03120-00-000-000	Sped School Age	(\$334,040.00)	(\$2,080,000.00)	(\$2,121,676.00)	\$41,676.00	102.00
01-1-03125-00-000-000	Sped Trans. Sch Age	(\$51,209.00)	(\$25,000.00)	(\$51,209.00)	\$26,209.00	204.83
01-1-03130-00-000-000	Homestead Exemption	(\$50,694.59)	(\$270,000.00)	(\$202,528.50)	(\$67,471.50)	75.01
01-1-03131-00-000-000	Property Tax Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$601,936.68)	\$601,936.68	0.00
01-1-03180-00-000-000	Pro Rate Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	(\$30,000.00)	(\$23,216.77)	(\$6,783.23)	77.38
01-1-03400-00-000-000	State Apportionment	\$0.00	(\$350,000.00)	(\$365,843.48)	\$15,843.48	104.52
01-1-03512-00-000-000	Distance Educ. Incentive Payments	\$0.00	(\$1,700.00)	\$0.00	(\$1,700.00)	0.00
01-1-03535-00-000-000	High Ability Learner Payments	\$0.00	(\$9,200.00)	(\$12,032.00)	\$2,832.00	130.78
01-1-03551-00-000-000	CTE GMS Grant	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$7,500.00)	\$7,500.00	0.00
01-1-04505-00-000-000	Title I Current Fiscal Year	\$0.00	(\$240,000.00)	(\$71,254.00)	(\$168,746.00)	29.68
01-1-04509-00-000-000	Title II, Part A Teacher Quality	\$0.00	(\$43,700.00)	(\$3,554.00)	(\$40,146.00)	8.13
01-1-04510-00-000-000	Title IV	\$0.00	(\$18,500.00)	(\$5,619.00)	(\$12,881.00)	30.37
01-1-04516-00-000-000	IDEA Base 3-5	(\$11,335.00)	(\$16,000.00)	(\$16,435.00)	\$435.00	102.71
01-1-04518-00-000-000	IDEA - BASE - EP	(\$190,197.00)	(\$384,000.00)	(\$351,076.00)	(\$32,924.00)	91.42
01-1-04521-00-000-000	IDEA Non-Public	(\$16,003.00)	(\$32,000.00)	(\$40,282.00)	\$8,282.00	125.88
01-1-04523-00-000-000	IDEA Special Projects	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,500.00)	\$1,500.00	0.00
01-1-04530-00-000-000	Categorical Grants	\$0.00	(\$3,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$3,000.00)	0.00
01-1-04708-00-000-000	Medicaid In Public Schools	\$0.00	(\$50,000.00)	(\$86,581.65)	\$36,581.65	173.16
01-1-04709-00-000-000	Medicaid Administrative Activity	(\$4,970.21)	\$0.00	(\$23,224.97)	\$23,224.97	0.00
01-1-04998-00-000-000	ESSERS III	(\$121,847.00)	(\$220,000.00)	(\$180,122.00)	(\$39,878.00)	81.87
01-1-05301-00-000-000	Insurance Adjustments	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$25,483.68)	\$25,483.68	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$1,891,772.52)	(\$19,426,740.00)	(\$18,604,527.87)	(\$822,212.13)	95.77%

[Fund] 02 - Depreciation Fund

02-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$1,582.79)	(\$1,500.00)	(\$17,492.20)	\$15,992.20	1,166.14
02-1-05200-00-000-000	Transfers From General Fund	\$0.00	(\$150,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$150,000.00)	0.00
02-1-05690-00-000-000	Non-revenue Receipts	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$4,666.17)	\$4,666.17	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$1,582.79)	(\$151,500.00)	(\$22,158.37)	(\$129,341.63)	14.63%

[Fund] 03 - Employee Benefit

Account Code	Description	Actual (Date)	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
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03-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest - Unemployment	(\$215.70)	(\$250.00)	(\$2,134.58)	\$1,884.58	853.83
03-1-05200-00-000-000	Transfers From General Fund	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$215.70)	(\$5,250.00)	(\$2,134.58)	(\$3,115.42)	40.66%
[Fund] 06 - School Nutrition Fund						
Account Code	Description	Actual (Date	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
06-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$383.56)	(\$100.00)	(\$4,272.27)	\$4,172.27	4,272.27
06-1-01610-00-000-000	Sale Of Lunches/milks	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$357.39)	\$357.39	0.00
06-1-01611-00-000-000	School Lunch Program	(\$84.68)	(\$310,000.00)	(\$227,133.22)	(\$82,866.78)	73.26
06-1-03150-00-000-000	State Reimbursement	\$0.00	(\$320,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$320,000.00)	0.00
06-1-04210-00-000-000	Federal Reimbursement	(\$25,875.14)	\$0.00	(\$378,754.86)	\$378,754.86	0.00
06-1-05690-00-000-000	Other Non-revenue Receipts	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$316.52)	\$316.52	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$26,343.38)	(\$630,100.00)	(\$610,834.26)	(\$19,265.74)	96.94%
[Fund] 07 - Bond Fund						
Account Code	Description	Actual (Date	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
07-1-01100-00-000-000	Local Property Taxes	(\$20,818.24)	(\$410,000.00)	(\$360,989.10)	(\$49,010.90)	88.04
07-1-01115-00-000-000	Carline Taxes	\$0.00	(\$385.00)	(\$255.07)	(\$129.93)	66.25
07-1-01120-00-000-000	Public Power Dist. Sales Tax	\$0.00	(\$245.00)	(\$17,348.03)	\$17,103.03	7,080.82
07-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$1,184.01)	(\$570.00)	(\$10,429.39)	\$9,859.39	1,829.71
07-1-03130-00-000-000	Homestead Exemption	(\$2,821.58)	(\$8,600.00)	(\$11,258.64)	\$2,658.64	130.91
07-1-03131-00-000-000	Property Tax Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$26,111.74)	\$26,111.74	0.00
07-1-03180-00-000-000	Pro Rate Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	(\$1,200.00)	(\$1,102.24)	(\$97.76)	91.85
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$24,823.83)	(\$421,000.00)	(\$427,494.21)	\$6,494.21	101.54%
[Fund] 08 - Special Building Fund						
Account Code	Description	Actual (Date	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
08-1-01100-00-000-000	Local Property Taxes	(\$9,668.46)	(\$400,000.00)	(\$227,840.29)	(\$172,159.71)	56.96
08-1-01115-00-000-000	Carline Taxes	\$0.00	\$150.00	(\$109.26)	\$259.26	-72.84
08-1-01120-00-000-000	Public Power Sales Tax	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	(\$6,024.29)	\$7,024.29	-602.42
08-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$2,057.37)	\$1,000.00	(\$19,234.51)	\$20,234.51	-1,923.45
08-1-03130-00-000-000	Homestead Exemption	(\$1,049.75)	\$1,100.00	(\$9,885.05)	\$10,985.05	-898.64
08-1-03131-00-000-000	Property Tax Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$6,756.59)	\$6,756.59	0.00
08-1-03180-00-000-000	Pro-rate Motor Vehicle	\$0.00	\$1,750.00	(\$596.38)	\$2,346.38	-34.07
08-1-04998-00-000-000	ARP ESSERS III Special Building	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$89,427.00)	\$89,427.00	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$12,775.58)	(\$395,000.00)	(\$359,873.37)	(\$35,126.63)	91.11%
Grand Total		(\$1,957,513.80)	(\$21,029,590.00)	(\$20,027,022.66)	(\$1,002,567.34)	95.23%

McCook Public Schools

Expenditures for June 2024 for July 2024 Board Meeting

Function - General Fund	Actuals (Selected)	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
01100 - Regular Instruction	\$551,165.43	\$6,170,180.96	\$5,785,378.48	\$375,586.08	93.76
01150 - Limited English Proficiency Programs	\$11,018.46	\$235,328.83	\$129,989.09	\$105,339.74	55.24
01160 - Poverty Programs	\$124,880.63	\$2,284,733.20	\$1,249,550.61	\$1,035,182.59	54.69
01190 - Early Childhood Educational Programs	\$633.75	\$2,500.00	\$892.83	\$1,607.17	35.71
01200 - Special Education Instructional Programs - School Age	\$192,540.74	\$2,611,573.64	\$2,338,779.94	\$271,437.92	89.55
01291 - Special Education Instructional Programs - Ages 3-5	\$211.25	\$154,546.66	\$1,160.12	\$153,386.54	0.75
01295 - Special Education Instructional Programs - Unified Sports	\$96.16	\$1,180.57	\$984.24	\$196.33	83.37
01300 - Summer School	\$4,057.27	\$10,000.00	\$5,260.19	\$4,722.10	52.60
02110 - Attendance/Social Work	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$32,136.60	\$2,863.40	91.82
02120 - Guidance Services	\$15,981.74	\$287,690.08	\$165,692.85	\$121,997.23	57.59
02130 - Health Services	\$90.00	\$5,100.00	\$5,403.75	(\$5,543.03)	105.96
02131 - SPED Health Services	\$4,338.50	\$64,351.66	\$53,765.59	\$10,586.07	83.55
02141 - Psychological Services - SPED - School Age	\$10,582.27	\$150,997.18	\$143,206.74	\$3,190.44	94.84
02142 - Psychological Services- SPED- Age 3-5	\$0.00		\$6,562.50	(\$7,500.00)	
02151 - Speech Pathology and Audiology Services - SPED - School	\$18,512.77	\$230,090.61	\$209,103.09	\$18,673.14	90.88
02152 - Speech Pathology and Audiology Services - SPED - Age 3-5	\$48.50	\$2,950.00	\$891.45	\$1,897.66	30.22
02153 - Speech Pathology and Audiology Services - SPED - Age 0-2	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	0.00
02161 - Occupational Therapy-Related Services - SPED - School Age	\$9,866.35	\$105,493.00	\$97,349.93	\$8,143.07	92.28
02171 - Physical Therapy-Related Services - SPED - School Age	\$1,024.65		\$22,554.45	(\$22,554.45)	
02172 - Physical Therapy-Related Services - SPED - Ages 3-5	\$71.55		\$2,648.70	(\$2,648.70)	
02181 - Visually Impaired-Vision Services - SPED - School Age	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	0.00
02190 - Support Services - Student - Other	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$119,439.59	(\$19,439.59)	119.44
02213 - Instructional Staff Training	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0.00
02220 - Library-Media Services	\$32,428.80	\$374,185.29	\$315,975.77	\$57,869.24	84.44
02230 - Instruction Related Technology	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	0.00
02310 - Board of Education	\$273.63	\$211,500.00	\$51,000.77	\$160,499.23	24.11
02320 - Executive Administration	\$23,471.72	\$276,658.99	\$222,623.02	\$52,288.54	80.47
02330 - District Legal Services	\$310.50	\$20,000.00	\$26,805.26	(\$6,805.26)	134.03
02410 - Office of the Principal	\$122,853.61	\$1,113,434.61	\$1,000,297.37	\$108,115.54	89.84
02490 - Activity Director	\$11,191.93	\$138,582.26	\$112,575.28	\$26,006.98	81.23
02510 - Fiscal Services	\$41,851.22	\$710,954.41	\$393,737.15	\$305,857.76	55.38
02530 - PRINTING, PUBLISHING, & DUPLICATING SERVICES	\$0.00		\$325.94	(\$325.94)	
02580 - Administrative Technology Service	\$29,971.90	\$500,416.47	\$403,356.34	\$72,257.13	80.60
02610 - Operation of Buildings	\$48,011.73	\$840,878.20	\$984,188.80	(\$143,521.96)	117.04
02620 - Maintenance of Buildings	\$65,523.22	\$811,926.11	\$695,513.08	\$99,868.65	85.66
02650 - Vehicle Operation and Maintenance (Other Than Student	\$1,536.90	\$21,500.00	\$12,471.91	\$9,028.09	58.01
02660 - Security	\$0.00	\$46,000.00	\$42,150.00	\$3,850.00	91.63
02670 - Safety	\$145.00		\$1,870.00	(\$1,870.00)	
02710 - Vehicle Operation - Regular Education	\$27,596.54	\$277,439.45	\$282,250.54	(\$5,650.10)	101.73
02712 - Vehicle Operation - School Age SPED	\$6,006.25	\$77,098.25	\$57,949.78	\$19,148.47	75.16
02713 - Vehicle Operation - Below Age 5 SPED	\$0.00	\$15,900.00	\$0.00	\$15,900.00	0.00
02730 - Vehicle Servicing and Maintenance - Regular Education	\$8,620.29	\$94,758.77	\$83,065.31	\$11,693.46	87.66
03512 - Distance Education	\$7,733.84		\$136,954.99	(\$136,954.99)	
03535 - High Ability Learners	\$115.00	\$23,018.00	\$25,198.19	(\$2,180.19)	109.47

03551 - CTE GMS Grant	\$0.00		\$11,200.00	(\$11,200.00)	
03599 - State Categorical Programs - Others	\$0.00	\$6,300.00	\$0.00	\$6,300.00	0.00
06200 - Federal Services - Title I Part A ESSA Improving Basic	\$19,412.56	\$241,237.79	\$194,127.81	\$47,109.98	80.47
06310 - Federal Services - Title II Part A ESSA Supporting Effective	\$0.00	\$43,700.00	\$37,487.69	\$6,212.31	85.78
06406 - Federal Services - IDEA Preschool (619) Base Allocation	\$1,154.02	\$15,766.96	\$16,874.01	(\$1,107.05)	107.02
06408 - Part B 611 Base EP	\$30,366.80	\$387,469.50	\$314,635.39	\$72,834.11	81.20
06412 - Federal Services - IDEA Part B Proportionate Share	\$2,702.80	\$31,264.08	\$26,807.70	\$4,456.38	85.75
06690 - Federal Services - Other Federal Non-Categorical Expenditures	\$0.00	\$6,294.00	\$0.00	\$6,294.00	0.00
06700 - Federal Services - Federal Vocational and Applied Technology	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	0.00
06967 - FEDERAL SERVICES - TITLE IV, PART A ESSA: STUDENT	\$0.00	\$18,500.00	\$0.00	\$18,500.00	0.00
06969 - Title IV	\$2,384.37		\$4,384.37	(\$4,384.37)	
06998 - ESSER3 Disbursement	\$13,861.77	\$157,740.47	\$171,676.39	(\$13,935.92)	108.83
08000 - Transfers (Outgoing)	\$0.00	\$475,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$425,000.00	10.53
01 - General Fund	\$1,442,644.42	\$19,426,740.00	\$16,046,253.60	\$3,295,777.80	82.60%

Function - Depreciation Fund	Actuals (Selected)	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
02900 - OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES	\$41,231.00	\$1,020,000.00	\$504,933.90	\$502,487.87	49.50
02 - Depreciation Fund	\$41,231.00	\$1,020,000.00	\$504,933.90	\$502,487.87	49.50%

Function - Employee Benefit Fund	Actuals (Selected)	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
02520 - Purchasing Warehousing and Distributing Services	\$0.00	\$5,250.00	\$0.00	\$5,250.00	0.00
03 - Employee Benefit Fund	\$0.00	\$5,250.00	\$0.00	\$5,250.00	0.00%

Function - School Nutrition Fund	Actuals (Selected)	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
02190 - Support Services - Student - Other	\$54,987.28	\$630,100.00	\$594,651.38	\$34,191.38	94.37
06 - School Nutrition Fund	\$54,987.28	\$630,100.00	\$594,651.38	\$34,191.38	94.37%

Function - Bond Fund	Actuals (Selected)	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
05000 - Debt Service	\$0.00	\$421,000.00	\$399,632.50	\$21,367.50	94.92
07 - Bond Fund	\$0.00	\$421,000.00	\$399,632.50	\$21,367.50	94.92%

Function Special Building	Actuals (Selected)	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
02515 - Building and Sites	\$0.00	\$240,000.00	\$0.00	\$240,000.00	0.00
04300 - ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING	\$0.00		\$2,600.00	(\$2,600.00)	
04500 - BUILDING ACQUISITION & CONSTRUCTION	\$0.00		\$86,492.98	(\$86,492.98)	
04700 - Building Improvements	\$9,235.37		\$97,202.37	(\$97,202.37)	
05000 - Debt Service	\$3,007.54	\$55,000.00	\$30,075.40	\$24,924.60	54.68
08 - Special Building Fund	\$12,242.91	\$295,000.00	\$216,370.75	\$78,629.25	73.35%

Grand Total	\$1,551,105.61	\$21,798,090.00	\$17,761,842.13	\$3,937,703.80	81%
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McCook Public Schools

Cash Summary Report June 2024 for July 2024 Board Meeting

Fund	Description	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expenditure	Ending Balance	Encumbrances	Available
01	General Fund	\$6,516,368.31	\$1,891,772.52	(\$1,442,644.42)	\$6,965,496.41	(\$85,148.86)	\$6,880,347.55
02	Depreciation Fund	\$1,031,636.53	\$1,582.79	(\$41,231.00)	\$991,988.32	(\$12,578.23)	\$979,410.09
03	Employee Benefit Fund	\$140,592.26	\$215.70	\$0.00	\$140,807.96	\$0.00	\$140,807.96
05	Activity Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
06	School Nutrition Fund	\$340,213.10	\$26,343.38	(\$54,987.28)	\$311,569.20	(\$1,257.24)	\$310,311.96
07	Bond Fund	\$688,211.29	\$24,823.83	\$0.00	\$713,035.12	\$0.00	\$713,035.12
08	Special Building Fund	\$1,340,280.13	\$12,775.58	(\$12,242.91)	\$1,340,812.80	\$0.00	\$1,340,812.80
Sub Total		\$10,057,301.62	\$1,957,513.80	(\$1,551,105.61)	\$10,463,709.81	(\$98,984.33)	\$10,364,725.48

Fund	Description	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expenditure	Adjustments	Ending Balance
12	Activity Fund	\$355,556.63	\$21,993.33	\$24,310.05	\$0.00	\$353,239.91

McCook Public Schools

Voucher by Vendor Report

US Bank Credit Card Report JUNE 24

Voucher Number	Vendor	Amount						
2 JUNE 23/24	US Bank	\$9,714.08						
Invoice	Payment Vendor	PO Number	Invoice Date	Warrant Number	Item No.	Item Description	Account Code	Amount
Amaz-ME	US Bank	24-2564	04/28/2024	55953	1	UHPPOTE Access Control Door Lock	01-2-01100-00-610-1-003-60	\$66.90
Amaz-ME	US Bank	24-2564	04/28/2024	55953	2	UHPPOTE Zinc Alloy Surface Mount Back Box	01-2-01100-00-610-1-003-60	\$9.90
Amaz-Vetro	US Bank	24-2667	05/20/2024	55953	1	DJI Ronin-SC - Camera Stabilizer, 3-Axis Handheld Gimbal for DSLR and Mirrorless Cameras, Up to 4.4lbs Payload, Sony, Panasonic Lumix, Nikon, Canon, Lightweight Design, Cinematic Filming, Black	01-2-01100-04-610-2-001-15	\$229.00
Amaz-Vetro	US Bank	24-2667	05/20/2024	55953	2	JOILCAN Tripod Camera Tripods, 74" Tripod for Camera Cell Phone Video Photography, Heavy Duty Tall Camera Tripod Stand, Professional Travel DSLR Tripods Compatible with Canon iPhone, Max Load 15 LB	01-2-01100-04-610-2-001-15	\$29.99
Amaz-Vetro	US Bank	24-2667	05/20/2024	55953	3	SanDisk 128GB Extreme microSDXC UHS-I Memory Card with Adapter - Up to 190MB/s, C10, U3, V30, 4K, 5K, A2, Micro SD Card - SDSQXAA-128G-GN6MA	01-2-01100-04-610-2-001-15	\$71.16
STUDENTPUBLI	US Bank	24-2589	04/29/2024	55953	1	Registration for Flint Hills Publications Workshop 2024- Sarah Hoyt	01-2-01100-13-330-2-001-15	\$339.00
Ama-Jedlicki	US Bank	24-2759	05/04/2024	55953	1	reorder of damaged box of supplies for T Jedlicki	01-2-01100-30-610-2-001-15	\$568.42
BITEPRO	US Bank	24-2569	04/26/2024	55953	1	BitePRO® Chest Protector 3 medium & 3 large	01-2-01200-45-610-1-003-70	\$1,547.94
BITEPRO	US Bank	24-2569	04/26/2024	55953	2	Shipping	01-2-01200-45-610-1-003-70	\$48.70
CREIGHUNIV-Nurse	US Bank	24-2566	04/26/2024	55953	1	Registration for Online Immunize Nebraska Conf	01-2-02130-00-330-0-000-11	\$90.00
THEKIMFOU	US Bank	24-2755	05/14/2024	55953	1	Registration for Greg Borland for The Kim Foundation conference	01-2-02410-00-330-1-003-60	\$330.00
ACT-CVENT	US Bank	24-2756	05/10/2024	55953	1	Registration for Craig Dickes for ACT Conference	01-2-02410-00-330-2-001-15	\$125.00
WEBST-HS Tables	US Bank	24-2591	05/06/2024	55953	1	National Public Seating Fixed Height Black Frame Heavy-Duty Utility Table with High-Pressure Laminate Top	01-2-02410-00-610-2-001-15	\$3,821.86
WEBST-HS Tables	US Bank	24-2591	05/06/2024	55953	2	Shipping	01-2-02410-00-610-2-001-15	\$684.59
Amaz-JH	US Bank	24-2587	05/03/2024	55953	1	BLACK LANYARDS 100 EA	01-2-02410-00-610-2-002-20	\$96.02
Amaz-JH	US Bank	24-2587	05/03/2024	55953	2	WHITE LANYARDS	01-2-02410-00-610-2-002-20	\$48.99
Amaz-JH	US Bank	24-2587	05/03/2024	55953	3	RED LANYARDS	01-2-02410-00-610-2-002-20	\$48.99
Amaz-JH	US Bank	24-2587	05/03/2024	55953	4	BADGE HOLDERS (250)	01-2-02410-00-610-2-002-20	\$34.98
Amaz-JH	US Bank	24-2587	05/03/2024	55953	5	PLEDGE MULTISURFACE 3 EA	01-2-02410-00-610-2-002-20	\$28.82
Amaz-JH	US Bank	24-2587	05/03/2024	55953	6	SIMPLE GREEN (6)	01-2-02410-00-610-2-002-20	\$33.20
CANVA PRO	US Bank	24-2594	05/01/2024	55953	1	canva pro renewal	01-2-02510-00-352-0-000-11	\$264.99
May 24	US Bank	24-2507	05/10/2024	55953	1	Monthly Subscription to Omaha World Harold-Business Office	01-2-02510-00-810-0-000-11	\$30.99
Amazon Bus Pri	US Bank	24-2757	05/16/2024	55953	1	Amazon Prime Business membership	01-2-02510-00-810-0-000-11	\$129.00
Supplyhou	US Bank	24-2702	05/16/2024	55953	1	actuators	01-2-02620-00-610-0-000-12	\$920.64
DUBTREE	US Bank	24-2758	05/21/2024	55953	1	Doubletree Omaha room for bus driver for HAL bus driver	01-2-03535-00-580-1-006-81	\$115.00
Grand Total								\$9,714.08

CHECKS BY DATE BOARD REPORT

JUNE 2024

DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT	DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
6/4/2024	City Of McCook	\$3,098.24	6/27/2024	Glass Express	\$2,400.00
6/4/2024	Diode Communications	\$145.00	6/27/2024	Gross, Jeff	\$340.56
6/4/2024	Essential Screens	\$48.30	6/27/2024	Hands of Heartland	\$3,529.76
6/4/2024	Hometown Leasing	\$5,358.64	6/27/2024	Hayley Uerling	\$48.50
6/4/2024	Nebraska Public Power District	\$9,654.73	6/27/2024	HD Supply	\$170.16
6/4/2024	Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford	\$310.50	6/27/2024	Heads Up Sprinklers	\$3,452.86
6/4/2024	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	\$3,000.00	6/27/2024	K-C Motor & Electric, Inc.	\$808.47
6/4/2024	US Bank	\$9,714.08	6/27/2024	Kansas City Audio-Visual	\$392.00
6/4/2024	Viaero Wireless	\$104.21	6/27/2024	Kohl's Auto Parts	\$135.68
6/11/2024	Bear's Custom	\$1,150.00	6/27/2024	Malleck Oil	\$2,445.45
6/11/2024	Black Hills Energy	\$1,164.03	6/27/2024	McCook Clinic	\$245.64
6/11/2024	Colorado Retail Ventures	\$5,686.09	6/27/2024	McCook Gazette	\$273.63
6/11/2024	Creative Sites, LLC	\$2,277.00	6/27/2024	McCook Lettering	\$20.00
6/11/2024	Verizon Wireless	\$255.96	6/27/2024	Mead Lumber	\$13,452.34
6/14/2024	Credit Management Services,	\$192.04	6/27/2024	Menards	\$642.65
6/17/2024	Amazon Capital Services	\$13,244.34	6/27/2024	Mid-American Research Chemical	\$163.18
6/17/2024	City Of McCook	\$46.50	6/27/2024	My Central Supply	\$1,515.36
6/17/2024	Frenchman Valley Coop	\$327.14	6/27/2024	Nebraska Truck Center-North Platte	\$665.91
6/17/2024	Great Plains Communication	\$2,015.03	6/27/2024	NMC Exchange Inc	\$1,006.90
6/20/2024	Ameritas Life Ins. Co	\$2,006.64	6/27/2024	Oberlin Herald	\$112.00
6/20/2024	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska	\$240,637.49	6/27/2024	Paper Tiger Shredding	\$135.00
6/20/2024	Employee Benefits-Omnify	\$5,771.68	6/27/2024	Pearson Assessment	\$1,167.60
6/20/2024	MASA	\$487.00	6/27/2024	Perma Bound	\$383.13
6/20/2024	National Insurance Services	\$2,250.18	6/27/2024	Pioneer Athletics	\$1,341.65
6/20/2024	Ymca	\$987.00	6/27/2024	Pit Crew	\$1,219.79
6/20/2024	National Insurance Services	\$895.46	6/27/2024	Pristine Clean Commercial Cleaning	\$13,621.00
6/27/2024	Omnify	\$128.00	6/27/2024	Pyramid School Products, Inc	\$1,886.20
6/27/2024	7-D Lockshop	\$18.00	6/27/2024	Rise Therapy	\$925.00
6/27/2024	ABC Bus Inc	\$924.83	6/27/2024	S&S Worldwide	\$326.82
6/27/2024	ACCO Brands	\$146.40	6/27/2024	Samway Floor Covering	\$1,230.00
6/27/2024	Ace Hardware	\$802.85	6/27/2024	School Health Corporation	\$5.18
6/27/2024	AFC - Playground Nebraska	\$8,286.00	6/27/2024	Southwest Farm & Auto Supply	\$7.99
6/27/2024	AKRS Equipment	\$220.77	6/27/2024	SW NE Physical Therapy PC	\$1,096.20
6/27/2024	American Electric Company	\$95.24	6/27/2024	Teacher Innovations, Inc	\$108.00
6/27/2024	Anew Travel Center Garage	\$5,601.44	6/27/2024	Teaching Strategies, LLC	\$845.00
6/27/2024	Big D Metalworks	\$120.00	6/27/2024	Tina Williams	\$100.80
6/27/2024	BSN Sports	\$17.64	6/27/2024	Today's Classroom LLC	\$2,740.57
6/27/2024	Carquest Auto Parts	\$264.99	6/27/2024	Truck Center Companies	\$463.08
6/27/2024	D & S Hardware	\$1,385.73	6/27/2024	Unitech	\$109.00
6/27/2024	Diamond Vogel	\$1,488.59	6/27/2024	Van Diest Supply Company	\$1,310.00
6/27/2024	Dick Blick Art Materials	\$43.20	6/27/2024	VK Electronics	\$6,586.75
6/27/2024	ESU #10	\$60.00	6/27/2024	Wallace, Chris	\$12.00
6/27/2024	ESU #16	\$50.58	6/27/2024	Walmart	\$1,107.95
6/27/2024	Follett Content Solutions, LLC	\$2,752.71	6/27/2024	Weathercraft Co.	\$2,052.00

JUNE 2024 EFT CHECKS

Aflac	\$9,309.93	LegalShield	\$142.55
Colonial Life	\$1,239.59	NE Dept of Revenue - State Taxes	\$28,005.68
Direct Deposit	\$614,068.66	Nebr. School Retirement System	\$168,507.09
Federal Taxes/FICA/Medicare	\$192,676.98	Retirement Plan Consultants (403b)	\$9,906.77
Horace Mann Insurance Co	\$2,164.19	HSA Employer Deposits	\$11,885.63

Receipt History

Receipt Date

Detail report. Sorted by Receipt Date, Site.

Site

From 06/01/2024 to 06/30/2024.

Receipt #	Status / Date	Deposit #	Check #	Received From	Receipt Description	Amount	Sales Tax	Amount
Activity ID	Activity Name	Fee Name & Student ID	Tax Activity	Tax Rate %	Tax Amount			

06/04/2024

MPS		McCook Public Schools						
6254		PRINTED	0000002818	Vetrovsky, Joe	Football			
	195-8002	Football Fundraising				100.00	0.00	100.00
6255		PRINTED	0000002812	Football Camp	Football			
	195-8002	Football Fundraising				850.00	0.00	850.00
6256		PRINTED	0000002819	Vetrovsky, Joe	Football			
	195-8002	Football Fundraising				350.00	0.00	350.00
6257		PRINTED	0000002813	Football Camp	Football			
	195-8002	Football Fundraising				2,600.00	0.00	2,600.00
6327		PRINTED	0000002811	Students	Summer school			
	932-9032	Summer School				500.00	0.00	500.00
Total for site: MPS - McCook Public Schools								4,400.00
Total for 06/04/2024								4,400.00

06/05/2024

MPS		McCook Public Schools						
06052024		PRINTED	0000002816	Chesterman Company	Coca Cola Commissions			
	283-2083	COCA COLA - McCook Elementary				14.80	0.00	14.80
CE-6052024		PRINTED	0000002817	Chesterman Company	Coca Cola Commissions			
	282-2082	COCA COLA - Central Elementary				4.80	0.00	4.80
HS-6052024		PRINTED	0000002815	Chesterman Company	Coca Cola Commissions			
	280-2080	COCA COLA - Senior High School				18.00	0.00	18.00
JH-6052024		PRINTED	0000002814	Chesterman Company	Coca Cola Commissions			
	228-2028	Junior High Student Council				22.58	0.00	22.58
Total for site: MPS - McCook Public Schools								60.18
Total for 06/05/2024								60.18

06/10/2024

MPS		McCook Public Schools						
6326		PRINTED	0000002824	Fisher-Felling Field	Concessions			
	273-2073	NORE				3,726.00	0.00	3,726.00
6328		PRINTED	0000002823	Summer School	Summer school			
	932-9032	Summer School				60.00	0.00	60.00
Total for site: MPS - McCook Public Schools								3,786.00
Total for 06/10/2024								3,786.00

06/13/2024

MPS		McCook Public Schools						
6258		PRINTED	0000002821	Willis	Concessions			
	223-2023	Senior High Concessions				222.00	0.00	222.00
6259		PRINTED	0000002822	Vetrovsky, Joe	Football			
	195-8002	Football Fundraising				100.00	0.00	100.00
6329		PRINTED	0000002820	Arterburn	AP Test			
	251-2051	AP TESTING				419.00	0.00	419.00
Total for site: MPS - McCook Public Schools								741.00
Total for 06/13/2024								741.00

Receipt History

Receipt Date

Detail report. Sorted by Receipt Date, Site.

Site

From 06/01/2024 to 06/30/2024.

Receipt #	Status / Date	Deposit #	Check #	Received From	Receipt Description		
Activity ID	Activity Name	Fee Name & Student ID			Amount	Sales Tax	Amount
	Tax Name	Tax Activity		Tax Rate %	Tax Amount		
06/27/2024							
MPS	McCook Public Schools						
5295	PRINTED	0000002827		Swayze-Ward		Book fees	
	544-5044 Junior High Activity				7.00	0.00	7.00
6212	PRINTED	0000002829		Imus		Boys Basketball	
	195-8001 Boys Basketball Fundraising				60.00	0.00	60.00
6260	PRINTED	0000002826		Vetrovsky, Joe		Football	
	195-8002 Football Fundraising				450.00	0.00	450.00
6261	PRINTED	0000002831		Brown		Girls Golf	
	195-2003 Girls Golf Fundraising				701.00	0.00	701.00
6262	PRINTED	0000002825		Gillen		Softball	
	195-9001 Softball Fundraising				217.00	0.00	217.00
6267	PRINTED	0000002830		Vetrovsky, Joe		Football	
	195-8002 Football Fundraising				10,230.00	0.00	10,230.00
6268	PRINTED	0000002828		Vetrovsky, Joe		Football	
	195-8002 Football Fundraising				735.00	0.00	735.00
					Total for site: MPS - McCook Public Schools		12,400.00
					Total for 06/27/2024		12,400.00

06/30/2024							
MPS	McCook Public Schools						
6302024	PRINTED	0000002832		First Central Bank		Interest Earned	
	947-9047 Bank Interest				606.15	0.00	606.15
					Total for site: MPS - McCook Public Schools		606.15
					Total for 06/30/2024		606.15
					Report Total		21,993.33

Check Summary

Sorted by Check Number.
From 06/01/2024 to 06/30/2024.

Check Number	Site ID	Status	Check / Void Date	Vendor Name	PO Number	Invoice No.#	Description	Amount
034485	MPS	Printed	06/05/2024	Diadem Sports LLC	24-084999	INV70162	Tennis	940.00
034486	MPS	Printed	06/05/2024	US Bank	24-084864	DN-4262024	Swim/Dive	4,980.99
034487	MPS	Void	06/05/2024	US Bank	24-085281		Finance Committee	0.00
034488	MPS	Printed	06/06/2024	McCook Lettering	24-085294	45940	Football	1,000.00
034489	MPS	Printed	06/06/2024	Southwest Anglers	24-085327	tw-6062024	Bass Fishing Team	1,627.75
034490	MPS	Printed	06/07/2024	BSN Sports LLC	24-084827	925801357	Track & Field	84.59
034491	MPS	Printed	06/13/2024	Hampton Inn- Kearney	24-085346	1717693485	FFA	627.00
034492	MPS	Printed	06/13/2024	Subway	24-085244	618331	Track & Field	193.56
034493	MPS	Printed	06/13/2024	Nebraska Coaches Association	24-085249	DN-5312024	Coaches Clinic	140.00
034494	MPS	Printed	06/13/2024	Hauxwell, Savannah	24-085245	SH-6102024	FFA	696.08
034495	MPS	Printed	06/13/2024	Dusty Trails LLC	24-083723	000269	Fall Festival	660.00
034496	MPS	Printed	06/13/2024	Vetrovsky, Joe	24-085295		Football	208.20
034497	MPS	Printed	06/13/2024	BSN Sports LLC	24-085238	924857281a	freight	27.00
034498	MPS	Printed	06/15/2024	Marsh, Skip	24-085347	SM-6142024	Memorial	25.00
034499	MPS	Printed	06/15/2024	Nick's Distribution Inc	24-085248	143526	Concessions	382.24
034500	MPS	Printed	06/15/2024	Depreciation Fund	24-304	KD-3232024	Mileage	4,710.34
034501	MPS	Printed	06/21/2024	The Traveling Bison		INV-0001	Teacher Appreciation	686.70
034502	MPS	Printed	06/24/2024	McCook Lettering	24-085349	45946	Softball	684.00
034503	MPS	Printed	06/24/2024	Vetrovsky, Ben	24-085350	BV-6242024	Boys Golf	267.68
034504	MPS	Printed	06/24/2024	Amazon Capital Services	24-085290	11WX-WXM1-RQVH	Dual credit books	1,211.25
034505	MPS	Printed	06/26/2024	ESU 10	24-085351	24730	Chromebook Repairs	240.00
034506	MPS	Printed	06/27/2024	Opaa! Food Management, Inc	24-085352	NE00057913	Sr. Breakfast	2,759.50
034507	MPS	Printed	06/26/2024	Dollar General-Regions 410526	24-085252	1001316665	Concessions	4.50
034508	MPS	Printed	06/26/2024	Yanda's Music & Pro Audio	24-085251	2601	reeds	37.65
034509	MPS	Printed	06/26/2024	Sports Shoppe	24-084794	MHS044	Girls Track	912.50
034510	MPS	Printed	06/27/2024	Capital One	24-085315	640820555	Pickleball	528.50
034511	MPS	Printed	06/27/2024	WEX Bank	24-085353	97822309	Summer Camp Fuel	425.02
034513	MPS	Printed	06/04/2024	Schieffer, Diane	24-085334	Journ-5272024	Camp	250.00

Report Total: 24,310.05

McCook School Board Report
June 10, 2024
Special Education Dept., John Hanson, Director

- 1) Extended School Year Services are underway for preschool, elementary school, secondary credit recovery and the Developmental Learning Center.
- 2) The first annual NDE/state legislature required report dealing with reporting numbers of dyslexia evaluations conducted has been submitted via the NDE portal before the due date of June 15th.
- 3) Thank you to ESU 16 up in North Platte area for conducting a hearing evaluation at a low cost for a 2 year old student who lives in McCook and receives early intervention services.
- 4) As of right now, we are needing to hire 5 paraeducator replacements across the district for the beginning of the school year to meet student needs.
- 5) Thank you to the McCook Rotary Club for awarding five scholarships to recent McCook graduates in the amount of \$500.
- 6) ESU 15 will be hosting a Paraeducator Training in McCook Elementary Commons on Tuesday, July 30th. The facilitator will be Michelle Kohmetscher and the topic will be Youth Mental Health First Aid. Thank you to Region II for sponsoring the training and ESU 15 for providing lunch.

McCook Elementary Career Development Blocks

Every McCook Public School graduate will possess the skills to become a responsible, respectful, and productive citizen who is engaged in their community and achieves personal success.



Kindergarten Level

- Fire Station Field Trip
- Community Guest Readers (Community Hospital, Insurance,
- Structred Play with dress up attire

1st Grade

- Future Career Letters to Senior Self
- Instructional Units: Community Helpers as well as Goods and Services
- Agriculture Units through science and teacher experience lessons
- Embryology experience through the 4-H program
- High School Bison Team Partnerships where students shared their future plans
- Detective Day: partnered with MPD
- Surgery Day: partnered with Community Hospital
- Art Guild: presenters shared what one can do with their talents other than just drawing (garden planners, museum, design, etc.)
- Downtown Field Trip to local businesses (Sehnerts, Museum, Keystone Floral,

2nd Grade

- Fire Safety Day: MFD visit to school
- MNB Saving Day: MNB staff presented to classrooms about the importance of saving and how simple it is.
- Writing Instruction: topics about careers and what their parents currently do
- Nebraska Outdoor Education Day: students rotated through 15 different stations that have to do with being in the outdoors and careers that go with that area
- ESU Todd Wimers shares about game programming and coding

3rd Grade

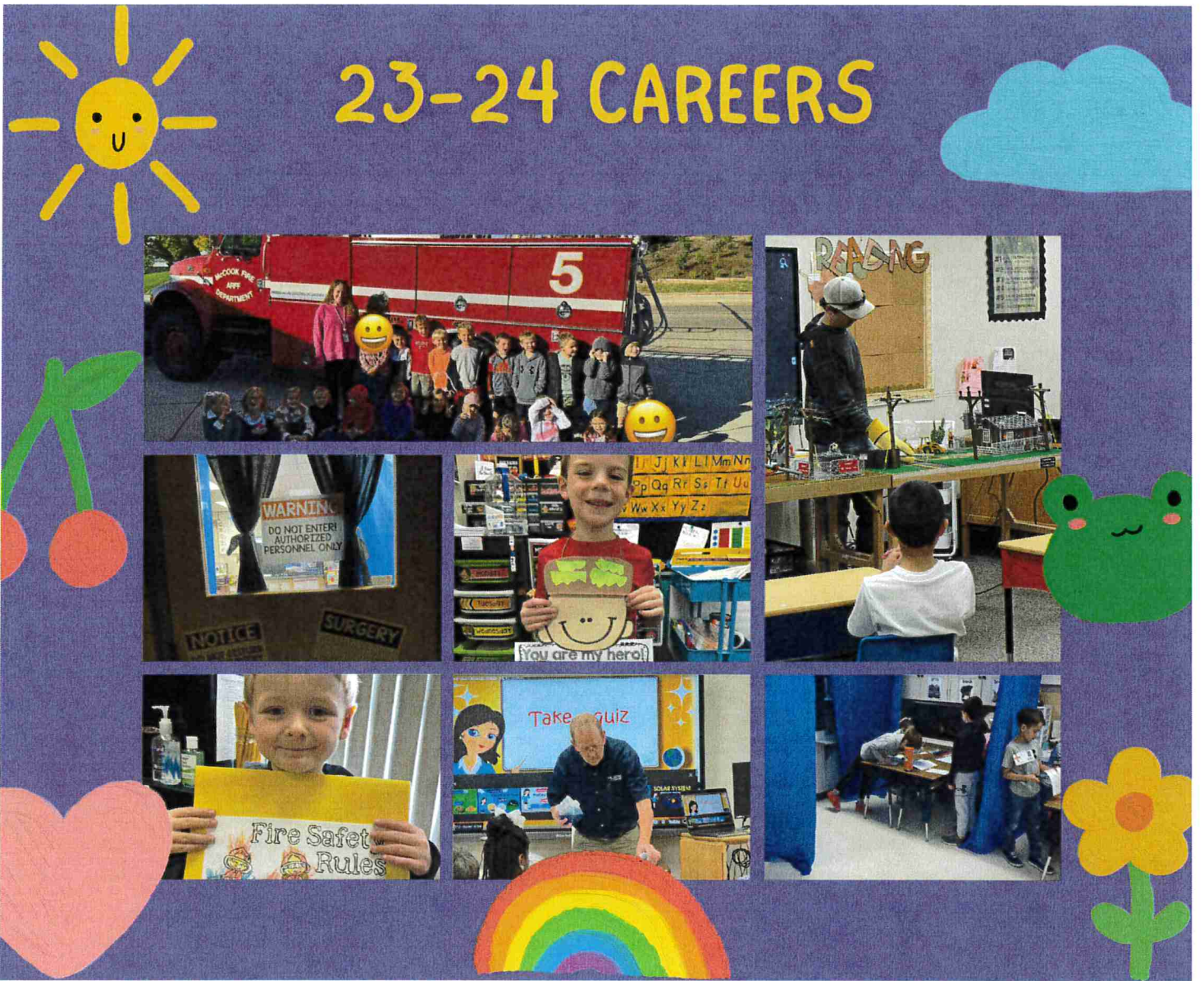
- * MNB Saving Day: MNB staff presented to classrooms the importance of saving and its simplicity.
- Writing lesson about their future plans
- Science Day
 - Dog Training
 - MPPD: showing students electricity safety
 - UNL Extension Office: animal life cycle
 - Red Willow Western Rural Fire Dept on Climate Change
 - MHS Honors Chemistry students sharing static electricity
- FFA students visit to interact with students about ag related
- Business Building Lesson: students built a restraint and menu

Bison Kids Club

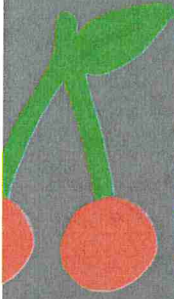
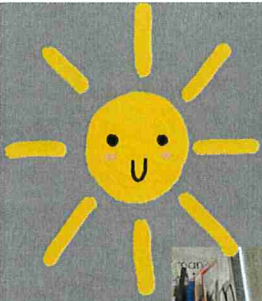
- Guest Speakers
 - MFD
 - Paramedics
 - MPD
 - Postal Service
 - Bee Keeper

General Soft Skills

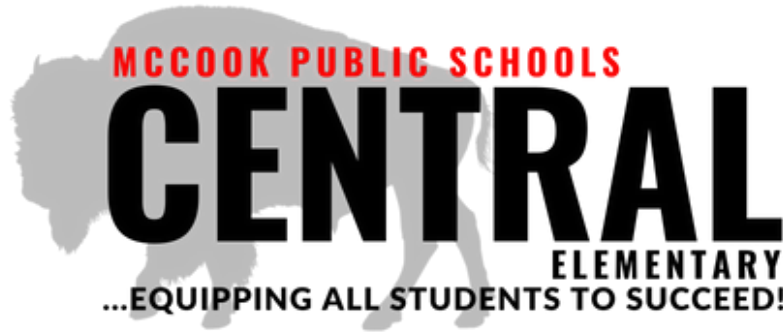
- Develop essential academic skills to continue their growth to become a productive citizen, ie. reading, math, writing
- Social Skills of getting along with peers including but not limited to...
 - How to disagree with someone
 - How to ask for help
 - What to do when someone dislikes you
 - Golden Rule
- Developing Grit for students to be able to work through tough work, situations, peers



23-24 CAREERS



604 West 1st,
McCook, NE 69001
308-344-4400 Ex. 3



Principal: Joel Bednar
jbednar@mccookbison.org
Secretary: Kim Lyons
klyons@mccookbison.org
Counselor: Debbie Arp
debbie.arp@mccookbison.org

Central Elementary

- Thank you to all the summer school staff! It was a big success this year and greatly appreciated the teachers that made learning fun/engaging/relevant! Some of the units included: Electricity, STEM, coding, and solar cockroaches. During the STEM unit, students made motorized cars and sailboats while learning about energy. Thank you Mrs. Sharp, Mrs. Winkler, Mrs. Frank, and Mrs. Fisher! [PICTURE LINK](#)
- Our building is seeing some dramatic transformations with new carpet in the classrooms, conference room, and now library! We opened the library up and will have a lot more room! I'm super excited to have our staff meetings and utilize the space more when school starts. The first picture below is the library. It's not complete yet. The other picture is a dramatic change from what it was beforehand. Room 1 is updated for Mr. Berry!
- SHEILA ONEIL is doing a great job cleaning classrooms this summer!
- I attended an external team visit meeting hosted by the NDE in Hastings this past week. We will be hosting an External Team Visit this Spring.

Curriculum:

- All of our science, social studies, math, and ELA materials series have been delivered! I always stress about if/when it's going to arrive.
- New teacher will be coming on August 6-9th! August 8th, our teachers will be attending an AI in Education session hosted by ESU15.
- During August 8th (before and after the session), we will also host two sessions on getting the Aptegey App up and running for each of our teachers within the district.



Junior High Board Report

June 30, 2024

Chad Lyons, Principal

Junior High Career Activities

6th Grade

1. Guidance staff presented Look to College information from EducationQuest.
2. In English, there are frequent discussions about the importance of being able to write well. The class talks about how different careers use writing and the importance of knowing how to write well-structured paragraphs or essays for those career paths. Students learn how to avoid plagiarism.
3. Students completed a Personal Learning Plan to plan, monitor, and manage their learning.
4. Students participated in the Heritage Walking Tour of downtown McCook organized by our Hometown Community Task Force.
4. During fall parent-teacher conferences, parents were offered information about NEST529 college saving plan from EducationQuest.
5. Staff wore shirts from our colleges to hold discussions about the different types of colleges.

7th Grade

1. Students participated in the Business Vocational Tour organized by McCook Community College.
2. In Language Arts, there are discussions about current MAPSGrowth assessment scores that lead to future scholarship dollars.
3. Students completed a Personal Learning Plan to plan, monitor, and manage their learning.
4. During fall parent/teacher conferences parents were offered information about NEST529 college saving plan from EducationQuest.
5. Advanced science students participated/competed in the regional science fair.
6. Staff wore shirts from our colleges to hold discussions about the different types of colleges.

8th Grade

1. Girls attended Expanding Your Horizons conference of math and science careers.
2. Boys attended an MPCC career conference day.
3. Students attended the Ag Awareness Tour organized by the Ag Task Force committee.
4. EducationQuest presented to students about how to pay for college and post-secondary education opportunities.
5. In Language Arts, students deepened their knowledge to respond their audience with evidence and purpose. They use technology strategically to understand its strengths and limitations. Students work to demonstrate independence while valuing the perspectives and cultures of other people.
6. In Social Studies, CNN10 exposes students to many career options. The career options range from construction, art, managing business, nonprofit work, technology, environmental protection, law, space exploration, and management. During economics, career opportunities are reviewed.
7. Students completed a Personal Learning Plan to monitor and manage their learning.

8. During fall parent-teacher conferences, parents were offered information about NEST529 college savings plan from EducationQuest.
9. Students participated in the Reality Check sponsored by CASA.
10. Staff wore shirts from our colleges to hold discussions about the different types of colleges.
11. Advanced science students participated/competed in the regional science fair.

July 8th, 2024
SH Board Report
Senior High, Craig Dickes, Principal

2023-2024 Enrollment numbers:

9th-126, 10th-135, 11th-114, 12th-108. Total = 483

AVG Daily Attendance for 2023-2024 is 92.53%

- Activity 22276 periods
 - Excused 24273 periods
 - Illness 16949 periods
 - Waivered ILL 5593 periods
 - Out of School Suspension 1692 periods
 - Unexcused 2785 periods
- Student Discipline for 2023-2024.
- Attendance Violation 879 events by 195 students
 - Bullying 3 events by 3 students
 - Disorderly conduct 27 events by 23 students
 - Violation of School Rules 9 events by 9 students
 - Alcohol/Tobacco 12 event by 9 student
 - Drug Possession/Use 1 event by 1 student
 - Fighting 7 events by 6 students
 - Insubordination 17 events by 17 students
 - Weapons 0 events by 0 students
 - Theft 5 events by 3 student
 - Vandalism 2 event by 2 student

The Gym Floor Project is nearly complete. We are waiting for the center decal to be painted and the hoops to be adjusted to the proper heights. It looks great!

Even though school is out, and contracts have been fulfilled I still see many of our staff coming into school to work with kids through activities, or preparing for the upcoming school year.

Monthly Business Manager Board of Education Report June 2024 for July 2024 Board Meeting

June Lunch #'s = 25,089 Meals served.

Financial #'s = After 83%% of fiscal year = General Fund YTD Revenue is 96% YTD Expense is 83%
All Funds YTD Revenue is 85%, YTD Expenses is 81%

Facilities - Updates

Tennis court surfacing is currently being worked on.
On going HVAC projects are underway
Kitchen work is being completed per summer schedule

Carpet is being replaced
Painting crew is painting in the district
Carpets are being cleaned

Upcoming Projects

Bond Project

Sampson's and W Design are working on final design and cost estimating the project.
Marketing meeting is set for July 16th.

Federal/state Reports filed in June:

IDEA Application
All school related data State Reporting
Census Report



McCook Public Schools Lunch Prices - 2024-2025

The Board of Education has approved the following rates for the child nutrition program for the McCook Public Schools for the 2024-2025 school year.

Breakfast (reduced price \$.30)

- Elementary/Central Students \$2.20
- Junior/Senior High Students \$2.30
- Adults \$2.90

Lunch (Reduced Price \$.40)

- Elementary Students \$3.20
- Central Elementary Students \$3.30
- Junior/Senior High Students \$3.45
- Adults \$4.35

StudentsPregnant and Parenting Students

McCook Public Schools recognizes that pregnant and parenting students have the right and responsibility to attend school. This attendance right and responsibility applies to students regardless of their marital or parental status. Further, the district will educate pregnant and parenting students and will provide reasonable accommodations to support and encourage all pregnant and parenting students to obtain their high school diploma. No student will be excluded from, denied the benefit of, or discriminated against under any educational program or activity because of pregnancy or parenting responsibilities.

Attendance and Leave of Absences

Pregnant and parenting students will be permitted to attend to their own health care, their child's medical care, or other pregnancy- or parenting- related appointments with the benefit of having any such absences or tardiness excused. A student will be permitted to take a leave of absence for pregnancy, childbirth, and any other pre- and post-natal related medical needs, along with recovery therefrom for the duration that is deemed medically necessary by the student's licensed health care provider. At the conclusion of the leave of absence, a student will be immediately enrolled in the district at the same grade and status as when the leave began. Pregnant and parenting students shall be allowed to participate in all activities including extracurricular activities throughout the student's pregnancy and thereafter unless the district deems such participation poses a substantial risk of injury to the student or to others. A pregnant and parenting student may be asked to obtain certification from the student's licensed healthcare provider regarding the student's safe participation in an extracurricular activity when such certification is required of students for other conditions which require the attention of a licensed healthcare provider.

Any absences accumulated due to pregnancy or pregnancy-related conditions, or care for an ill child, should not count towards any district policies in effect under compulsory attendance requirements. Pregnant and parenting students with excused absences or tardiness shall be treated like all other students with excused absences or tardiness for any other medical reasons.

Pregnant and parenting students will be provided with assignments, classwork and any additional support needed to ensure that the student can keep up with class requirements when absent for pregnancy or parenting-related absences.

Alternative Means to Complete Course Work

The district will provide at least one alternate method, in addition to traditional classroom instruction, to keep pregnant and parenting students in school. Such accommodation(s) may include accessing coursework online, home-based independent study, or at-home tutoring. Alternative methods of instruction or other alternative program for pregnant and parenting students are voluntary for the student who may elect whether to engage in an alternative method of instruction or the traditional methods of instruction available to their peers. Pregnant and parenting students shall be allowed to attend their regular classrooms and complete regular coursework.

Lactation

The district will provide reasonable time and space to accommodate lactating students to express breast milk or breastfeed during the school day. Such accommodations will be in a location, other

than a bathroom or closet, that is private, clean, has an electrical outlet, a chair and is reasonably accessible. Students shall also be provided a food safe refrigerator to store breast milk safely.

Child Care

If in-school child care is not provided, a list of qualified licensed child care providers will be provided upon request to pregnant or parenting students. Such list will be updated annually and include providers that participate in the quality rating and improvement system and meet all of the quality rating criteria for at least a step-three rating pursuant to the Step Up to Quality Child Care Act. Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or limit any referral for a student or a student's child to an early head start program or any other available community resources.

Privacy and Confidentiality

Pregnant and parenting students have the right to have their health and personal information kept confidential in accordance with law. School staff will make every effort to keep personal information and health records confidential and in compliance with Nebraska and federal law.

Information about students' pregnancies and related conditions will not appear in their cumulative records and will not be used when they are being considered for educational or job opportunities, awards or scholarships.

Other Accommodations

Pregnant and parenting students may request additional reasonable accommodations to ensure continued participation and enrollment in school. Accommodation requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Such accommodations may include but are not limited to: additional frequency allowed for bathroom breaks, additional time allowed in between class periods, a larger desk or additional work space, and adjustments to requirements for physical education as needed. Students seeking additional reasonable accommodation should make such requests to the building principal.

Bullying and Harassment

Pregnant and parenting students have the same rights as other students to be free from discrimination, bullying, and harassment. Such school policies are incorporated herein and apply to all students.

Policy Dissemination

This policy will be available at the beginning of each school year on the district's website and will be incorporated into the student handbook.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-2149 to 79-2152; 79-2,114 to 79-2,124 (Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act); 20 USC Sec. 1681 (Title IX); 34 C.F.R. Sec. 106.40 (Title IX)

Cross-Reference: Non-discrimination policies

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Bus Transportation

Regular bus transportation shall be provided to designated stops on bus routes, outside city limits, within the school district. Occasional exceptions to regular bus schedules shall require prior administrative approval.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Use of School Buses

McCook Public Schools may provide transportation for instructional purposes and for school sponsored activities, organizations, and groups. The district shall not operate as a “Carrier for Hire”.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsSpecial Education Transportation

Bus transportation shall be provided for students to facilities where they may receive instruction to the extent required by law. The State of Nebraska provides funding for such transportation. Arrangements will be made through the superintendent and administrators in the receiving institution.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Safe Pupil Transportation Plan

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a safe pupil transportation plan to address student safety which addresses the following:

- Weapons;
- Pupil Behavior;
- Terroristic Threats
- Severe Weather;
- Hazardous Materials;
- Medical emergencies;
- Driver/passenger procedures in the event of mechanical breakdowns of the vehicle;
- Procedures in the event the drop-off location is uncertain or appears unsafe to leave students; and,
- A procedure that requires pupil transportation vehicle operators to document and submit to designated school authorities the occurrence of any events covered by the Safe Pupil Transportation Plan that involved the pupil transportation vehicle operated by the driver, or any pupils transported in it.

A copy of the plan shall be placed in each pupil transportation vehicle, kept at each school building, and made available upon request.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-318, 79-602, 79-607 and 79-608
Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 91

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsSafe Pupil Transportation Plan**McCook Public Schools Safe Pupil Transportation Plan**

This Safe Pupil Transportation Plan sets forth the District's plan for providing safe transportation to students being transported in vehicles on regular routes assigned through the district transportation plan.

1. **Weapons.** Vehicles shall not transport any items, animals, materials, weapons or look-a-like weapons, explosive devices or bomb-related materials or equipment which could endanger the lives, health, or safety of the children, other passengers, and the driver. Look-a-like weapons associated with a school-sponsored or approved activity may be transported with written permission of an administrator of the District. Personal safety or security devices (such as tasers, mace or pepper spray) may only be transported with the prior approval of an administrator of the District. If possible, these items should be secured and not visible or accessible to students while in the vehicle.

Upon becoming aware of a weapon aboard a vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:

- A. Contact dispatch and notify them of the situation *if possible*. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to contact from a cell phone (after parking on a shoulder or otherwise not moving) or from the nearest safe haven location. Examples of a safe haven include, but are not limited to, any school building site, emergency service station (law enforcement or fire department), community service agency, etc.
 - B. Pull vehicle over to safe and secure area.
 - C. Confiscate weapon (if doing so does not jeopardize student or driver safety).
 - D. Give description of weapon and participating parties to dispatch.
 - E. Dispatch will immediately notify appropriate law enforcement agencies and school administration.
2. **Pupil behavior.** Students are expected to follow student conduct rules while in a vehicle. The pupil transportation driver is responsible for controlling behavior which affects safety and for reporting rule violations to school administration. In the event a student violates Board policy regarding student conduct standards or otherwise engages in behavior that jeopardizes safety, the driver will make every attempt to:
 - A. First seek to resolve incident through discussion with the student(s) involved.
 - B. Contact dispatch and notify them of situation *if possible*. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
 - C. Activate emergency flashers.

- D. Bring vehicle to a safe stop. Seek to resolve the incident, using physical force only as necessary to protect students or yourself.
 - E. Report and document discipline problems to the school administrator. Use a Bus Conduct Report/Incident Form, if available.
3. **Terrorist threats.** A person commits a terroristic threat if the person threatens to commit a crime of violence with the intent to terrorize another or with the intent of causing evacuation of a building, place of assembly or the vehicle or in reckless disregard of the risk of causing such terror or evacuation. Upon becoming aware of a terroristic threat relating to a pupil transportation vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:
- A. Contact dispatch and notify them of situation *if possible*. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cell phone or from the nearest safe haven location.
 - B. Make every attempt to keep passengers calm (this may mean complying with the terrorist).
 - C. Dispatch will immediately notify appropriate law enforcement agencies and school administration.
 - D. Driver should wait for instructions from dispatch *if possible*.
4. **Severe weather.** Upon becoming aware of severe weather while aboard a pupil transportation vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:
- A. Contact dispatch and notify them of situation *if possible*. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
 - B. Return to the school if less than five minutes away and follow the directions of the school administrator.
 - C. If more than five minutes away from school, go to the nearest school and follow the directions of the school administrator.
 - D. If more than five minutes away from the nearest school or there is immediate danger, get to the nearest basement or underground shelter with all students.
 - E. If there is no shelter and there is immediate danger the driver and passengers are to follow evacuation procedures and get everyone off the vehicle into the nearest ditch or culvert at least 100 feet away from the vehicle.
5. **Hazardous materials and Unattended Items.** Upon becoming aware of a hazardous material aboard a pupil transportation vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:
- A. Contact dispatch and notify them of situation *if possible*. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
 - B. Pull vehicle over to safe and secure area.
 - C. Give description of hazardous materials in question to dispatch.
 - D. Dispatch will immediately notify appropriate law enforcement and school administration.
 - E. Driver should wait for instructions from dispatch *if possible*.

In the event an unattended item is discovered on or near the vehicle, the driver will seek to determine who the item belongs to and whether the item could be hazardous to the safety of those in the vehicle. Any unattended item that would break or could cause injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle when involved in an accident shall be secured. If it is determined that the item is not hazardous and need not be secured, the driver will not allow the item to distract the driver's attention to the task of operating the vehicle.

6. **Medical emergencies.** Upon becoming aware of a medical emergency aboard a vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:
 - A. Contact dispatch and notify them of situation *if possible*. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cell phone or from the nearest safe haven location.
 - B. Dispatch will immediately notify appropriate medical agencies and school administration.
 - C. Driver should follow instructions from dispatch, school officials, and parents when such information can be obtained quickly enough. If not available, follow emergency first aid procedures.
 - D. *Only if necessary*, the driver should move passengers only enough to get them out of danger of traffic or fire. If moved, the driver and aide are to keep them where placed until a medical agency arrives, unless a parent has taken charge of their child.
 - E. Driver should try to keep student passengers as calm as possible.

7. **Procedures in the event of mechanical breakdowns of the vehicle.** Upon becoming aware of a mechanical breakdown aboard a vehicle, the driver will make every attempt to:
 - A. Pull vehicle over to safe and secure area *if possible*.
 - B. Contact dispatch and notify them of situation *if possible*. If not possible, the driver will make every attempt to telephone dispatch from a cellular telephone or from the nearest safe haven location.
 - C. Activate emergency flashers and place warning flares/reflectors in accordance with safety guidelines, if not in secure area.
 - D. Driver should try to keep student passengers as calm as possible.
 - E. Dispatch will arrange for assistance and a relief vehicle *if needed*.

8. **Procedures in the event the drop-off location is uncertain or appears unsafe to leave students.** In the event the drop-off location is uncertain or appears unsafe to leave students, the driver will make every attempt to:
 - A. Contact or otherwise communicate with dispatch to notify them of the situation *if possible*.

- B. Release children only if an adult responsible for the children is present. If not, keep children who are to be released in the vehicle, continue with route, and return children who were to be released to the school.
 - C. Dispatch will notify appropriate law enforcement agencies and school administration if appropriate given the circumstances.
9. **Documentation under Safe Pupil Transportation Plan.** Each pupil transportation driver is required to complete and submit to the school administration a bus conduct report or incident report involving the pupil transportation vehicle operated by the driver or any pupils transported in it. Documentation is to include the occurrence of any of the following events: weapons, student behavior which affects safety, terroristic threats, severe weather, hazardous materials, or medical emergencies. Documentation of such events shall be completed and submitted as soon as practicable after the incident.
10. **Transportation of Unsafe Items.** Drivers shall not permit pupil transportation vehicles to transport any items, animals, materials, weapons or look-a-like weapons or equipment which in any way would endanger the lives, health or safety of the children or other passengers and the driver. Look-a-like weapons associated with a school sponsored or approved activity may be transported only with written permission of a school administrator. Personal safety or security devices (such as tasers, mace or pepper spray) may only be transported with the prior approval of an administrator of the District. Any items that would break or could produce injury if tossed about inside the pupil transportation vehicle when involved in an accident or sudden stop shall be secured.
11. **Supplemental Information.** A copy of this plan shall be placed in each pupil transportation vehicle, kept at each school building, and made available upon request. Supplemental information with respect to operational and procedural guidelines used to administer this plan can be found in the District's safety and security plan adopted pursuant to 92 NAC10 and in the Nebraska Department of Education Pupil Transportation Guide.
12. **Vehicle drivers of small vehicles on activity trips.** The District will provide drivers of small vehicles with instruction on and guidance for emergency evacuation procedures, first aid, and emergency equipment. Drivers of small vehicles are generally expected to follow this Plan in the event of an emergency evacuation. The District's director of transportation may provide additional guidance for drivers of small vehicles to increase student safety.
13. **Student Instruction.** At least twice during each school year, each pupil who is transported in a school vehicle shall be instructed in safe riding practices and participate in emergency evacuation drills.
14. **Driver Capacity.** To confirm a driver has the ability to conduct daily tasks and emergency evacuations, drivers must: (a) pass a prescribed physical examination administered by a Certified Medical Examiner at least every two years and provide the employer with a copy of the medical certificate; (b) pass a transportation screening every year; (c) participate in required in-service training which includes emergency evacuation

training; and (d) if required, to have a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) to operate the vehicle, participate in the drug and alcohol testing program as required by federal law. Should a driver have a medical concern throughout the year, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee will work with the driver to confirm a drivers' ability to conduct the daily tasks and emergency evacuations prior to transporting students.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-318, 79-602, 79-607 and 79-608
Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapters 91 and 92

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsAsthma and Allergic Reaction Protocol

The District will adopt and implement the Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis Protocol as required by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The Superintendent, in conjunction with licensed health personnel, shall establish administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy. The regulations established shall comply with NDE rules regarding the protocol to follow in case of a life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction and use of an EpiPen and albuterol. Also, these shall ensure that each school building will procure and maintain the equipment and medication necessary under the protocol in the case of any student or school staff emergency. Staff training in using the protocol shall occur periodically. Records of such training and occurrences of administering medication under the protocol shall be maintained.

The Emergency Protocol shall be implemented, and the equipment and medication necessary to implement the Emergency Protocol shall be maintained, at each school building while school is in session. For purposes of the Emergency Protocol, the phrase "while school is in session" is defined as the core instructional school day. The "core instructional school day" is defined as that portion of each day school is in session during which teachers are on duty to provide and students are scheduled to receive instruction in the School District's curriculum, generally beginning at 8:00 a.m. and ending at 3:30 p.m. The Emergency Protocol shall not be required to be implemented other than in the school buildings while school is in session, and as such is not required to be implemented at extracurricular activities, on school buses, or during school field trips. Implementation of the Emergency Protocol at such non-mandatory times or places shall be made in the discretion of the administration and shall be subject to the availability of the employees designated or trained in implementation of the Emergency Protocol and the availability of the necessary equipment and medication at such times or places.

The parent or guardian of a student of minority age may sign a waiver requesting that their student not receive emergency treatment under this protocol. Information about the waiver shall be provided to parents upon request.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 59.006

Cross Reference: Policies on Administration of Medication to Students

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

**WAIVER OF EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO
LIFE THREATENING ASTHMA OR
SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS PROTOCOL**

McCook Public School District

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

I am aware of the school policy that provides a protocol to follow by school personnel to administer EpiPen/albuterol to a student when it is determined that the student is suffering a life-threatening asthma or systemic allergic reaction while school is in session.

After considering the school policy and the best interests of my child, _____, I do not wish to have him/her given or administered albuterol or medication from an Epi-Pen by school personnel under any circumstances for the 20____ - 20____ school year.

DATED: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Custodian

DATED: _____

Signature of Physician

DO NOT return this form **without** a physician's signature supporting your request to remove your child from the protocol.

ASTHMA AND ALLERGIC REACTION PROTOCOL

EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS (ANAPHYLAXIS)

DEFINITION: Life-threatening asthma consists of an *acute episode of worsening airflow obstruction. Immediate action and monitoring are necessary.*

A systemic allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) is a severe response resulting in cardiovascular collapse (shock) after the injection of an antigen (e.g. bee or other insect sting), ingestion of a food or medication, or exposure to other allergens, such as animal fur, chemical irritants, pollens or molds, among others. The blood pressure falls, the pulse becomes weak, **AND DEATH CAN OCCUR.** Immediate allergic reactions may require emergency treatment and medications.

LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA SYMPTOMS: Any of these symptoms may occur:

- Chest tightness
- Wheezing
- Severe shortness of breath
- Retractions (chest or neck "sucked in")
- Cyanosis (lips and nail beds exhibit a grayish or bluish color)
- Change in mental status, such as agitation, anxiety, or lethargy
- A hunched-over position
- Breathlessness causing speech in one-to-two word phrases or complete inability to speak

ANAPHYLACTIC SYMPTOMS OF BODY SYSTEM: Any of the symptoms may occur within seconds. The more immediate the reactions, the more severe the reaction may become. Any of the symptoms present requires several hours of monitoring.

- Skin: warmth, itching, and/or tingling of underarms/groin, flushing, hives
- Abdominal: pain, nausea and vomiting, diarrhea
- Oral/Respiratory: sneezing, swelling of face (lips, mouth, tongue, throat), lump or tightness in the throat, hoarseness, difficulty inhaling, shortness of breath, decrease in peak flow meter reading, wheezing reaction
- Cardiovascular: headache, low blood pressure (shock), lightheadedness, fainting, loss of consciousness, rapid heart rate, ventricular fibrillation (no pulse)
- Mental status: apprehension, anxiety, restlessness, irritability

EMERGENCY PROTOCOL:

1. **CALL 911**
2. Summon school nurse if available. If not, summon designated trained, non-medical staff to implement emergency protocol
3. Check airway patency, breathing, respiratory rate, and pulse
4. Administer medications (EpiPen and albuterol) per standing order
5. Determine cause as quickly as possible
6. Monitor vital signs (pulse, respiration, etc.)
7. Contact parents immediately and physician as soon as possible
8. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to medical facility

STANDING ORDERS FOR RESPONSE TO LIFE-THREATENING ASTHMA OR ANAPHYLAXIS: Administer an IM EpiPen-Jr. for a child less than 50 pounds or an adult EpiPen for any individual over 50 pounds. Follow with nebulized albuterol (premixed) while awaiting EMS. If not better, may repeat times two, back-to-back Administer CPR, if indicated.

(PHYSICIAN) Date

(PHYSICIAN) Date

(PHYSICIAN) Date

(PHYSICIAN) Date

Students

Naloxone in School

The Board hereby permits the storage, administration, and implementation of naloxone (also known as Narcan) in school, so long as such storage, administration, and implementation complies with all legal requirements and the best interests of student health.

The Superintendent is hereby delegated the authority to develop rules and regulations to handle and administer naloxone in the event of a suspect opioid overdose, or in other emergency situations that require prompt attention.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-470

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

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Students

Introductory Statement

The focus of the school system is on the student. The students and their educational development is the central concern of the board of education's policies and the administrative regulations.

The board of education, within the parameters provided by the patrons of the school district, will attempt to provide adequate facilities and available means to all who wish to learn in the school district.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Admission Requirements

Minimum Age:

A child shall be eligible for admission into kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if the child is five years of age or will be five years of age on or before July 31 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the child is seeking admission begins. The School Board shall admit a child who will reach the age of five years on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 of such school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating that (i) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year; (ii) the family anticipates a relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year; or (iii) the child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten which can be demonstrated through a recognized assessment procedure approved by the Board.

Early Admission to Kindergarten:

The following assessment procedure for determining if a child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten is approved and shall be made available to interested persons:

Early kindergarten enrollment exceptions may be made for younger children who are intellectually advanced. At a minimum, eligibility for the admission shall be based upon an analysis of the child's: (1) mental ability, (2) emotional/social development, (3) pre academic skills, and (4) fine motor skills.

The kindergarten early entrance assessment procedures are designed to identify and place in kindergarten those children who:

- a. will turn 5 years of age between August 1 and October 15;
- b. are deemed by parents or guardians as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement; and
- c. are selected on the basis of testing by professionals trained and certified to administer the assessments that will produce evidence of strength in:
 1. mental ability defined as scoring 84th percentile or above on a standardized assessment of cognitive ability such as the Wechsler Pre Primary Scale of Intelligence III, or the Stanford-Binet V;
 2. a test of emotional/social development such as the Behavior Assessment System for Children, Second Edition (BASC-2);
 3. 75th percentile or greater on a test of pre academic skills such as the Woodcock Johnson III; and
 4. a test of fine motor ability, scoring 75th percentile or above on a standardized measurement such as the Beery VMI.

In the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, the assessments may be administered by the School District's professional staff, or the parents or guardians may be required, at their own expense, to have all or some of the required assessments completed by

reputable professionals and to submit the results of such assessments to the School District.

The decision regarding early entrance to kindergarten requires careful consideration of all factors that affect kindergarten success with final determination to be made based on the recommendation of the District Evaluation Team, to be composed of such individuals as the Superintendent or designee determine appropriate. The academic, social, and emotional readiness, as well as the student's physical development and well-being, must be weighed with institutional factors also considered. Sound decision making in the area of early entrance to kindergarten is dependent upon reliable information regarding a student's readiness and a thoughtful balancing of the myriad of factors implicated by the decision. Parents will be notified in writing of the results of the Early Kindergarten Entrance assessment and the determination of the District Evaluation Team in a timely fashion; not to exceed three weeks after the assessments are completed.

Families who seek early admission of their child into kindergarten must obtain an *Early Entrance to Kindergarten Packet* from the School District Administration.

Parents must fill out the early entrance application forms, which include a parent questionnaire and obtain and attach a reference letter from someone who is well acquainted with the child but not a relative of the child. The person providing this reference should know the child well enough that they can speak with some expertise about the child's attributes and abilities. The reference letter should indicate whether this person recommends the child be schooled with children who will be a year older than the child and, if so, the evidence this person has concerning the child's mental ability, fine and gross motor ability, visual and auditory discrimination, emotional/social development, and communication skills. Suggestions for this reference letter are a preschool teacher, a Sunday school teacher, a day-care provider, or a physician.

The assessment request, reference letter and parent questionnaire must be completed and returned to the District no later than May 25th of the spring before fall enrollment to allow summer assessment to be completed.

Decisions regarding early kindergarten entrance must include consideration of the above and shall not be made based on sex, disability, race, color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status of the child or the child's parents or guardians. Institutional factors, such as capacity, may also be considered.

Admission to First Grade:

A child may be eligible to enter first grade, even if the child has not attended kindergarten, if the child is six years of age or will be six years of age on or before October 15 of the current school year and school officials determine that first grade is the appropriate placement for the child.

Graduates:

A student who has received a high school diploma or received a General Equivalency Diploma shall not be eligible for admission or continued enrollment.

Age 21:

A student shall not be admitted or continued in enrollment after the end of the school year in which the student reaches the age of 21. The school year for this purpose ends at the last day of instruction for graduating seniors.

Birth Certificate, Physical, Visual Evaluation and Immunization:

The parents or legal guardian shall furnish:

- (1) A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, upon admission of a child for the first time, shall be provided within 30 days of enrollment. Other reliable proof of the child's identify and age, accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate, may be used in lieu of a birth certificate. An affidavit is defined as a notarized statement by an individual who can verify the reason a copy of the birth certificate cannot be produced. (Failure to provide the birth certificate does not result in non-enrollment or disenrollment, but does result in a referral to local law enforcement for investigation).
- (2) Evidence of a physical examination by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, within six months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a physical examination.
- (3) Evidence of a visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, within six months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a visual evaluation. The visual evaluation is to consist of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity.
- (4) Evidence of protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, Hepatitis B, Varicella (chicken pox), Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib), invasive pneumococcal disease and other diseases as required by applicable law, by immunization, prior to enrollment, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement that establishes than an exception to the immunization requirements are met.
- (5) Every student entering the seventh grade shall have a booster immunization containing diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and an acellular pertussis vaccine which

meets the standards approved by the United States Public Health Service for such biological products, as such standards existed on January 1, 2009.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of the foregoing requirements and of the right to submit affidavits or statements to object to the requirements, as applicable. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall also provide a telephone number or other contact information to assist the parent or guardian in receiving information regarding free or reduced-cost visual evaluations for low-income families who qualify.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, or if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given.

Enrollment of Expelled Students

If a student has been expelled from any public school district in any state, or from a private, denominational, or parochial school in any state, and the student has not completed the terms or time period of the expulsion, the student shall not be permitted to enroll in this school district until the expulsion period from such other school has expired, unless the School Board of this school district in its sole and absolute discretion upon a proper application approves by a majority vote the enrollment of such student prior to expiration of the expulsion period. As a condition of enrollment, the School Board may require attendance in an alternative school, class or educational program pursuant to Nebraska law until the terms or time period of the original underlying expulsion are completed. A student expelled from a private, denominational, or parochial school or from any public school in another state, will not be prohibited from enrolling in the public school district in which the student resides or in which the student has been accepted pursuant to the enrollment option program for any period of time beyond the time limits placed on expulsion, pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, or for any expulsion for an offense for which expulsion is not authorized for a public school student under such Act. For purposes of this policy, the term expulsion or expelled includes any removal from any school for a period in excess of twenty (20) school days.

Military Families

If a parent presents evidence to the District of military orders that military family will be stationed in the State of Nebraska during the current or following school year, the District will enroll preliminarily the parent's students.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 43-2001 to 43-2012
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-214
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-217 to 79-223
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-266.01
 173 NAC Chapters 3 and 4 (HHS Regulations)

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

FORMS FOR HEALTH RELATED ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- 1. Notice of Requirements for Student Admission—Birth Certificate, Immunization, Physical Examination and Visual Evaluation**
- 2. Immunization—Affidavit of Refusal—For Reason of Religious Conflict**
- 3. Immunization—Affidavit of Refusal—For Reason of Religious Conflict (Alternative: HHS Form)**
- 4. Immunization—Affidavit of Refusal—For Medical Reason (HHS Form)**
- 5. Immunization—Medical Documentation of Varicella (Chickenpox) Disease (HHS Form)**
- 6. Physical Examination or Visual Evaluation—Parent Objection Form**
- 7. Waiver of Physical Examination/Visual Evaluation Requirement (HHS Form)**
- 8. HHS Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations 2019-2020**
- 9. Affidavit (For Child to Enroll Early in Kindergarten)**
- 10. Request for Non-disclosure of High School Personal Information to Institutions of Higher Education and Military Recruiters**
- 11. Section 9528. Armed Forces Recruiter Access to Students and Student Recruiting Information**

**NOTICE OF REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENT ADMISSION—
BIRTH CERTIFICATE, IMMUNIZATION, PHYSICAL EXAMINATION
AND VISUAL EVALUATION**

Nebraska law requires that the parents or legal guardian furnish the following documents as a condition of admission to school:

1. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, prior to admission of a child for the first time. Other reliable proof of the child's identity and age, accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate, may be used in lieu of a birth certificate. An affidavit is defined as a notarized statement by an individual who can verify the reason a copy of the birth certificate cannot be produced. (Failure to provide the birth certificate does not result in non-enrollment or disenrollment, but does result in a referral to local law enforcement for investigation).
2. Evidence of a physical examination by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, within six months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a physical examination.
3. Evidence of a visual evaluation (for school year 2019-2020 and each school year thereafter) by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, within six months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a visual evaluation. The visual evaluation is to consist of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity.
4. Evidence of protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, Hepatitis B, Varicella (chicken pox) and Haemophilus Influenzae type b (Hib) and other diseases as required by applicable law, by immunization, prior to enrollment, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement refusing immunization or meets other exceptions established by law (refer to Health and Human Services regulations, 173 NAC 3).
5. On and after July 1, 2010, every student entering the seventh grade shall have a booster immunization containing diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and an acellular pertussis vaccine which meets the standards approved by the United States Public Health Service for such biological products, as such standards existed on January 1, 2009.

Forms to submit objections are available from the school.

The following information is provided to assist a parent or guardian in receiving information regarding free or reduced-cost visual evaluations for low-income families who qualify: Information about free or reduced-cost visual evaluations may be obtained from the Nebraska Foundation for Children's Vision (NFCV), nechildrensvision.org, 1633 Normandy Court, Suite A, Lincoln, NE 68512—Fax 402-476-6547—Phone 402-474-7716. To identify a participating SEE TO LEARN doctor nearest you, call 1-800-960-3937. For assistance from VISION USA call 1-800-766-4466. In addition, Lions Clubs throughout Nebraska are committed to assisting disadvantaged families by sponsoring eye exams and eyewear. NOA member doctors will provide eye exams at no cost if no other resources are available.

**AFFIDAVIT OF REFUSAL OF IMMUNIZATION--
FOR REASON OF RELIGIOUS CONFLICT
(For School Admission)**

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, states upon oath as follows

This affidavit is submitted for the following child: _____.

I state that I am submitting this affidavit in the position of (*initial* as appropriate):

- _____ Self, as I am the child and I am of the age of majority
- _____ As a legally authorized representative of the child based on (insert description of legal authority; e.g., parent or legal guardian):

I understand that state law requires that the child be protected by immunization against certain contagious diseases prior to enrollment in school. I hereby swear and affirm that such immunization requirements (*initial* as applicable):

- _____ Conflict with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the child is an adherent or member; or
- _____ Conflict with the personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs of the child.

I will not hold McCook Public Schools responsible for any injury or harm caused by or relating to such refusal to obtain immunization for the child.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this affidavit is signed and acknowledged this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Affiant

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
)
COUNTY OF _____) **ss.**

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of _____, 20__ by _____.

Notary Public

[Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. sections 79-217 and 79-221; HHS Regulation 173 NAC 3]

**AFFIDAVIT
Refusal of Immunization of Student for Religious Reasons**

State of Nebraska

ss.

County of

This Affidavit is being submitted on behalf of

(Name of Student)

(Birthdate of Student)

If the student is of the age of majority:

I, _____, of lawful age and being first duly sworn,
(Name of Affiant/Student)
depose and state as follows:

Immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which I am an adherent or member or immunization conflicts with my personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs.

If the student is a minor:

I, _____, as legally authorized representative of
(Name of Affiant)

, of lawful age and being first duly sworn,
(Name of Student)
depose, and state as follows:

Immunization conflicts with the religious tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or member or immunization conflicts with the student's personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs.

(Signature of Affiant)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this _____ day of _____

Notary Public

**REFUSAL OF IMMUNIZATION
For Medical Reasons**

As the physician of:

Child's Last Name	First Name	Age
Birth Date	School	Grade

A. I have elected to not immunize this student against the following disease(s): (check box*)

- Diphtheria
- Tetanus
- Pertussis
- Polio
- Measles (Rubeola)
- Mumps
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Hepatitis B
- Varicella (chickenpox)

In my opinion, this/these immunization(s) would be injurious to the health and well-being of

- The student
- A member of the student's household or family

Comments _____

Signature of Physician Date

* Each disease for which a vaccine has not been administered must be checked. Parent / guardian must submit dates of immunization for all other diseases.

Documentation of Varicella (Chickenpox) Disease

(To be filled out by the parent, guardian, or medical provider of the child/student)

This document is being submitted on behalf of:

_____ (Name of child/student) (Birth date of child/student)

I _____ verify that the above listed child/student
Parent/Guardian/Medical Provider

had the varicella disease in _____ (year).

(Signature of parent/guardian/medical provider)

**PARENT OBJECTION TO
PHYSICAL EXAMINATION OR VISUAL EVALUATION
(For School Admission)**

I am the parent or guardian of the following children who are enrolling in the beginner grade or seventh grade in McCook Public Schools, or who are transferring from out of state into any grade in McCook Public Schools:

Child No. 1: _____

Child No. 2: _____

I understand that state law requires that the school be provided with: (1) evidence of a physical examination by a physician, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner and (2) a visual evaluation by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist. The physical examination and visual evaluation is required to be completed within six months prior to the entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade. The visual evaluation is to consist of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity. No such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing.

I hereby object in writing to the:

_____ physical examination

_____ visual evaluation

(check one or both)

for the above named child(ren). I will not hold McCook Public Schools responsible for any injury or harm caused by or relating to such refusal to obtain a physical examination of visual evaluation for the above named child(ren).

Dated this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent or Guardian

[Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. sections 79-214(3) and 79-220]



Department of Health and Human Services
Waiver of Physical Examination/Visual Evaluation Requirement

School Name (if desired) _____

Note to Parent/Guardian: please complete and return to the school health office if you wish to have your child waived from these requirements as allowed by Nebraska law. If you have questions, please contact the school nurse or the school office. Thank you.

As a Parent/Guardian of - Student Name	Student ID#
School Name	Grade

I object to the following requirements for school entry as legislated in Nebraska Revised Statutes 79-214 and 79-220.

Check which apply:

- Physical examination by a licensed physician, physician assistant or advance nurse practitioner within six months prior to school entry. *(Applies to: Kindergarten or beginner grade, out of state transfers to any grade, and seventh grade).*
- Visual evaluation by a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced nurse practitioner, or vision professional (optometrist or ophthalmologist) within six months prior to school entry. *(Applies to: Kindergarten or entry grade and out of state transfer to any grade).*

I understand that I may request information to assist me in receiving information about reduced-cost vision examination as required by NRS 79-220.

I understand provisions in the law allow me to waive the requirement for this examination by my signed statement.

SIGN HERE _____
 Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Comments: _____

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 st Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 th birthday 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Students entering 7 th grade	Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_t173.aspx (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)
 Updated 01/26/2018

AFFIDAVIT
(For Child to Enroll Early in Kindergarten)

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, states upon oath as follows:

I am the parent or guardian of _____ (Child's name). The Child's date of birth is _____. The Child will reach the age of five years on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 of the current school year.

I elect to enroll the Child this school year and hereby affirm (check or initial appropriate provision for early enrollment):

_____ the Child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year; or

_____ the family anticipates relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year; or

_____ the Child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten which can be demonstrated through a recognized assessment procedure approved by the board.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this affidavit is signed and acknowledged this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent or Guardian

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
)
COUNTY OF _____)

ss.

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of _____, 20__ by _____.

Notary Public

**Request For Non-disclosure of
High School Student Personal Information
To Institutions of Higher Education or Military Recruiters**

I hereby request that the name, address, and telephone listing of _____ (name of student), a high school student at McCook Public Schools, not be released without prior parental consent to:

_____ institutions of higher education

_____ military recruiters

(check one, both, or none)

Signed by: ___ Student ___ Parent (Check One)

_____ Signature/Date

_____ Print Name

_____ Address

_____ City/State/Zip Code

Note to students/parents: This certificate can be signed by either student or a parent. The provision of this form does not reflect the position of McCook Public Schools that the request for non-disclosure should or should not be made.

“SEC. 9528. ARMED FORCES RECRUITER ACCESS TO STUDENTS AND STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION.

“(a) POLICY.—

“(1) ACCESS TO STUDENT RECRUITING INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding section 444(a)(5)(B) of the General Education Provisions Act and except as provided in paragraph (2), each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide, on a request made by military recruiters or an institution of higher education, access to secondary school students names, addresses, and telephone listings.

“(2) CONSENT.—A secondary school student or the parent of the student may request that the student’s name, address, and telephone listing described in paragraph (1) not be released without prior written parental consent, and the local educational agency or private school shall notify parents of the option to make a request and shall comply with any request.

“(3) SAME ACCESS TO STUDENTS.—Each local educational agency receiving assistance under this Act shall provide military recruiters the same access to secondary school students as is provided generally to post secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of those students.

20 USC 7908.

StudentsDiscontinuance of Enrollment for Children Younger Than Six Years of Age

Any person with legal or actual charge or control of a child younger than six years of age prior to the then-current school year, who is enrolled in this school district, may discontinue the enrollment of such child by submitting a written notification to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee, indicating that child's name, date of birth, grade level and effective date of discontinuation of enrollment. The notification must be in writing and on a form provided by or acceptable to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee containing all information required herein. The form must be dated and signed by a parent or person with legal or actual charge or control of the child. The school district may request written verification or documentation of the person's authority to dis-enroll the child. Upon receipt of required written form and any other required information or documentation, the school district shall note discontinuance of the enrollment on its official records pursuant to state law. Any child dis-enrolled shall not be eligible to re-enroll in this school district until commencement of the next school year, or until the child reaches the age of six prior to the then-current school year, whichever occurs earlier. Any person signing a request for discontinuation of enrollment, acknowledges this policy, procedure and the requirement thereof, and expressly agrees thereto.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-201

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

AFFIDAVIT
(For Child Age 6 to Not Attend School)

The undersigned, being first duly sworn, states upon oath as follows:

I am the parent or guardian of _____ (Child's name). The Child's date of birth is _____. The Child has or will reach the age of six prior to January 1 of the current school year, but will not reach age seven prior to January 1 of the current school year.

I elect to not enroll the Child in an accredited school this school year and hereby affirm (check or initial appropriate exception for attendance):

_____ the Child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or

_____ the parent or guardian intends for the Child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this affidavit is signed and acknowledged this ____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent or Guardian

STATE OF NEBRASKA)
)
COUNTY OF _____) **ss.**

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me this ____ day of _____, 20__ by _____.

Notary Public

Disenroll to Attend Homeschool

I am the parent or guardian of _____ (Child's name).

I elect to disenroll the Child from an accredited school this school year and hereby affirm _that I intend for the Child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements (a homeschool) and will provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement confirming such homeschool status.

Parent or Guardian

Date

StudentsAssignment of Students: Grade Placement and Transfer StudentsAssignment of Students

It shall be the responsibility of the administration to determine academic placement decisions involving students, including situations where students transfer into McCook Public Schools from other educational settings. The District reserves the right to make the most appropriate grade level placement, class placement and teacher assignment for students which best fulfills the needs of the students and the school district.

Grade Level Placement and Credits

Students who enter the District shall be required to present transfer documents and such records as the administration determines appropriate, indicating grade placement, courses completed, and special needs or accommodations, and may be required to complete achievement test to determine appropriate placement.

Placement decisions will consider whether the student is transferring from a school which is accredited or approved. An “accredited” or “approved” school is one which was accredited or approved by the Nebraska Department of Education and, for schools from other states, is a school which is accredited or approved by that state’s department of education, meeting requirements which are the same or equivalent as those of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Transfers from Accredited or Approved Schools

Students transferring from accredited or approved schools will initially be placed in the next grade level above that which the student last successfully completed, or for transfers during the school year, in the same grade level as the student was at prior to the transfer. Credits earned at an accredited or approved school will be accepted by the McCook Public Schools. A student who enrolls during the school year shall be given the opportunity to earn full credit for the courses in which the student is enrolled if the student is able to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter and/or completion of course requirements, other than attendance, at a level required for other students to receive credit who have been enrolled throughout the period for which the credit is to be granted. The administration may use a review of transcripts from prior schools attended, standardized tests, assessments, and/or teacher evaluations of student competency in the subject matter to make such a determination.

Transfers from Non-Accredited or Approved Schools

Students transferring from schools which are not accredited or approved (e.g., home schools) will be placed at a grade level to be determined by the administration based on consideration of the following factors:

1. Student’s chronological age.
2. Transcript review
3. Testing (achievement test data; diagnostic test data; and/or criterion referenced test data)
4. Teacher evaluation of student competency

Credits earned at a school which is not accredited or approved will not be accepted by the McCook Public Schools. However, the administration may, in its discretion and subject to regulatory requirements, grant a student credits towards meeting graduation requirements for core curriculum courses (not elective courses) completed by the student in a non-accredited or non-approved school if the student is able to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter and completion of course requirements, other than attendance, at a level required for other students to receive credit and to demonstrate that the student has received instruction in such course(s) comparable to that which the student would have received by attending an accredited or approved school. The administration may use a review of transcripts from prior schools attended, standardized tests, assessments, and/or teacher evaluations of student competency in the subject matter to make such a determination. The same criteria will be used for determining whether to grant credit to such a student who enrolls during the year.

Class Rank and Graduation

It shall be the responsibility of the High School Principal to determine academic grade point average, class rank and eligibility for graduation, subject to review by the Superintendent.

Grade point average (G.P.A.) shall be maintained for the 9th through 12th grades. Courses taken prior to 9th grade are not considered for G.P.A. purposes, except where credit is given according to policy No. 5208, such as 8th grade algebra.

Pass/fail grades will be assigned to those courses in which students are granted credit when they begin attending McCook Public Schools.

Class rank is maintained for the 9th through 12th grades. Class rank is based on the McCook Public Schools G.P.A. To be considered for class ranking and any honors or awards which are based on class rank or G.P.A. (e.g., Valedictorian), students must complete a minimum of four semesters of attendance at McCook Public Schools. To receive a diploma from McCook Public Schools students must complete at least 30 credit hours of courses taken at McCook Public Schools and students who have transferred from a school which is not accredited or approved must earn a minimum of two years' credit in an approved or accredited senior high school, grades 10-12, with the final semester's credit being earned in this school district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-526 and 79-729;
Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10 and February 1993
"NDE Position Statement Regarding Reintegration of Rule 13 Students to Accredited Schools"

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Full-time and Part-time Enrollment

Full-time Enrollment

Students must be enrolled in McCook Public Schools on a full-time basis. Full-time basis is defined as attending classes for the full instructional day within the public school system.

Exceptions are permitted only for:

1. enrolled students attending another state accredited institution such as a vocational-technical school or a college or university for school credit;
2. enrolled students taking the limited number of credits needed to graduate in the school year;
3. enrolled students in need of modified school attendance as an accommodation for a disability or similar unique circumstance;
4. enrolled students receiving special education services where the student's IEP requires a modified schedule, or non-enrolled students receiving special education services or other legally mandated services required to be provided to eligible resident children under state and federal laws and regulations;
5. students from other school districts participating in programs offered by the District pursuant to an interlocal agreement or other arrangement approved by the School Board; and
6. non-public school students in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in this policy.

Part-Time Enrollment of Non-Public School Students

The School Board shall allow the part-time enrollment of students who are residents of the school district and who are also enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school or in a school which elects pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet accreditation or approval requirements. Such students are referred to herein as "non-public school students."

The School Board establishes the following guiding principles for enrollment of non-public school students:

- (1) The primary school for a non-public school student is the student's private, denominational, parochial or home school.
- (2) Enrollment of a non-public school student in McCook Public Schools is allowed for the purpose of providing enhanced educational opportunities not otherwise available to the non-public school student. It is not to supplant programming of the student's primary school.
- (3) Non-public school students are not to be given priority over full-time students.
- (4) Non-public school students are to be enrolled only in programs or courses that are educationally appropriate for the student.
- (5) Enrollment of non-public school students is not to negatively affect the educational services to be provided to full-time students.

The School Board establishes the following specific policies and procedures for enrollment of non-public school students. In the event the specific policies and procedures require interpretation or do not fully resolve an issue, the above established guiding principles are to be considered.

A. Non-Public School Student Enrollment Application Procedures.

1. Application. Parent or guardian must submit an Application of Non-Public School Student for Part-Time Enrollment to the principal of the school the student desires to attend.
2. Deadline for Applications. The application must be received by August 1st preceding the school year the student wishes to enroll.
 - a. Change of Residence Exception: The application deadline for a student who becomes a resident of the District after the school year has commenced is: 20 calendar days after the student becomes a resident of the District. The principal may delay enrollment until the next following quarter or semester starts, or at such other time as determined to be educationally appropriate.
 - b. High School Course Exception: The application deadline for a student who desires to enroll in a second semester high school course is December 1st.
3. Action on Applications. The principal will review the application and will notify the parent of the approval or denial of the application within 2 weeks of receipt of the application or 2 weeks prior to the start of school or 2 weeks prior to the start of the next semester, whichever is later.
4. Appeals. The parent or guardian may appeal the principal's action to deny their application. Any such appeal must be submitted to the Superintendent within 14 calendar days from the date of the principal's action. The appeal shall be in writing and shall be decided on the basis of the written submission. The Superintendent may request the parent or guardian to provide further explanation or information and the appeal may be denied in the event the parent or guardian fails to fully respond on a timely basis. The Superintendent shall decide the appeal within 10 calendar days of the submission of the appeal. The Superintendent may make a decision later than the 10 days in the event good reason for delay exists. Good reason includes but is not limited to the Superintendent being unable to gather the information the Superintendent determines necessary to make the decision within the decision period.
5. Annual Applications. Part-time enrollment is determined annually. Application must be made each school year. There will be no guarantee that enrollment will be continued from one year to the next.

B. Non-Public School Student Admission

1. Admission Requirements. Students must meet the normal admission requirements. This includes the requirements that the student: be a resident of the District, be of school attendance age and not have graduated or have received a GED.
2. Admission Process. Students must complete the normal enrollment process and forms required by the District and/or the building for enrollment of all children. This includes the requirements relating to: birth certificates, immunizations, physical examinations, and visual evaluations.

C. Non-Public School Student Enrollment Standards

1. Maximum Enrollment. Students may not enroll in more than 2 middle school or high school courses during any one semester. Elementary students may not enroll in programming of greater than 90 minutes of instruction each day.
2. Capacity Limits. Enrollment will ordinarily be subject to capacity limits. Any grade level, program, or course which has been determined to be at capacity for option enrollment purposes will ordinarily not be available for non-public school students.
3. Integrated Courses. Students must meet prerequisite requirements to be enrolled in a course by appropriate credits earned through an accredited program. The principal may on a discretionary basis allow prerequisite requirements to be satisfied where the student provides reasonable indications that the academic criteria have been met, such as results from achievement tests or other indications of adequate preparation.
4. Educationally Appropriate Programs and Courses. Students will not be allowed to enroll in programs or courses which the school administration determines to not be educationally appropriate for the student. Determination of whether a program or course is educationally appropriate will be made based on the standards the District uses for making academic placement decisions.
5. Selection of Courses. Subject to Paragraphs 1 through 4 of this Paragraph C, and all other applicable provisions of this Policy, non-public school students may select their courses.

D. Non-Public School Student Policies

1. General Standard. Non-public school students who are enrolled part-time are to be subject to the same standards as full-time enrolled students except

where appropriate to reflect their part-time status.

2. Building assignment. Students must enroll in the attendance center that serves the student's residence, provided that the administration reserves the authority to make a different attendance center assignment. A student may request assignment to an attendance center other than that of the student's residence under the intra-district transfer procedures.
3. No Partial Part-Time Enrollment. Students must apply for enrollment and attend the entire school year for which enrollment is made or, for high school courses, for the full length of the course. Once enrolled, part-time students will be required to participate in all activities, programs, and tests related to the program or course for which the student is enrolled, including as applicable State or District-wide assessments, as full-time students.
4. Student Conduct Policies. Students enrolled on a part-time basis shall be required to follow all school policies that apply to other students at any time the part-time student is present on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This includes the District's student conduct policies. Students enrolled on a part-time basis shall be subject to discipline, including suspension or expulsion, for violation of student conduct rules.
5. Attendance. Students enrolled on a part-time basis are not exempt from the compulsory attendance laws or from the District's attendance policies. Students who engage in excessive absenteeism as defined in Board policy are to be reported under the truancy laws.
6. Presence on School Grounds. Students enrolled on a part-time basis are to be present on school grounds during the school day only at the times required for their attendance in the program or course in which they are enrolled. Exceptions may be made in the discretion of the principal or the principal's designee. Students must sign in and out of the school by following the building level procedure. Students are responsible for being aware of any changes in the school schedule during inclement weather or for other reasons.
7. Transportation. Students enrolled on a part-time basis are not entitled to transportation or transportation reimbursement, unless otherwise required by law. Full-time students will be given first consideration for parking on the high school campus.
8. Academic Honors. Students enrolled on a part-time basis will not be eligible to graduate or receive a diploma from the District or receive academic honors (for example, class rank and honor roll) except to the extent the student meets all requirements of the District's policies for such, including attainment of minimum credits and semesters of attendance.

9. Extracurricular Activities. Any student who is a resident of the District and who is enrolled in a school which elects pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet accreditation or approval requirements may participate in any of the District's extracurricular activity programs to the same extent and subject to the same requirements, conditions, and procedures as a full-time student in the District. The District's Activities Director will coordinate with the student's parent or guardian to secure assurances of compliance with these expectations. Any student covered by this subsection must enroll in no more and no less than five credit hours through the District in any semester. There shall be no preference given to any student participating in any extracurricular activity based off their status as a full-time or part-time student. Part-time students will be expected to comply with the same or similar expectations as full-time students to participate in any activity, including team rules. Participation in activities that are subject to the bylaws of the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) will be limited to those students who meet the NSAA bylaws.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-2,136 and Sec. 79-526
LB 705, § 75
Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

**APPLICATION OF NON-PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENT
FOR PART-TIME ENROLLMENT**

Application Process:

- Step 1: Complete Parts I, II and III of this Application.
- Step 2: Complete the attached “Statement of Person in Legal or Actual Charge or Control of a Child” form.
- Step 3: Complete Part IV of this Application, **if** you checked item (2) (b) (c) or (d) of the “Statement of Person in Legal or Actual Charge or Control of a Child” form.
- Step 4: Sign this Application in the presence of a notary

Note: You may also need to provide the following documents:

- (1) birth certificate
- (2) proof of immunization, proof of physical examination, and proof of visual evaluation, or written objections signed by parent or legal guardian
- (3) durable power of attorney (delegation of parental powers)
- (4) student records from school currently attending and school last attended & release of student records form

PART I–Student Information

Student’s Name:	DOB:	Grade Level:
Parent/Guardian’s Name(s):	Address:	Telephone:
School Currently Attending:	School Address:	Telephone:
School Last Attended:	School Address:	Telephone:
Special Needs/Concerns (e.g. health concerns) (information is requested for accommodation planning purposes): _____	Special Education Needs: ___ Yes ___ No	If “yes” describe needs: _____ _____ _____

PART II–Part-Time Enrollment Request

Semester Child seeks to begin attending:	
Course(s) or Program(s) in which Child seeks to enroll:	
If the Course is an Integrated Course (e.g. Algebra II), provide description of courses Child has passed to meet prerequisites:	
State whether the Course or Program is offered in the Child’s School:	
State whether Child is seeking to participate in extracurricular activities; and if so, list the activities:	

STATEMENT OF PERSON IN LEGAL OR ACTUAL CHARGE OR CONTROL OF A CHILD SUBMITTED TO MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR PURPOSES OF SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

The undersigned state that I am an adult in legal or actual charge or control of (*Child's Name*): _____, a child who resides in this school district at (*Child's Address*)

- 1) I state that I am the child's parent, or
- 2) I state that I have been entrusted with, or assumed, day-to-day care and full-time supervision of, and responsibility for, the child and have been given the authority to act as parent or guardian in educational matters as established by (check *all* that apply):
 - a) a court or testamentary appointment as a legal guardian (*attach copy*) and/or
 - b) a power of attorney delegating such parental powers (*attach copy*) and/or
 - c) through an in loco parentis designation by a parent in which I have been authorized to stand in the place of the parent in caring for and raising the child (*attach any written documentation of such designation*), and/or
 - d) through some other set of circumstances (*please explain on a separate sheet*).

I understand that I may be requested to provide additional information regarding this child. The names and current or last known address of the child's parents are:

Mother: _____ Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Father: _____ Address: _____ Telephone: _____

I understand that I will be responsible for, and will be expected to make, decisions regarding education (including, but not limited to, records, discipline, and special education unless otherwise provided under special education laws and regulations), emergency medical care, and other matters for this child while in legal or actual charge or control of this child and I state that I have the authority to take such responsibility and to make such decisions and to so act. I also understand that I will have responsibilities under the state truancy laws to cause this child to attend school.

Signature of Adult in Legal or Actual Charge or Control

Dated: _____

Home Address of Adult in Legal or Actual Charge or Control

Home Phone: _____

Daytime Work Address

Daytime Work Phone: _____

NOTE: SECTION 79-215 R.R.S. PROVIDES THAT IF THE STUDENT IS HOMELESS OR IF THE ADULT DOES NOT HAVE A PHONE NUMBER AND ADDRESS WHERE HE OR SHE MAY GENERALLY BE REACHED DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, THOSE PARTS OF THE FORM MAY BE LEFT BLANK AND A BOX MAY BE MARKED ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THESE ARE THE REASONS THESE PARTS OF THE FORM WERE LEFT BLANK. THE ADULT WITH LEGAL OR ACTUAL CHARGE OR CONTROL OF THIS STUDENT SHALL ALSO SIGN THE FORM.

_____ This child is homeless, which is the reason items were left blank.

_____ This adult does not have a phone number or address where they may generally be reached during the school day

StudentsStudent Residence, Admission and Contracting for Educational Services

Students shall be admitted to the School District, upon request and without charge, who are:

1. A resident of the School District for purposes of school enrollment. A student is a resident of the School District if the student resides in the School District or at least one of the student's parents resides in the School District.
2. A homeless student. The following definition shall be used to determine which students fit this category:

A homeless individual is one who (1) lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and (2) has a primary nighttime residence in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designed to provide for temporary accommodations (including welfare hotels, congregate shelters, and transitional housing for the mentally ill), an institution providing temporary residence for individuals intended to be institutionalized, or a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings. The term "homeless" or "homeless individual" does not include any individual imprisoned or otherwise detained by an Act of Congress or State law.

3. Approved for option enrollment into the School District.

Students may be admitted to the School District, or continue in enrollment, where:

1. The student is not a resident of the School District and is a resident of Nebraska. Such enrollment shall be pursuant to a contract between the Boards of Education of the School District and the school district in which the student is a resident and upon the collection of tuition pursuant to such contract. The amount of tuition shall be no less than the average cost per pupil as determined by the previous year's financial report.
2. The student is not a resident of the School District and is a resident of another State. Such enrollment shall be subject to collection of tuition in advance at a rate determined by the Superintendent.
3. The student is participating in an approved Foreign Exchange Program.
4. The student is a child of a member of the military on active duty and residing on certain property ceded to the United States and stationed in, near or adjacent to the School District, and children of employees of the federal government residing in Nebraska on national parks or national monuments within the State in, near or adjacent to the School District. Such discretionary admission shall be without charge for tuition.

5. The student's residency in the School District ceases during the school year. In such case, the student may be allowed to continue attending the School District for the remainder of that school year.

A child who is a ward of the state or court and (1) has been placed in the School District but had resided in a different school district at the time the child became a ward and does not reside in a foster family home, or (2) has been placed in an institution which maintains a State-approved special education program, may be enrolled in the School District to the extent required by law. In such event, costs of education and transportation are to be paid by the State, but not in advance. The child remains a resident of the school district in which the child resided at the time the child became a ward.

A child who is a ward of the state or court who resides in the School District in a foster family home licensed or approved by the Department of Health and Human Services ("Department") or a foster home maintained or used by the Department, remains a resident of the school district in which the child resided at the time the child became a foster child. This is subject to a determination being made in accordance with the Foster Care Review Act that the child will not attend such school district. If such a determination is made, the child is deemed to be a resident of the School District and will be admitted as a resident student.

A child who is not a ward of the state or court and who is residing in a residential setting in the School District for reasons other than to receive an education is subject to the following: First, if the residential setting does not maintain an interim-program school, the School District will provide the educational services to the child pursuant to a contract with the school district in which the child resided immediately prior to such placement, as and to the extent required by law. This is subject to the parent or guardian and such other school district agreeing to have such other school district provide the educational services. Second, if the residential setting does maintain an interim-program school, the child's educational services will be provided by the interim-program school without the School District's involvement. However, the School District may provide educational services to the child pursuant to a contract with the school district in which the child resided immediately prior to such placement.

All admissions are subject to the condition that admission requirements other than residency be satisfied to the extent required by law and that the School District is legally responsible for or authorized to admit the child or provide educational services to the child.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-215 (residency and admission)
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-215 (children of military or federal
 employee parent)
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-232 to 79-246 (option enrollment)
 42 U.S.C. § 11431 et. seq. (McKinney–Vento Homeless Assistance Act)
 NDE Rule 9

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsOption EnrollmentA. Process and Timelines to Option In

For a student to attend McCook Public Schools as an option enrollment student, the student's parent or legal guardian must submit an application to the Board of Education of the McCook Public School District between September 1 and March 15 for enrollment during the following and subsequent school years (the "application period").

Upon receipt of an application, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall provide the resident school district or, if the student attends a different district as an option student, the option district with the name of the applicant on or before April 1 or, in the case of an application submitted after March 15, within sixty days after submission.

Waiver

The application deadline will not be waived by the School District for applications to option into the McCook Public School District, except in the following circumstances:

1. Siblings: The application deadline will be waived where the application is for a student who is the sibling of a student attending McCook Public Schools as of the time the application is filed. A "sibling" for this purpose means a child who resides in the same household on a permanent basis with a student who is currently attending the School District and who has the same natural or adoptive parent or who is a stepbrother or stepsister.
2. Kindergarten: The application deadline will be waived where the application is for a student who is seeking to enroll and attend the Kindergarten grade level provided the application was filed on or before June 1 prior to the first semester of the next school year.
3. Release Approval: For the foregoing exceptions, the application must contain a release approval from the resident district or, if the student attends a different district as an option student, the student's current option district.
4. Other Conditions: The waiver of the deadline in the above circumstances does not require acceptance of the application, as such applications may be rejected for reasons other than late filing.
5. Capacity: For the foregoing exceptions, the application deadline shall not be waived if the application is for enrollment in any program, class, grade level or school building operated by this School District which have been determined by the School District to be at capacity in accordance with the capacity standards (Appendix "1"), and no waiver of the deadline shall be made for such an application regardless of whether such capacity determinations are declared invalid for any reason. For any option application for a student that would receive or could be eligible to receive special education or related services, the Director of Special Education or designee shall conduct a case-by-case analysis to determine if the

District has the capacity to provide the student with the appropriate services and accommodations.

B. Rejection of Applications; Reasons

1. Capacity: An option enrollment application shall be rejected in the event the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building operated by the School District would be exceeded by acceptance of the application, and an option enrollment application shall be rejected in the event the application is for enrollment in a program, class, grade level, or school building which has been declared unavailable to option students due to lack of capacity.

The Director of Special Education shall review on a case-by-case basis all option applications for students that would receive or could be eligible to receive special education or related services. If the Director or designee determines that the District does not have the capacity to provide the student with the appropriate services and accommodations, then the Director or designee shall send a denial notice to the parent(s) or guardian(s) and include a description of services and accommodations that the District does not have the capacity to provide.

2. Timeliness: An option enrollment application may be rejected in the event the application is not filed on or before the April 1st immediately preceding the school year in which enrollment is sought, and the filing deadline has not been waived.
3. Previous Option Enrollment: An option enrollment application shall be rejected in the event the student has exhausted their option enrollments in other school districts, as determined by state law.
4. Other Reasons: An option enrollment application may be rejected in the event the Superintendent, the Superintendent's designee, or the School District determines: The application is not submitted on a form prescribed by the State Department of Education, is not completely and accurately filled in, is not received within the time required by law, or any additional information requested to be supplied is not supplied to the School District within the time lines indicated; or in the event acceptance of the application is not required by law. Matters which are legally prohibited from being considered as standards for acceptance or rejection of applications (including "previous academic achievement, athletic or extracurricular ability, disabilities, proficiency in the English language, or previous disciplinary proceedings" and further including, without limitation, race, national origin, and gender) shall not be considered as reasons for acceptance or rejection.

C. Priority of Acceptance

Priority shall be accorded in the following order: (1) those applications required to be given priority by law, (2) those with a sibling in attendance at McCook Public Schools, with priority within this group being given to those who had earliest filed applications, and (3) those without an option student sibling in attendance at McCook Public Schools, with priority within this group to those who had earliest filed applications.

Filing date determinations are made by the Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee. In the event applications within a group are received at the same or substantially the same time, priority as between such same-date applications shall be determined on the basis of random drawing.

D. Determination of Capacity

The School District will determine and set, on an annual basis, the maximum number of option enrollment applications the School District will accept in any program, class, grade level or school building operated by this School District, based upon available staff, facilities, projected enrollment of resident students, projected number of students with which this School District will contract based on existing contractual arrangements, and may declare a program, class or school unavailable to option students due to lack of capacity. Such determinations may be made in the form of an Appendix "1" to this Policy. The determination and declaration made for any school year shall continue in effect for the next and subsequent school years unless otherwise determined and/or declared. The capacity for special education services shall be determined on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Director of Special Education or designee.

E. Releases for Options Out: (Release unless Expulsion is Pending):

A request for release of a resident student or option student currently attending McCook Public School District who submits an option application after March 15 will be granted, unless the administration is considering or has recommended expulsion of the student at the time the application is filed, and the administration determines it is appropriate to complete the expulsion process.

F. Notification of Acceptance or Rejection

In the case of an application to option enroll into the School District, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall notify, in writing, the parent or legal guardian of the student, and the resident school district or, if the student is an option student attending a different district, that option district whether the application is accepted or rejected on or before April 1 or, in the case of an application submitted after March 15, within sixty days after submission.

If an option enrollment application or a request for release is rejected by the McCook Public School District, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall provide written notification to the parent or guardian stating the reasons for the rejection and the process for appealing such rejection to the State Board of Education. Such notification shall be sent by certified mail.

G. Status of Option Student

A student who is admitted under the enrollment option program shall be treated as a resident student, and in such regard shall be required to provide such enrollment information and documentation as is required for enrollment of other students (e.g., certified birth certificate and evidence of physical examination, visual evaluation and immunization), shall be required to be enrolled on a full-time basis, and shall be required to adhere to student conduct rules. The building

assignment for an option student, as well as classroom and grade level assignments, shall be determined solely by the administration.

An option student shall not be entitled to transportation except as required by law. Transportation or transportation reimbursement will be provided only in the following circumstances:

1. The McCook Public School District may, upon mutual agreement with the parent or legal guardian of an option student, provide transportation to the option student on the same basis as provided for resident students. The school district may charge the parents of each option student transported a fee sufficient to recover the additional costs of such transportation.
2. Option students who qualify for free lunches are eligible for either free transportation or transportation reimbursement from the option school district. The District's policy is that the District selects which service (transportation or reimbursement) is to be provided to students.
3. For option students receiving special education services, the transportation services required in the student's Individualized Education Plan shall be provided by the resident school district.

H. Information Regarding Schools, Programs, Policies and Procedures.

As part of the option enrollment program, the administration shall make information about the McCook Public Schools and its school, programs, policies and procedures available to all interested persons and shall have a copy of the option enrollment policy and regulations available at each school building.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-232 to 79-246

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the School Board is required by law to adopt by resolution policies and specific standards for acceptance or rejection of option enrollment applications by October 15th for the following school year; and,

WHEREAS, the School Board has received and reviewed evidence and information submitted by the administration and other sources and made determinations thereon with respect to standards for acceptance or rejection and with respect to the capacity of this school district to accept option enrollment students based upon available staff, available facilities, projected enrollment, and availability of special education programs for the following school year; and,

WHEREAS, the School Board has determined that the educational interests of this school district would be best served by adoption of the resolutions, and the policies and specific standards herein contained.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Option Enrollment Policy presented to the School Board as Policy 5006, and Appendix "1" to such Policy 5006, should be and the same are hereby adopted, and any previous policy or interpretation or application of the option enrollment program which is or has been inconsistent with the Policy 5006, and Appendix "1" to such Policy 5006, are repealed effective on the date of the passage of this resolution,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all paragraphs, subparagraphs, and portions of words of this Resolution, of Policy 5006, and Appendix "1" to such Policy 5006 are severable and that in the event any of the same are determined to be invalid for any reason, such determination shall not affect the validity of any of the remainder of the same.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that policies and specific standards for acceptance or rejection of option enrollment applications should be and are hereby adopted, for applications filed after adoption of this resolution, and are hereinafter set forth:

The above Resolution, having been read in its entirety, member _____ moved for its passage and adoption, member _____ seconded the same. After discussion and on roll call vote, the following members voted in favor of passage and adoption of the above Resolution: _____.
The following members voted against the same: _____.
The following members were absent or not voting: _____. The Resolution having been consented to and approved by a majority of the members of the School Board, was declared as passed and adopted by the President at a duly held and lawfully convened meeting in full compliance with the Nebraska open meetings law.

DATED this ____ day of _____, 20__.

MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Attest: _____
Secretary

By: _____
President

Appendix “1” to Option Enrollment Policy

The following is Appendix “1” to Policy 5006 for the current school year. The Board of Education hereby sets forth the maximum number of option students for the current school year in any program, class, grade level or school building or in any special education programs operated by this school district, based upon available staff, facilities, projected enrollment of resident students, projected number of students with which this school district will contract based on existing contractual arrangements, and availability of appropriate special education programs. Any program, class, grade level, or school building which has “0” as the No. of Option Students is hereby declared unavailable to option students due to lack of capacity.

PROGRAM	PROGRAM CAPACITY	PROJECTED ENROLLMENT	NO. OF OPTION STUDENTS
Kindergarten			
First			
Second			
Third			
Fourth			
Fifth			
Building Capacity, Elementary			
Sixth			
Seventh			
Eighth			
Building Capacity, Middle School Attendance Center			
Ninth			
Tenth			
Eleventh			
Twelfth			
Building Capacity, Sr. High School Attendance Center			

* Special education capacity will be determined on a case-by-case basis in accordance with state law and the available resources as determined by the District’s Director of Special Education or designee.

[Print on School District Letterhead]

[Date]

[Insert Name of Parent/Guardian]
[Insert Street Address]
[Insert City], NE [Insert Zip Code]

RE: Option Enrollment; [Insert Name of Student]

Dear [Name of Parent/Guardian]:

I am writing to notify you of the rejection of your:
___ option enrollment application
___ request for a release approval.

Reason for Rejection: The reason for the rejection is that your application or request does not meet the conditions for approval that are set forth in the District’s option enrollment policy and/or state law. Additional reasons for the rejection are set forth in the completed application form, which is enclosed.

Special Education Capacity Determination: If the option application disclosed or revealed that the student would receive or could be eligible to receive special education or related services, the District conducted an individualized analysis to determine capacity. After this careful individualized assessment, the District’s Director of Special Education or designee concluded that the District does not have the capacity to provide the student with the following _____ services _____ and _____ accommodations:

Appeal Process: The parent or legal guardian may appeal a rejection of an application or of a request to release. The appeal is to be filed with the State Board of Education within thirty days after the date the notification of rejection is received. A sample petition form for an appeal can be found on the Nebraska Department of Education’s website (<https://www.education.ne.gov/>).

Sincerely,

McCook Public Schools

[Name of Superintendent], Superintendent

Enclosure: Completed Option Enrollment Application

Sent via certified mail

StudentsForeign Exchange Students**A. Participation in Foreign Exchange Opportunities**

1. The Board recognizes the benefits of participating in foreign exchange programs. Such programs increase mutual understanding between the students, staff and citizens of the District and the people of other countries.
2. The District will admit students from foreign nations through foreign exchange programs that are approved by the Superintendent. A foreign exchange program may not be approved unless it is on the current Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs that is maintained by The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel.
3. The District will not admit students on an F-1 visa.
4. The designated school officials for purposes of the foreign exchange program are the Superintendent and the High School Principal.

B. Admission of Foreign Exchange Students

1. The foreign exchange program shall file application forms and related documents with the District by August 1 prior to the beginning of the school year. In order for a foreign exchange student to be admitted to school, the District's acceptance of the application must occur prior to the commencement of the school year. The District retains the right to reject any application.
2. The foreign exchange program shall be responsible for providing the District with all documents and records required by federal and state law and such other documents and records that the District may request. The documentation is to include information to establish that the foreign exchange student has adequate financial support, that the student is covered by health insurance, a complete transcript and a brief explanation of the transcript, and such other documentation that the Superintendent or High School Principal determine appropriate. Foreign exchange students will not be admitted until all such documents and records are received.
3. A maximum of two foreign exchange students will be accepted each school year unless otherwise determined by the Superintendent. To promote a diversity of cultural experiences for students of our District, the foreign exchange students admitted in each school year must not be from the same country.

4. Foreign exchange students must be at least sixteen years old and not older than nineteen years old as of September 1st of the school year in which the student will enroll in the District. Foreign exchange students must not have graduated from high school (or an equivalent educational institution) prior to enrollment in the District.
5. Foreign exchange students must have adequate proficiency in the English language to function in a regular classroom and not require English-as-a-second-language instruction. The foreign exchange program must provide documentation to verify the student's English language proficiency as part of the application process.
6. The host family of the foreign exchange student must be residents of the District.

C. Requirements During Attendance in the District

1. The host family must be residents of the District and the foreign exchange student must reside in the District during the period of time in which the foreign exchange student is enrolled in the District.
2. The local representative of the foreign exchange program is to arrange and attend a meeting with the foreign exchange student, the host family, and the High School Principal or designee prior to the foreign exchange student starting school.
3. The local representative of the foreign exchange program is expected to confer with the High School Principal or designee throughout the foreign exchange student's attendance in the District on a schedule to be determined by the Principal.
4. Foreign exchange students are subject to the same policies, student code of conduct, and attendance requirements that apply to regular students with exceptions appropriate for their status as foreign exchange students including, without limitation, the following: (a) foreign exchange students will not be eligible for student fee waivers; (b) foreign exchange students must be enrolled on a full-time basis; and (c) foreign exchange students are ineligible to take any driver education classes offered by the District. Eligibility for participation in NSAA-regulated activities will be determined based on the Bylaws of the NSAA.

D. Academic Matters Involving Foreign Exchange Students

1. Foreign exchange students will be assigned a grade placement and a class schedule as determined appropriate by the High School Principal or designee. Grade placement will be based upon the District's criteria for students transferring from non-approved schools.
2. Foreign exchange students will be required to enroll in an American literature course and a United States history or a United States government course.

3. Foreign exchange students completing the twelfth grade in the District will be recognized with a school certificate for satisfactory attendance and participation.
4. If a foreign exchange student wishes to receive a District high school diploma, the student must make application to the Principal prior to the beginning of the school year. To receive a diploma, the student must fulfill all of the District's regular high school graduation requirements.

Legal Reference: 22 U.S.C. Sec. 2451, et seq.
22 CFR Part 62

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

McCook Public Schools
APPLICATION FOR FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENT

PART 1—Student Information

Student's Name: _____	DOB: _____	<i>Note:</i> Student must be at least 16 and not older than 19 as of September 1st of the school year of enrollment.
Country of Citizenship: _____		
Parent's Names: _____ (Father) _____ (Mother)	Address: _____ _____	Telephone (s): _____ E-mail: _____
School year the student intends to attend: _____		
School the student expects to attend: _____		
Grade level the student expects to be placed: _____		
<i>(Note: Student must not have graduated from high school or an equivalent educational institution prior to enrollment)</i>		
The student is or will be entering the United States on an F-1 visa: Yes No		
Special Needs/Concerns: _____		

PART 2—Foreign Exchange Program Information

Name of Organization: _____	Name of Local Representative: _____
Address: _____ _____	Telephone (s): _____ E-mail: _____
The foreign exchange program is on the current Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange Programs that is maintained by The Council on Standards for International Educational Travel: Yes No	
We agree that the local representative of the foreign exchange program will confer with the High School Principal or designee throughout the Student's attendance in the District on a schedule to be determined by the Principal: Yes No	

PART 3—Host Family Information

Name of Host Family: _____ (Father) _____ (Mother)	<i>Note:</i> The host family must be residents of the District and the Student must reside in the District during the period of time the Student is enrolled in the District.
Address: _____ _____	Telephone (s): _____ E-mail: _____

PART 4—Application Requirements

1. Attached to this application is the following documentation to establish that the student has adequate financial support:

2. Attached to this application is the following documentation to establish that the student is or will be covered by health insurance: _____

3. Attached to this application is the student's complete transcript.
 We provide the following brief explanation of the transcript: _____

4. Attached to this application is the following documentation to establish that the student has adequate proficiency in the English language to function in a regular classroom and not require English-as-a-second-language instruction:

5. Student wishes to receive a high school diploma from McCook Public Schools: ___ Yes ___ No.
If "Yes" the student must make application to the Principal prior to the beginning of the school year and must fulfill all of the District's regular high school graduation requirements. Otherwise, a foreign exchange student completing the twelfth grade in the District will be recognized with a school certificate for satisfactory attendance and participation.

_____ **Date** _____ **Applicant(s)**

_____ **Date** _____ **Applicant(s)**

(FOR SCHOOL'S USE)

Decision on Application

Decision: _____ Accepted
 _____ Not Accepted

Notes:

_____ **Date** _____ **Superintendent or High School Principal**

Note: If accepted, admission is subject to receipt of documentation to meet requirements related to immunization, physical examination and visual evaluation. A certified copy of birth certificate or acceptable substitute (other reliable proof of child's identity and age with an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a birth certificate) must be submitted within 30 days of enrollment.

StudentsStudent AttendanceAttendance Policy and Excessive Absenteeism

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

A. Attendance and Absences.

1. Circumstances of Absences – Definitions. The circumstances for all absences from school will be identified as School Excused or Not School Excused. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance whenever possible. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval.
 - a. School Excused. Any of the following circumstances that lead to an absence will be identified as a School Excused absence, provided the required attendance procedures have been followed:
 - (1) Impossible or impracticable barriers outside the control of the parent or child prevent a student from attending school. The parent may be required to provide the school with documentation to demonstrate the absence was beyond the control of the parent or child. This could include, but is not limited to documented illness (including physical or mental illness), court, death of a family member, or suspension.
 - (2) Other absences as determined by the principal or the principal's designee.
 - b. Not School Excused. Absences that are not school excused may result in a report to the county attorney and may be classified as follows:
 - (1) Parent acknowledged absences are those in which the parent communicated with the school in the prescribed manner that the child is absent and is the parent's responsibility for the extent of the school day. This includes vacations or other events that do not meet the criteria for a School Excused absence.
 - (2) Other absences are those in which the parent has not communicated a reason for the student's absence.

2. Absence Procedure. In its Student Information System, the District may identify many different codes that provide greater definition to the circumstances of a child's absence, but all of the codes need to be identified to parents and students as fitting into one of the above defined absence circumstances.
3. Mandatory Ages of Attendance. A child is of mandatory age if the child will reach age 6 prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and has not reached 18 years of age.

Exceptions for Younger Students. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who has reached 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

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

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

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

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Reporting and Responding to Excessive Absenteeism. Any District staff member or board member who knows of any failure on the part of any child of mandatory school attendance age to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three days report such violation to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee to be the attendance officer. The attendance officer shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The attendance officer shall also investigate any case when of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the attendance officer believes there is a violation of the compulsory attendance laws. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend school

5. Excessive Absenteeism. Students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences in a quarter which are Not School Excused shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day (or hourly equivalent) basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, school officials will have verbal or written communication with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child.

When a student continues thereafter to have absences of at least twenty days which are Not School Excused, one or more meetings will be held between the school, the child's parent or guardian, and the child, when appropriate, to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall include, if agreed to by the person who is responsible for making educational decisions on behalf of the child, an educational evaluation to determine whether any intellectual, academic, physical, or social-emotional barriers are contributing factors to the lack of attendance. The plan shall also consider, but not be limited to:

- (a) The physical, mental, or behavioral health of the child.
- (b) Educational counseling;
- (c) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
- (d) Family or individual counseling; and
- (e) Assisting the family in working with other community services.

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

6. Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.

The school may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person having control of the student resides when the school has documented the efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than twenty (20) absences per school year. The school shall notify the child's family in writing prior to making the referral to the county attorney. Illness (including physical or mental illness) that makes attendance impossible or impracticable shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney.

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

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Attendance Improvement Plan

This collaborative plan has been developed as a result of a meeting or meetings held on the following dates: _____.

Those in attendance included: _____

The attendees considered the following actions to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance:

1. Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child:

___ It was determined that the physical or behavioral health of the child is not a barrier to improve regular attendance.

___ The child's physical or behavioral health poses a barrier to regular attendance. The following actions will be taken in response: _____
_____.

2. Educational counseling (e.g. curriculum changes):

___ It was determined that educational counseling is not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ Educational counseling ___ has been ___ will be provided, consisting of the following: _____
_____.

3. Educational evaluation:

___ It was determined that an educational evaluation is not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ An educational evaluation ___ has been ___ will be conducted to assist in determining the specific condition, if any, contributing to the problem of excessive absenteeism. The evaluation will include: _____
_____.

4. Referral to community agencies for economic services:

___ It was determined that economic services are not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ The family ___ has been ___ will be given information about community agencies which may have economic services available to the family, which includes: _____
_____.

5. Family or individual counseling:

___ It was determined that family or individual counseling is not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ The family ___ has been ___ will be given information about family or individual counseling that is available pertaining to: _____
_____.

6. Assisting the family in working with other community services:

___ It was determined that assistance in working with community services is not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ The family ___ has been ___ will be given assistance in working with community services pertaining to: _____
_____.

Other actions to be taken:

Action	Responsible Person	Date to Complete

Plan completed by:

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Date

Attendance Improvement Plan

This collaborative plan has been developed as a result of a meeting or meetings held on the following dates: _____.

Those in attendance included: _____

The attendees considered the following actions to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance:

1. Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child:

___ It was determined that the physical or behavioral health of the child is not a barrier to improve regular attendance.

___ The child's physical or behavioral health poses a barrier to regular attendance. The following actions will be taken in response: _____
_____.

2. Educational counseling (e.g. curriculum changes):

___ It was determined that educational counseling is not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ Educational counseling ___ has been ___ will be provided, consisting of the following: _____
_____.

3. Educational evaluation:

___ It was determined that an educational evaluation is not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ An educational evaluation ___ has been ___ will be conducted to assist in determining the specific condition, if any, contributing to the problem of excessive absenteeism. The evaluation will include: _____
_____.

4. Referral to community agencies for economic services:

___ It was determined that economic services are not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ The family ___ has been ___ will be given information about community agencies which may have economic services available to the family, which includes: _____
_____.

5. Family or individual counseling:

___ It was determined that family or individual counseling is not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ The family ___ has been ___ will be given information about family or individual counseling that is available pertaining to: _____
_____.

6. Assisting the family in working with other community services:

___ It was determined that assistance in working with community services is not needed to reduce barriers to improve regular attendance.

___ The family ___ has been ___ will be given assistance in working with community services pertaining to: _____

Other actions to be taken:

Action	Responsible Person	Date to Complete

Plan completed by:

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Signature (title)

Date

[Print on School District Letterhead]

[Date]

[Insert Name of County Attorney of the County in which the principal office of the school district is located]

[Insert Address]

RE: Attendance Policy; Requested Collaboration

Dear [Name of County Attorney]:

Section 79-209 requires school districts to “have a written policy on attendance developed and annually reviewed in collaboration with the county attorney of the county in which the principal office of the school district is located.”

Enclosed is a draft of the revised policy that we intend to submit to the Board of Education for adoption. Please review the policy and give me any suggested changes you may have. If you would like to meet to discuss the policy in person, please contact me at [insert phone number].

We need to get the new policy in place prior to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. As such, I request that you contact me with regard to the policy at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely,

[Superintendent Name], Superintendent
McCook Public Schools

Enclosure: Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism Policy

StudentsAttendance During School Day (Dismissals and Field Trips)

Students may not be permitted to leave school prior to the regular dismissal time except by permission of the Principal.

No student may be permitted to leave school prior to the dismissal hour at the request of or in the company of anyone other than a school employee, police officer, court official, or parent of the child, unless permission of the parent has been first secured. If any police or court official requests the dismissal of a student, the student's parents should be notified as soon as possible.

High School students may leave the school grounds to attend college classes they are enrolled in at the local community college campus and during the designated lunch time.

Field trips or excursions off school grounds must have the approval of the Principal in advance and administrative requirements may be established for such activities.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

School Census

The Superintendent shall take such steps as necessary to take a complete school census every year and file the census in accordance with state and local laws.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-524
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-528
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-578
 NDE Rule 8.604

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Parent-Student Handbook

Each year the Board of Education shall adopt a Parent-Student Handbook. The rules, procedures, and practices adopted in the Parent-Student Handbook shall have the effect of Board Policy and shall control over any earlier-adopted Board policy to the extent of the conflict.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsMilitary Recruiters

The District will provide access to routine directory information to each student in a high school grade upon a request made by a military recruiter, unless the student's parent or guardian has submitted a written request that the student's information not be shared with a military recruiter. The District will provide military recruiters with the same access to a student in a high school grade as the District provides to post-secondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

If a parent or guardian does not want his or her student's information to be provided to a military recruiter, the parent must submit a written request to the Superintendent.

Legal Reference: LB 575 (2019)

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Preschool Enrollment

The District's preschool program shall be operated in accordance with this policy.

Eligibility

The Superintendent or designee will develop and maintain eligibility guidelines for children to enroll in the District's preschool program.

If the Superintendent or designee determines that the preschool program is at capacity a waiting list will be developed.

1. Those students that are required by law to participate or be given a preference in the preschool program;
2. Resident students who are or will turn four-years old during the school year;
3. Resident students who are not otherwise eligible to enroll in kindergarten;

The Superintendent or designee shall have the authority to implement and interpret capacity and enrollment decisions to ensure the best interests of the District and its preschool program, and there shall be no appeal process to the Board of Education related to the Superintendent or designee's decision.

Enrollment Process

Enrollment for the preschool program will be conducted on an annual basis. Parents or legal guardians must complete and submit a preschool enrollment application form by the specified deadline. Applications will be reviewed, and enrollment decisions will be based on available space, eligibility criteria, and other factors deemed appropriate by District staff. Parents will be notified of their child's enrollment status within a reasonable timeframe after the application deadline.

Waitlist

In the event that the number of applicants exceeds the preschool program's capacity, a waitlist may be established. Priority on the waitlist may be given to eligible children based on the priorities listed in this policy. Parents will be notified if their child is placed on the waitlist and will receive updates regarding their status if openings become available.

Compliance

All aspects of this policy shall be implemented in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, and guidelines related to preschool education and enrollment.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsStudent Discipline

- A. Development of Uniform Discipline System. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop and maintain a system of uniform discipline. The discipline which may be imposed includes actions which are determined to be reasonably necessary to aid the student, to further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, such as (without limitation) counseling and warning students, parent contacts and parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling upon written consent of the parent or guardian, or in-school suspension. The discipline may also include out-of-school suspension (short-term or long-term) and expulsion.
1. Short-Term Suspension: Students may be excluded by the Principal or the Principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:
 - a. Conduct that constitutes grounds for expulsion, whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds; or
 - b. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

- a. The Principal or the Principal's designee will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. A short-term suspension will be made upon a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
- b. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be afforded an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
- c. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, not to exceed an additional 48 hours, following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken.
- d. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference. The Principal shall document their

- attempt to make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parent or guardian.
- e. A student who is on a short-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal.
2. Long-Term Suspension: A long-term suspension means an exclusion from school and any school functions for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days. A student who is on a long-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. A notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends a long-term suspension. The notice will include a description of the procedures for long-term suspension; the procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.
3. Expulsion:
- a. Meaning of Expulsion. Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. A student who has been expelled shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. A notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends an expulsion. The notice will include a description of the procedures for expulsion; the procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.
- b. Suspensions Pending Hearing. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers. If the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension. During this period, the student will not be required to attend the alternative

programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or homework.

- c. Summer Review. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year in accordance with law.
- d. Alternative Education: Students who are expelled may be offered an alternative education program that will enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. A student will not be required to attend the alternative education program in order to complete classwork and homework. In the event an alternative education program is not provided, a conference will be held with the parent, student, the Principal or another school representative assigned by the Principal, and a representative of a community organization that assists young people or that is involved with juvenile justice to develop a plan for the student in accordance with law.
- e. Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., “stayed”) for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect. As a condition of such suspended action, the student and parents will be required to sign a discipline agreement.
- f. Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation. Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than nineteen years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal’s designee shall meet with the student’s probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal’s designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may with proper consent, upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.
- g. Returning from Expulsion. At the conclusion of an expulsion, the District will reinstate the student and accept nonduplicative, grade-appropriate credits earned by the student during the term of expulsion from any

Nebraska accredited institution or institution accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies in the United States.

- h. Exception for Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no pre-kindergarten through second grade student may be suspended from school, unless the student brings a deadly weapon on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or to a school activity. Instead, the Principal or Principal's designee may implement alternative disciplinary measures on a case-by-case basis if a pre-kindergarten through second grade student engages in misconduct that would otherwise result in a short-term suspension. If a pre-kindergarten through second grade student brings a deadly weapon on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or to a school activity, then the student may be suspended or expelled in accordance with this Policy's disciplinary procedures.
 - i. Religious Freedom. The District will not substantially burden a student's right to religious exercise unless the student's religious exercise is disruptive to the school environment, not permitted by staff, may pose a safety risk, or would otherwise interfere with the school day.
4. Emergency Exclusion: A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:
- a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or
 - b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers described above.

If the emergency exclusion will be for five school days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent or his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

5. Other Forms of Student Discipline: Administrative and teaching personnel may also take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but

are not limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures. A failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

- B. Student Conduct Expectations. Students are not to engage in conduct which causes or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption in or material interference with any school function, activity or purpose or interfere with the health, safety, well being or rights of other students, staff or visitors.
- C. Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment. The following conduct has been determined by the Board of Education to have the potential to seriously affect the health, safety or welfare of students, staff and other persons or to otherwise seriously interfere with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, and any other lesser forms of discipline. The conduct is subject to the consequence of long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.
1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
 2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
 3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, repeated damage or theft involving property, or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
 4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including any school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision.
 5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
 6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks.
 7. Engaging in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the

above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), electronic nicotine delivery systems, alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

8. Public indecency or sexual conduct.
9. Engaging in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.
10. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
11. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if the conduct creates or had the potential to create a substantial interference with school purposes, such as the use of the telephone or internet off-school grounds to threaten.
12. A repeated violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.
13. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
14. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, disability, national origin, or religion.
15. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of the student dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
16. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for riding school buses or vehicles.
17. A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first

semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

- a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or
 - b. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.
18. Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify such one year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing.

Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

- a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
- b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
- c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
- d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

For purposes of this policy, the term "dangerous weapon" includes any personal safety or security device (such as tasers, mace and pepper spray). If a student desires to carry or possess a personal safety or security device, the student must obtain prior approval from the building principal before bringing such device on school grounds. If a student obtains prior approval from the building principal, the student must store the device during the school day in the student's locker, in the main office or in another secure location

designated by the building principal. A student shall not carry a personal safety or security device during the school day.

D. Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline. The following additional student conduct expectations are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action. When such conduct occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, the conduct is grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

1. Student Appearance: Students are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for the school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate, such list is not exclusive and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:
 - a. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (midriffs, spaghetti straps, sagging pants) or clothing that is too tight, revealing or baggy, or tops and bottoms that do not overlap or any material that is sheer or lightweight enough to be seen through, or otherwise of an appropriate size and fit so as to be revealing or drag on the ground.
 - b. Shorts, skirts, or skorts that do not reach mid-thigh or longer.
 - c. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
 - d. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage “horse-play” or that would damage property (e.g. cleats).
 - e. Head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves.
 - f. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar double meaning.
 - g. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related.
 - h. Visible body piercing (otheexcept than ears).
 - i. A student who is a member of an indigenous tribe of the United States or another country may wear tribal regalia in any location where the student is authorized to be on such school grounds or at any school function, as long as the tribal regalia does not interfere with the educational process and does not endanger another person, as determined by the administration.

Consideration will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability, or to convey a particularized message protected by law. The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the Principal or Superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school’s guidelines, the student should contact the Principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the Principal’s office.

Coaches, sponsors or teachers may have additional requirements for students who are in special lab classes, students who are participants in performing groups or students who are representing the school as part of an extracurricular activity program.

On a first offense of the dress code, the student may call home for proper apparel. If clothes cannot be brought to school, the student will be assigned to in-school suspension for the remainder of the day. Students will not be allowed to leave campus to change clothes. Continual violations of the dress code will result in more stringent disciplinary actions, up to expulsion. Further, in the event the dress code violation is determined to also violate other student conduct rules (e.g., public indecency, insubordination, expression of profanity, and the like), a first offense of the dress code may result in more stringent discipline, up to expulsion.

2. Academic Integrity.

- a. Policy Statement: Students are expected to abide by the standards of academic integrity established by their teachers and school administration. Standards of academic integrity are established in order for students to learn as much as possible from instruction, for students to be given grades which accurately reflect the student's level of learning and progress, to provide a level playing field for all students, and to develop appropriate values.

Cheating and plagiarism violate the standards of academic integrity. Sanctions will be imposed against students who engage in such conduct.

- b. Definitions: The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:

(1) "Cheating" means intentionally misrepresenting the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Such misrepresentations may, but need not necessarily, involve the work of others. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Tests (includes tests, quizzes and other examinations or academic performances):

(i) Advance Information: Obtaining, reviewing or sharing copies of tests or information about a test before these are distributed for student use by the instructor. For example, a student engages in cheating if, after having taken a test, the student informs other students in a later section of the questions that appear on the test.

(ii) Use of Unauthorized Materials: Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formulae in calculators, or other unauthorized material, devices or information while taking a test except as expressly permitted. For example, except for "open book" tests, a student engages in cheating if the student

- looks at personal notes or the textbook during the test.
- (iii) Use of Other Student Answers: Copying or looking at another student's answers or work, or sharing answers or work with another student, when taking a test, except as expressly permitted. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at another student's paper during a test. A student also engages in cheating if the student tells another student answers during a test or while exiting the testing room, or knowingly allows another student to look at the student's answers on the test paper.
 - (iv) Use of Other Student to Take Test. Having another person take one's place for a test, or taking a test for another student, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
 - (v) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Test. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid the taking of a test. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day of a test, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student was not prepared for the test.
- (b) Papers (includes papers, essays, lab projects, and other similar academic work):
- i) Use of Another's Paper: Copying another student's paper, using a paper from an essay writing service, or allowing another student to copy a paper, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
 - (ii) Re-use of One's Own Papers: Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.
 - (iii) Assistance from Others: Having another person assist with the paper to such an extent that the work does not truly reflect the student's work. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student has a draft essay reviewed by the student's parent or sibling, and the essay is substantially re-written by the student's parent or sibling. Assistance from home is encouraged, but the work must remain the student's.
 - (iv) Failure to Contribute to Group Projects. Accepting credit for a group project in

which the student failed to contribute a fair share of the work.

(v) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Paper. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid turning in a paper when due. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day a paper is due, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student had not finished the paper.

(c) Alteration of Assigned Grades. Any unauthorized alteration of assigned grades by a student in the teacher's grade book or the school records is a serious form of cheating.

(2) "Plagiarism" means to take and present as one's own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one's own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

(a) Failure to Credit Sources: Copying work (words, sentences, and paragraphs or illustrations or models) directly from the work of another without proper credit. Academic work frequently involves use of outside sources. To avoid plagiarism, the student must either place the work in quotations or give a citation to the outside source.

(b) Falsely Presenting Work as One's Own: Presenting work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers or use of another student's paper.

(3) "Contributing" to academic integrity violations means to participate in or assist another in cheating or plagiarism. It includes but is not limited to allowing another student to look at your test answers, to copy your papers or lab projects, and to fail to report a known act of cheating or plagiarism to the instructor or administration.

c. Sanctions: The following sanctions will occur when a student engages in cheating, plagiarism, or contributing to an academic integrity offense:

(1) Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the academic integrity offense took place, assign a grade of "F" or zero for the work, and require the student to complete a test or project in place of the work within such time and under such conditions as the instructor may determine appropriate. In the event the student completes the replacement test or project at a level meeting minimum performance standards, the instructor will assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work.

(2) Report to Parents and Administration. The instructor will notify the Principal of the offense and the instructor or Principal will notify the student's parents or guardian.

(3) Student Discipline Sanctions. Academic integrity offenses are a violation of school rules. The Principal may recommend sanctions in addition to those assigned by the instructor, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Such additional sanctions will be given strong consideration where a student has engaged in serious or repeated academic integrity offense or other rule violations, and where the academic sanction is otherwise not a sufficient remedy, such as for offenses involving altering assigned grades or contributing to academic integrity violations.

3. Electronic Devices

- a. Philosophy and Purpose. The District strongly discourages students from bringing and/or using electronic devices at school. The use of electronic devices can be disruptive to the educational process and are items that are frequently lost or stolen. In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, and to promote respect and courtesy regarding the use of electronic devices, the District hereby establishes the following rules and regulations governing student use of electronic devices, and procedures to address student misuse of electronic devices.
- b. Definitions.
- (1) “Electronic devices” include, but are not limited to, cell phones, Mp3 players, iPods, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, lap top computers, and other electronic or battery powered instruments which transmit voice, text, or data from one person to another.
 - (2) “Sexting” means generating, sending or receiving, encouraging others to send or receive, or showing others, through an electronic device, a text message, photograph, video or other medium that:
 - (i) Displays sexual content, including erotic nudity, any display of genitalia, unclothed female breasts, or unclothed buttocks, or any sexually explicit conduct as defined at Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1463.02; or
 - (ii) Sexually exploits a person, whether or not such person has given consent to creation or distribution of the message, photograph or video by permitting, allowing, encouraging, disseminating, distributing, or forcing such student or other person to engage in sexually explicit, obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or,
 - (iii) Displays a sexually explicit message for sexual gratification, flirtation or provocation, or to request or arrange a sexual encounter.
- c. Possession and Use of Electronic Devices.
- (1) Students are not permitted to possess or use any electronic devices during class time or during passing time except as otherwise provided by this policy. Cell phone usage is strictly prohibited during any class period; including voice usage, digital imaging, or text messaging.
 - (2) Students are permitted to possess and use electronic devices before school hours, at lunch time, and after school hours, provided that the student not commit any abusive use of the device (see paragraph (d)(1). Administrators have the discretion to prohibit student possession or use of electronic devices on school grounds

during these times in the event the administration determines such further restrictions are appropriate; an announcement will be given in the event of such a change in permitted use.

(3) All students who choose to bring cell phones or other prohibited devices to school must keep their devices fully enclosed in a signal-proof container or bag at all times during school hours, with the sole exception of lunchtime. This policy is in effect from the beginning of the school day until the end, except during the designated lunch period.

(i) Signal-Proof Containers or Bags: Students are responsible for providing their own signal-proof containers or bags. These items must be designed to effectively block all incoming and outgoing electronic signals. Compliance with this policy is mandatory for all students bringing cell phones to school.

(ii) Teachers and school staff have the authority to ask for proof that cell phones are correctly stored as per this policy, should there be any suspicion of non-compliance.

(iii) Any cell phone in a container or bag that fails to block signals is in violation of this policy.

(iv) Building principals may enforce stricter cell phone rules for their buildings. Please refer to the student handbooks for building specific rules.

(4) Electronic devices may be used during class time when specifically approved by the teacher or a school administrator in conjunction with appropriate and authorized class or school activities or events (i.e., student use of a camera during a photography class; student use of a lap top computer for a class presentation).

(5) Students may use electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care Plan, or pursuant to a plan developed with the student's parent when the student has a compelling need to have the device (e.g., a student whose parent is in the hospital could be allowed limited use of the cell phone for family contacts, so the family can give the student updates on the parent's condition).

d. Violations

(1) Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices: Students shall not use electronic devices for: (a) activities which disrupt the educational environment; (b) illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations; (c) unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests; (d) immoral or pornographic activities; (e) activities in violation of Board or school policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment; (f) recording others (photographs, videotaping, sound recording, etc.) or otherwise

transmitting images and/or sounds of another person or persons without direct administrative approval and consent of the person(s) being recorded, other than recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public; (g) “sexting;” or (h) activities which invade the privacy of others. Such student misuses will be dealt with as serious school violations, and immediate and appropriate disciplinary action will be imposed, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.

(2) Disposition of Confiscated Electronic Devices: Electronic devices possessed or used in violation of this policy may be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student or parent/guardian at an appropriate time. If an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the school’s main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned to the student and/or the student’s parent/guardian in a consistent and orderly way.

(i) First Violation: Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include detention, a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and a conference between the student and school principal or assistant principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student personally comes to the school’s main office and retrieves the electronic device.

(ii) Second Violation: Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include detention, a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal or assistant principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student’s parent/guardian personally comes to the school’s main office and retrieves the electronic device.

(iii) Third Violation: Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration, a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal or assistant principal, and suspension of the student from school. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student’s parent/guardian personally comes to the school’s main office and retrieves the electronic device.

(3) Penalties for Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices: Students who receive a “sexting” message are to report the matter to a school administrator and then delete such message from their electronic device. Students shall not participate in sexting or have any “sexting” message on their electronic devices regardless of when the message was received while on school grounds or at a school activity. Students who violate the prohibitions of this policy shall be subject to the imposition of appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, provided that at a minimum the following penalties shall be imposed:

(i) Students found in possession of a “sexting” message shall be subject to a one (1) day suspension from school.

(ii) Students who send or encourage another to send a “sexting” message shall be subject to a five (5) day suspension from school.

(4) Reporting to Law Enforcement: Violations of this policy regarding the prohibited use of electronic devices that may constitute a violation of federal or state laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Nebraska Child Protection Act or the Nebraska Child Pornography Prevention Act shall be reported to appropriate legal authorities and law enforcement.

e. Responsibility for Electronic Devices. Students or their parents/guardians are expected to claim a confiscated electronic device within ten (10) days of the date it was relinquished. The school shall not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for any unclaimed electronic devices. By bringing such devices to school, students and parents authorize the school to dispose of unclaimed devices at the end of each semester. The District is not responsible for the security and safekeeping of students’ electronic devices and is not financially responsible for any damage, destruction, or loss of electronic devices.

E. Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (IPDA): Students are not to engage in inappropriate public displays of affection on school property or at school activities. Such conduct includes kissing, touching, fondling or other displays of affection that would be reasonably considered to be embarrassing or a distraction to others. Students will face the following consequences for IPDA:

1. 1st Offense: Student will be confronted and directed to cease.

2. 2nd Offense: Student will be confronted, directed to cease, and parents will be notified.

3. 3rd Offense: Student will be suspended from school for a minimum of 1 day, and parents and student will need to meet with Administrator(s) and/or counselor.

If this type of behavior continues, or if the IPDA is lewd or constitutes sexual conduct, the student could face long-term suspension or expulsion.

F. Specific Rule Items: The following conduct may result in disciplinary action which, in the repeated violations, may result in discipline up to expulsion:

1. Students are not given locker passes, restroom passes or telephone passes to leave a classroom or study hall unless special circumstances arise.
2. Students in the hallway during class time must have a pass with them.
3. Gum, candy, seeds, etc. are not allowed in the school building or classrooms. The pop machine is closed until after school and pop is to be drunk outside.
4. Students are expected to bring all books and necessary materials to class. This includes study halls.
5. Assignments for all classes are due as assigned by the teacher.
6. Students are not to operate the mini-blinds or the windows.
7. Classes are ended by the teacher. Students are not to begin to pack up or leave the class until the dismissal bell has rung or the teacher has dismissed the class.
8. Students are to be in their seats and ready for class on the tardy bell.
9. Special classes such as Industrial Technology, Art, P.E., and computer courses will have other safety or clean-up rules that will be explained to students by that teacher which must be followed.
10. Students are not to bring "nuisance items" to school. A nuisance item is something that is not required for educational purposes and which would cause a distraction to the student or others.
11. Students are to stand back from the entry steps and doors in the mornings before school and at noon before the bell so that others may pass in and out of the entry doors.
12. Snow handling is prohibited.

G. Law Violations

1. Any act of a student which is a basis for expulsion and which the principal or designee knows or suspects is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code will be reported to law enforcement as soon as possible. Conduct to be reported for law enforcement referral includes conduct that may constitute a felony, conduct which may constitute a threat to the safety or well-being of students or others in school programs and activities, and conduct that the legal system is better equipped to address than school officials. Conduct that does not need to be reported for law enforcement referral includes typical adolescent behavior that can be addressed by school administrators without the involvement of law enforcement. In making the decision of whether to report, consideration should be given to the student's maturity, mental capacity, and behavioral disorders, where applicable. When appropriate, it shall be the responsibility of the referring administrator to contact the student's parent of the fact that the referral to legal authorities has been or will be made.
The foregoing reporting standards shall be reviewed annually by the school board on or before August 1 of each year, be annually reviewed in collaboration with the County Attorney each year, be distributed to each student and his or her parent or guardian at the beginning of each school year, or at the time of enrollment if during the school year, and shall be posted in conspicuous places in each school during the school year.
2. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the

principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-254 to 79-296
LB 43 (2024)

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsAlternative Education Programs or Plans For Expelled Students

In the event action is being taken to expel a student from this school district, the Administration may offer the student an alternative school, class, or educational program (hereinafter referred to as an "alternative program"); or (2) the development of a plan of behavior modification, educational objects, and financial resources and community programs available to meet the behavioral and educational objects, and monthly reviews to assess the student's progress toward meeting the specified goals and objects. An expelled student may not be required to attend the alternative program.

A. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM:

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee is hereby granted the authority to arrange and plan for a student's alternative educational program, based on the available resources and student's individual circumstances.

B. EDUCATION PLAN PROGRAM:

If the administration elects not to provide an alternative education program, or if a student declines to participate in the alternative education program, the following procedures shall be followed:

(1) A conference shall be called by a school administrator and held to assist the district in the development of a plan with the participation of a parent or a legal guardian, the student, a school representative, and a representative of either a community organization with a mission of assisting young people or a representative of an agency involved with juvenile justice.

(2) The plan shall be in writing and adopted by a school administrator and presented to the student and the parent or legal guardian.

(3) The plan shall:

(a) Specify guidelines and consequences for behaviors which have been identified as preventing the student from achieving the desired benefits from the educational opportunities provided,

(b) Identify educational objectives that must be achieved in order to receive credits toward graduation,

(c) Specify the financial resources of the community programs available to meet both the educational and behavioral objects identified, and

(d) Require the student to attend monthly reviews in order to assess the student's progress toward meeting the specified goals and objectives.

The school district shall submit such plan on the form "Section 79-266(2) Plan" attached to this policy as Appendix "1".

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-266
NDE Rule 17

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

SECTION 79-266(2) PLAN

Student: _____

Date and Participants: _____

(List parent or legal guardian, school representative, and community or agency representative)

(a) **Guidelines and Consequences for Behaviors**

The student has been recommended for expulsion for conduct as specified in correspondence and memoranda recently provided to the student and the student's parents or guardian. This conduct has had the effect of preventing the student from achieving the desired benefits from the educational opportunities provided. The student is expected to conform his conduct to the school rules for which he has been recommended for expulsion and all other established school rules. Further disciplinary measures, including possible future expulsions, can result from future violations of such behavioral guidelines and expectations.

(b) **Educational Objectives**

In order to graduate, the student needs to receive the credits listed in Attachment "A", subject to future modifications in graduation requirements.

(c) **Financial Resources and Community Programs Available**

The financial resources and community programs available to meet the educational and behavioral objectives identified in this plan include school resources (e.g., upon return from the recommended expulsion, counseling with the school counselor, and meetings with the school administration and teachers) and community organizations which assist young people (e.g., civic organizations, local college and university programs, and community college programs).

(d) **Monthly Reviews & Other**

During the period of the expulsion, the student shall be required to attend monthly reviews with the Principal or designee to assess the student's progress toward meeting the specified goals and objectives. The student shall be responsible for contacting the named school official to schedule the monthly meetings. (Attach separate sheet for any additional information or terms of plan).

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20___, adopted by the school administrator after a conference held to assist the district in the development of the plan with the participation of a parent or legal guardian, the student, a school representative, and a representative of either a community organization with a mission of assisting young people or a representative of an agency involved in juvenile justice, and presented to the student and parent or legal guardian at the conference prior to the student being expelled in accordance with law.

Adopted by _____
[Administrator]

Attachments: Attachment "A" (academic credits needed to graduate or other, if applicable)

StudentsExtracurricular Activity**Section 1 Extracurricular Activity Philosophy**

Extracurricular activity programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Extracurricular activity programs are considered an integral part of the school's program of education that provide experiences that will help students physically, mentally and emotionally.

The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. Participation in activities, both as a competitor and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, community and the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better individuals and citizens.

Safety

The District's philosophy is to maintain an activities program which recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, to inform their coach or sponsor when they are injured or have health problems that require their activities be restricted, and to exercise common-sense.

Warning for Participants and Parents

The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

Section 2 Extracurricular Activity Code of Conduct

Purpose of the Code of Conduct. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The privilege carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, and the community. Participants are not only representing themselves, but also their school and community in all of their actions. Others judge our school on the student participants' conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image.

The student participants' performance and devotion to high ideals and values make their school and community proud. Consequently, participation is dependent upon adherence to this Code of Conduct and the school district's policies, procedures and rules.

Scope of the Code of Conduct.

Activities Subject to the Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district which do not count toward graduation or grade advancement and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school.

Extracurricular activities include but are not limited to: all sports, cheerleading, dance team, Pep Club, Pep Band, vocal, band, speech and drama, One-Act, FBLA, FCCLA, Spanish Club, Art Club, Student Council, Student Advisory Board, National Honor Society, and other school sponsored organizations and activities. The Code of Conduct also applies to participation in school sponsored activities such as school dances and royalty for such activities.

A participant means a student who participates in, has participated in, or will participate in an extracurricular activity.

When: The Code of Conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

The rules also apply when a student is participating or scheduled to participate in an extracurricular activity that is held outside the school year or the NSAA season. For example, if an FBLA or FCCLA student plans to participate in a conference in July and commits a Code of Conduct infraction in June, the student may be suspended from participating in the conference. Conduct during the summer months may also affect a student's participation under the team selection and playing time guidelines.

Where: The Code of Conduct rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds. If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general

student code of conduct. A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in activities during the period of the suspension or expulsion, and may also receive an extended activity suspension.

Grounds for Extracurricular Activity Discipline. Students who participate in extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. The following conduct rules have been determined by the Board of Education to be reasonably necessary to aid students, further school purposes, and prevent interference with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for suspension from participation in extracurricular activities and grounds for other restrictions or disciplinary measures related to extracurricular activity participation:

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, bullying, harassment or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school or extracurricular activity purposes or making any communication that a reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property, repeated damage or theft involving property or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including a school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect another person shall not constitute a violation.
5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from a student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (including personal safety or security devices, such as tasers, mace and pepper spray, unless a District administrator gives prior approval) or that has the appearance of a weapon, or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks, on school grounds or at a school function or event, or in a manner that is unlawful or contrary to school activity rules.
7. Engaging in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), electronic nicotine delivery systems, alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. Use of a controlled substance in the manner

- prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.
8. Public indecency.
 9. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person. Engaging in sexual conduct, even if consensual, on school grounds or at a school function or event.
 10. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students, interferes with school purposes or an extracurricular activity, or reflects a lack of high ideals.
 11. Repeated violation of any of the school rules.
 12. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
 13. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to a school employee, school volunteer, or student. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion.
 14. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school or of an extracurricular activity; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
 15. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding McCook Public Schools buses or vehicles used for activity purposes.
 16. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of the season. Reporting for one activity may count as reporting on time if there is a change in activity within the season approved by the coach or the supervisor.
 17. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an extracurricular activity or event.
 18. Failure to attend scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the validity of the reason will be determined by the coach or sponsor. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or sponsor prior to any missed practice or meeting.
 19. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations in writing.
 20. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.

All terms used in the Code of Conduct have a less strict meaning than under criminal law and are subject to reasonable interpretation by school officials.

This Code of Conduct, and all school, coach, and sponsor level codes of conduct for extracurricular activities, are to be interpreted in accordance with free speech rights. Using social media sites, even while not on school grounds or at a school activity, to engage in conduct or speech that constitutes bullying, harassment, threats, advocates or depicts illegal activity (e.g., illegal drug use, alcohol use, or sexual activity), or causes a substantial disruption to school activities (or is reasonably forecast to create a substantial disruption) may result in discipline, including suspension or removal from the team or the activity, subject to free speech rights. These activities are to be reported to school administration. Consequences will be determined by coaches, sponsors and/or administration.

Drug and Alcohol Violations.

Meaning of Terms.

Use or consume includes any level of consumption or use. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation.

Under the influence means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student, or the odor of an illicit drug on the student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

Possession includes having control of the substance and also includes being in the same area where the substance is present and no responsible adult present and responsible for the substance. Possession includes situations where, for example:

- (1) Alcohol is in a vehicle in which the student is present. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that the alcohol is in the vehicle, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol; and
- (2) Alcohol is present at a party attended by the student. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that alcohol is at the party and fails to immediately leave the party, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol.

In these situations, a violation would not exist if the alcohol is in the control of a parent or guardian or other responsible adult (age 21 or older) such that students are not allowed to access the alcohol. A violation would also not exist if the student did not know or have a reasonable basis to know that alcohol would be present, and the student leaves the location where the alcohol is present as soon the student could safely do so. (Students are expected to leave immediately, but are not to do so in a manner that would endanger them. For example, you are not to leave in a car being driven by a person who has been drinking just to get away from the alcohol party immediately when there is no other way to get home. Instead, you should call for a safe ride home and, while waiting, clearly distance yourself from the alcohol).

Consequences.

Students may be suspended from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in co-curricular activities for violations of the Code of Conduct. The period of suspension or other discipline for such offenses shall be determined by the school administration.

The disciplinary consequence will be determined based on consideration of the seriousness of the offense, any prior violations, the student's compliance with the self-reporting obligations, the student's level of cooperation and willingness to resolve the matter, and the student's demonstration of a commitment to not commit future violations.

Because of the significance of drug and alcohol violations on the student participants, other students and the school, the following consequences are established for such violations:

Drugs and Alcohol.

An activity participant who violates the drug or alcohol rules (other than steroids) shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. **1st offense:** A team member whose conduct constitutes a violation of the above rule may be denied participation in any contest for McCook Public Schools for up to three (3) weeks of competition. The team member shall continue to practice with the team during that period. This is only a general guideline. If it is the opinion of the Violations Board and the Principal involved that a first offense is of a flagrant nature, dismissal from the team for the remainder of the sport season may result.
2. **2nd offense:** Should a team member be in violation of the above rule for a second time during the season, the team member will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of that season.
3. **Reduction for Self-Reporting:** If the student has self-reported, the first violation shall be reduced. A commensurate reduction (approximately one-half, as determined by the administration) for a second or subsequent violation shall be given for self-reporting.
4. **Reduction for Participation in Chemical Dependency Program:** If the student and parents agree to participate in a school-approved program for chemical dependency, the consequence may be reduced if approved by the administration. The program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor and be approved by the school authorities. The student will need to successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program. Proof of successful completion of program must be submitted in writing to the Activities Director. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extracurricular activities for one calendar year. All costs associated with the program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian.
5. **More Serious Violations:** In the event of more serious drug or alcohol violations, such as students engaging in use of especially serious drug offenses (cocaine, meth, etc.) or procuring alcohol for minors, the consequence of the violation is not limited by the foregoing, and may be established in the good discretion of the administration.

Steroid Offenses. A student who possesses, dispenses, delivers, or administers anabolic steroids shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. First Violation: 30 consecutive days.
2. Second or Any Subsequent Offense: One calendar year.

When Suspensions Begin. All suspensions begin with the next scheduled activity in which the student is a participant, after the determination by school officials of the sanction to be imposed; provided that the school officials shall have the discretion to establish a time period for the suspension that makes the suspension have a real consequence for the student. During a suspension, participants may be required or permitted to practice at the sole discretion of the coach or activity sponsor. Suspensions in the Spring will be carried over to the Fall when the suspension has not been fully served or when determined appropriate for the suspension to have a real consequence for the student.

Letters and Post-Season Honors. A student who commits a Code of Conduct violation is:

1. Eligible to letter, provided the student meets the criteria of the coach or sponsor.
2. Not eligible to receive honors during the sport or activity in which they are participating at the time of the offense and/or in sports or activities in which they have been suspended due to a code violation. The coach/sponsor, with the Athletic Director's approval, may make an exception where the student has self-reported or otherwise demonstrated excellence in character allowing for such honors.

Self-Reporting. A student who violates the Code of Conduct must self-report. The self-report must be made to: the principal, athletic director, or the head coach or sponsor of an activity in which the student participates. The student's parent or guardian may initiate the self-reporting process, but the student will be later required to give a written statement of the self-report. The self-report must be made the earlier of: (1) before the end of the next school day after the conduct occurred and (2) before participation in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity.

In making a self-report, the student must identify the events that took place, what conduct the student engaged in, and any witnesses to the student's conduct, and will be required to put this information in a written statement. In the event the student has received a criminal citation, charge, or ticket, and proclaims innocence of a violation, the student will be required to self-report such offense and provide information as to why they should be found innocent, not as it relates to the criminal offense, but as it relates to the Code of Conduct.

All students are expected to be honest and forthright with school officials. In the event the coach or activity sponsor or any school administrator asks a student participant for information pertaining to compliance (or lack of compliance) by the student or other student participants with the Code of Conduct or eligibility conditions for participation in activities, the student is expected to fully, completely, and honestly provide the information. Students may be disciplined for a failure to be honest and forthright.

Determining a Violation Has Occurred. A violation of the Code of Conduct will be determined to have occurred based on any of the following criteria:

1. When a student is cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist.
2. When a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a plea of no contest and an adjudication of delinquency by the juvenile court.
3. When a student admits to violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct.
4. When a student is accused by another person of violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct and school officials determine that such information is reliable.
5. When school officials otherwise find sufficient evidence to support a determination that a violation has occurred.

Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline. The following procedures are established for suspensions from participation in extracurricular activities:

1. Investigation. The school official(s) considering the suspension will conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with a school purpose.
2. Meeting. Prior to commencement of the suspension, the school official considering the suspension or their designee will provide the student an opportunity to give the student's side of the story. The meeting for this purpose may be held in person or via a telephone conference.
 - a. The student will be given oral or written notice of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and the opportunity to explain the student's version. Detail is not required where the activity participant has made a self-report or otherwise admits the conduct. Names of informants may be kept confidential where determined to be appropriate.
 - b. The suspension may be imposed prior to the meeting if the meeting can not reasonably be held before the suspension is to begin. In that case the meeting will occur as soon as reasonably practicable. The student is responsible for cooperating in the scheduling of the meeting.
3. Notice Letter. Within two school days (two business days if school is not in session), or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Athletic Director or the Athletic Director's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian. The statement will describe the student's conduct violation and the discipline imposed. The student and parents or guardian will be informed of the opportunity to request a hearing.
4. Informal Hearing Before Superintendent. The student or student's parent/guardian may request an informal hearing before the Superintendent. The Superintendent may designate the Athletic Director or another administrator not responsible for the

suspension decision as the Superintendent's designee to conduct the hearing and make a decision.

- a. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian. A form will be provided with the notice letter or otherwise be made available by request from the Principal's office.
 - b. The request for a hearing must be received by the Superintendent's office within five days of receipt of the notice letter.
 - c. If a hearing is requested:
 - i. The hearing will be held within ten calendar days of receipt of the request; subject to extension for good cause as determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
 - ii. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing a reasonable time in advance to allow preparation for the hearing.
 - iii. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days (ten calendar days if school is not in session). The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian.
 - iv. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the informal hearing) will be kept by the school if requested sufficiently in advance of the hearing by the parent/guardian.
5. No Stay of Penalty. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending completion of the due process procedures
6. Opportunity for Informal Resolution. These due process procedures do not prevent the student or parent/guardian from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school officials at any stage.

Section 3 Attendance

Student participants are expected to meet the following attendance expectations:

1. Attend school regularly. Students who have "excessive absences" as determined under the school's attendance policy are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances. Students who have four or more unexcused absences in the semester of participation will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests the participant should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
3. On the day of a contest, performance or other activity, be in attendance for the full day. A student who is not in attendance the full day is ineligible for the contest, performance, or activity.

Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies. The exception must be approved by the Principal or Athletic Director.

Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

Section 4 Academic Standards

Participation in extracurricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extracurricular school activities must show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement. To be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities, students must:

1. Be enrolled in at least 5 credit hours in the semester of participation.
3. The Academic Eligibility Policy for McCook High School will require all students who participate in activities to maintain passing grades in all but one class to remain eligible for participation or competition. Ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activity until the eligibility requirement has been met.
 - i. The first time each semester that a student fails to meet the criteria for eligibility (students who have accumulated two or more failing classes) the student will be given a one-week probationary period to improve their grades before becoming ineligible for the following week. During this probation students will be required to attend Assignment Recovery sessions after school from 3:30 to 3:55. Students must meet with the teacher of the failing class and the teacher and student will work out assignments, tests or projects that can be done to improve the grade.
4. The Academic Eligibility Policy for McCook Jr. High School can be found in the student handbook.
5. Academic requirements do not apply to:
 - (A) Instructional field trips which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience; or
 - (C) Activities or events which are a part of the student's grade requirements.

Eligibility criteria for part-time students is governed by Policy 5004, NSAA bylaws, and state law.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-254 to 79-296

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsDrug and Substance Use and Prevention**Drug-Free Schools**

The District shall implement regulations and practices which will ensure compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The District's safe and drug-free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects.

Education and Prevention

The District promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which will include in the curriculum the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades of this School District. Further, the District will have proper in-service orientation and training for all employed staff.

Standards of Conduct; Notice to Students and Parents

Students are to be provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the District which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities. It shall be the further policy of the District to keep a file showing receipt of standards of conduct and a statement of disciplinary sanctions that may be taken for violations of such standards of conduct. The receipt shall be signed by both student and parent or guardian and returned to the respective Principal. It shall contain in prominent letters the following language:

"RECEIPT SHALL SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU AS PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT ATTENDING MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF THIS DISTRICT EXPECTED OF STUDENTS CONCERNING THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF ANY OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS DESCRIBED IN BOARD POLICY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION. THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU PURSUANT TO P.L. 101-226 AND 34 C.F.R. PART 86, BOTH FEDERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT TO OBTAIN ANY FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDENTS ATTENDING THIS DISTRICT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT'S POSITION ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS HEREIN ABOVE DESCRIBED AND THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS IS MANDATORY. ANY NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS CAN AND WILL RESULT IN PUNITIVE MEASURES BEING TAKEN AGAINST ANY STUDENT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE

STANDARDS."

Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program of the District Pursuant to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Laws and Regulations

Students are to be provided an age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program. The program educates on the adverse effects of the use of illicit drugs and alcohol, with the primary objective being the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students.

Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs

Students are to be provided information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs within sixty miles of the administrative offices of the District or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the District upon request by the counselor.

In the event of disciplinary proceedings against any student for any District policy pertaining to the prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, appropriate school personnel shall confer with any such student and his or her parents or guardian concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs that appropriate school personnel shall consider to be of benefit to any such student and his or her parent or parents or guardian.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools-- Parental Notice of Right to Withdraw

Parents will be notified that, if upon receipt of information regarding the content of safe and drug free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction a parent objects to the participation of their child in such programs and activities, the parent may notify the School District of such objection in writing. Upon the receipt of such notice the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to the Possession, Use, or Distribution of Illicit Drugs, Alcohol or Tobacco.

These standards are in addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by board policy or administrative regulation. The District's standards prohibit the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco (including electronic nicotine delivery systems) on school premises, in school vehicles, or as a part of any of the school's activities on or off school premises. Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession, use distribution or being under the influence of any controlled substance, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol.
4. Possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not

limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.

5. Possession, use, or distribution of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
6. Possession, use or distribution of any tobacco product (including electronic nicotine delivery systems).

Disciplinary Sanctions

Violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanction being taken within the bounds of applicable law, up to and including short term suspension, long term suspension, expulsion, and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution. In particular, students should be aware that:

1. Violation of these standards may result in suspension or expulsion.
2. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement authorities.
3. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment.
4. Parents or legal guardian will be notified.
5. Law enforcement will be notified.
6. If it appears there is imminent danger to the student, other students, school personnel, or students involved, emergency medical services will be contacted.

Intervention

The McCook Public School District does not have the authority or responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency. However, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or function in the educational climate or activity, the school then has the right and responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis based on behavior observed by school staff. The school will issue a statement to all students and employed staff that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The school shall make available to students and employed staff information about any drug and alcohol counseling, and rehabilitation and re-entry programs, which are available to students.

Administration

The administration is authorized to adopt such administrative rules, regulations or practices necessary to properly implement this policy. Such regulations, rules or practices may vary the procedures set forth herein to the extent necessary to fit the circumstances of an individual situation. Such rules, regulations and practices may include administrative forms, such as checklists to be used by staff to record observed behavior and to determine the proper plan of action.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Receipt of standards of Conduct

"RECEIPT SHALL SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU AS PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT ATTENDING MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF THIS DISTRICT EXPECTED OF STUDENTS CONCERNING THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF ANY OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS DESCRIBED IN BOARD POLICY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION. THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU PURSUANT TO P.L. 101-226 AND 34 C.F.R. PART 86, BOTH FEDERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT TO OBTAIN ANY FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDENTS ATTENDING THIS DISTRICT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT'S POSITION ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS HEREIN ABOVE DESCRIBED AND THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS IS MANDATORY. ANY NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS CAN AND WILL RESULT IN PUNITIVE MEASURES BEING TAKEN AGAINST ANY STUDENT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS."

Parent Signature:

Student Signature:

StudentsPromotion and Retention

Students will typically progress annually from grade to grade. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program when such is determined in the judgment of the Principal, in consultation with the student's teachers and counselor, to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the school's educational program.

If a parent or guardian would like their student to retake a grade level, the parent or guardian must first meet with the student's teacher and building principal. If following that meeting still believe that retention is needed, they may set a meeting with the Superintendent or designee to discuss the student repeating a grade. At that meeting, the parent or guardian must provide evidence of academic needs, illness, or excessive absenteeism that would warrant the student to repeat the grade. A student in kindergarten through fourth grade may be retained due to academic needs, illness, or excessive absenteeism. A student in grades fifth through twelfth grade may be retained due to excessive absenteeism. At such meeting, the Superintendent or designee shall identify any alternative educational opportunities, including remedial instruction, if applicable, and verify any special education supports available to such student. If the student's parent or guardian still intends for their student to repeat a grade, such parent or guardian shall then complete the required form and return such form to the District. Upon completion of the form and if all requirements pursuant to this policy and law are met, the District shall permit the student to repeat the student's grade for the next school year.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-526

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsStudent Records

School staff shall maintain student records in compliance with state and federal law.

Confidentiality of Student Records.

Student files and other education records shall not be released or divulged except in compliance with state and federal law.

School officials may have access to only those education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest, unless the parent has given written and dated consent for the access. A school official who violates this restriction shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility and effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

A school official for purposes of access to education records is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

To the extent permitted by law, contractors, consultants and volunteers may be permitted to have access to education records where they are performing a function or service that would otherwise be done by a school employee. Their access is limited to education records in which they have a legitimate educational interest; which means records needed to effectively provide the function or service for which they are responsible.

Student and Parent Access to Student Records.

A parent or guardian of a student or former student, and a student or former student who is eighteen (18) years of age or older, shall be given the opportunity upon request to inspect and review the education records of the student or former student. Non-custodial parents will be provided full and equal access to the education records of his or her child unless there is a court order to the contrary.

Maintenance and Destruction.

Student files or records shall be so maintained so as to separate academic and disciplinary matters. All disciplinary material in a student's file shall be removed and destroyed after the student's continuous absence from the school for a period of three (3) years.

Amendment of Student Records.

Parents and eligible students (a student who has reached 18 years of age or is attending an institution of postsecondary education) have the right to challenge any information contained in the records that they believe is inaccurate, misleading or violates the privacy rights of the student. Such a challenge may be made by making a written request to the Principal to amend the records. If a decision is made not to amend the education records in accordance with the request, the Principal shall so inform the parents of the student and the Superintendent. The parent shall be advised of the right to a hearing.

If a hearing is requested, the Superintendent shall conduct a hearing (or delegate the role to another school official who does not have a direct interest in the outcome of the hearing) and provide the parent or eligible student a full and fair opportunity to present evidence relevant to the issues raised in conformance with applicable law.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 42-364(4) and 42-381; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 43-3001
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-2104 and 79-2105; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-539
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 84-1201 to 84-1220
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- 3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another School District in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Kathleen Styles, Office of the Chief Privacy Officer
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Notice Concerning Directory Information

The District may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the District has designated as directory information are as follows:

1. Student's Name, address, telephone listing, and the name, address, telephone listings (if not unlisted), e-mail address and work or other contact information of the student's parent/guardian or other adult acting in loco parentis or with authority to act as parent or guardian in educational matters for the student;
2. School and dates of attendance;
3. Student's current grade;
4. Student's enrollment status (e.g. full-time or part-time);
5. Student's date of birth and place of birth;
6. Student's extra-curricular participation;
7. Student's achievement awards or honors;
8. Student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
9. Student's photograph; and
10. School or school district the student attended before he or she enrolled in McCook Public Schools.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District does not designate as directory information personally identifiable information from students' education records where the District determines that the disclosure to the potential recipient poses a risk to student safety or well-being, including but not limited to circumstances where the potential recipient is a registered sex offender and the personally identifiable information would permit the potential recipient to communicate with or otherwise contact the student.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the District in writing that he or she does not want information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two weeks from the time this information is first received. Please contact the Superintendent's office to indicate your refusal to have your child's information designated as directory information.

The District may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

In addition, notice is further given that FERPA permits the disclosure of personally identifiable information from students' education records, without consent of the parent or eligible student, if the disclosure meets certain conditions found in Sec. 99.31 of the FERPA regulations. Except for disclosures to school officials, disclosures related to some judicial orders or lawfully issued subpoenas, disclosures of directory information, and disclosures to the parent or eligible student, Sec. 99.32 of the FERPA regulations requires the District to record the disclosure. Parents and eligible students have a right to inspect and review the record of disclosures. The District may disclose personally identifiable information from the education records of a student without obtaining prior written consent of the parents or the eligible student —

- To other school officials, including teachers, within the educational agency or institution whom the school has determined to have legitimate educational interests. This includes contractors, consultants, volunteers, or other parties to whom the District has outsourced institutional services or functions, provided that the conditions listed in Sec. 99.31(a)(1)(i)(B)(1) - (a)(1)(i)(B)(2) are met. (Sec. 99.31(a)(1))
- To officials of another school, school system, or institution of postsecondary education where the student seeks or intends to enroll, or where the student is already enrolled if the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer, subject to the requirements of Sec. 99.34. (Sec. 99.31(a)(2))
- To authorized representatives of the U.S. Comptroller General, the U. S. Attorney General, the U.S. Secretary of Education, or State and local educational authorities, such as the Nebraska Department of Education. Disclosures under this provision may be made, subject to the requirements of Sec. 99.35, in connection with an audit or evaluation of Federal- or State-supported education programs, or for the enforcement of or compliance with Federal legal requirements that relate to those programs. These entities may make further disclosures of personally identifiable information to outside entities that are designated by them as their authorized representatives to conduct any audit, evaluation, or enforcement or compliance activity on their behalf. (Sections 99.31(a)(3) and 99.35)
- In connection with financial aid for which the student has applied or which the student has received, if the information is necessary to determine eligibility for the aid, determine the amount of the aid, determine the conditions of the aid, or enforce the terms and conditions of the aid. (Sec. 99.31(a)(4))
- To State and local officials or authorities to whom information is specifically allowed to be reported or disclosed by a State statute that concerns the juvenile justice system and the system's ability to effectively serve, prior to adjudication, the student whose records were released, subject to Sec. 99.38. (Sec. 99.31(a)(5))
- To organizations conducting studies for, or on behalf of, the District, in order to: (a) develop, validate, or administer predictive tests; (b) administer student aid programs; or (c) improve instruction. (Sec. 99.31(a)(6))
- To accrediting organizations to carry out their accrediting functions. (Sec. 99.31(a)(7))
- To parents of an eligible student if the student is a dependent for IRS tax purposes. (Sec. 99.31(a)(8))
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena. (Sec. 99.31(a)(9))

- To appropriate officials in connection with a health or safety emergency, subject to Sec. 99.36. (Sec. 99.31(a)(10))
- Information the District has designated as “directory information” under Sec. 99.37. (Sec. 99.31(a)(11))

The District’s policy is for education records to be kept confidential except as permitted by the FERPA law, and the District does not approve any practice which involves an unauthorized disclosure of education records. In some courses student work may be displayed or made available to others. Also, some teachers may have persons other than the teacher or school staff, such as volunteers or fellow students, assist with the task of grading student work and returning graded work to students. The District does not either approve or disapprove such teaching practices, and designates such student work as directory information and/or as non-education records. Each parent and eligible student shall be presumed to have accepted this designation in the absence of the parent or eligible student giving notification to the District in writing in the manner set forth above pertaining to the designation of directory information. Consent will be presumed to have been given in the absence of such a notification from the parent or eligible student.

Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit:

The District designates the McCook Police Department as the District's “law enforcement unit” for purposes of (1) enforcing any and all federal, state or local law, (2) maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District, and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools.

StudentsAcademic Progress

The Superintendent will be responsible for implementing a uniform system for appraising and reporting the development of students' academic and behavioral skills.

Communicating student progress to parents shall be the responsibility of the building administrator and the classroom teacher. Written reports of student progress will be made available to parents at the conclusion of each quarter. It is recommended that two parent-teacher conferences or acceptable substitutes be held in both the elementary and junior-senior high school each year. Additional reporting of student progress is encouraged whenever progress or lack of progress is of an unusual nature.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsGrading System

The grading system of McCook Public Schools shall be as follows:

- a. Grading periods of approximately nine (9) weeks shall be used four (4) times per year grades K-8.
- b. Grading periods of approximately eighteen (18) weeks shall be used two (2) times per year grades 9-12.
- c. Achievement marks shall be given on a numerical basis for all grades 4-12, with the marks of 69 or lower considered a failure. A special grading report for the K-3, on a different basis, may be used.
- d. The grading and conversion scale are as follows:

A	94% - 100%	4.0
B	87% - 93%	3.0
C	78% - 86%	2.0
D	70% - 77%	1.0
F	Below 70%	0.0
- e. Students that take college level courses or advanced placement courses will receive grades according to the those entities guidelines. Refer to the student handbook for more information concerning grading.
- f. For all other grading reports received on transfer students, the Superintendent and/or principal shall convert these to an approximately equal grade on our system.
- g. Staff members may use whatever method they determine professionally appropriate in the day to day grading, but shall prepare grade reports based on numerical values. Each staff member, however, must be able to defend whatever method chosen. The following criteria should be used in determining the numerical value of the grade.
 1. Achievement in relation to class objectives.
 2. Class participation.
 3. Mental ability of student in relation to the total class and required work.
 4. Evidence the student is exceeding the class requirements and delving further.
- f. On excused absences of secondary students, they shall be allowed two (2) days for the first day and 1 day for each additional day. After this period elapses, all work not handed in or completed may receive a zero.
- g. On unexcused absences, all work assigned may receive a zero, or a grade assigned for class participation shall receive a zero, and also possibility of a disciplinary action.

- h. All grade reports will contain the numerical grade for each subject, as well as the following: absences, tardiness, department, comments (if instructor desires).

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsGraduation

Students must successfully complete the courses required by the Board and Nebraska Department of Education in order to graduate.

It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to ensure that students complete all grade level requirements and that high school students complete two hundred thirty (230) credit hours through at least six (6) semesters from the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades. Specific graduation requirements are as follows:

Language Arts	<u>40</u> credit hours
Science	<u>30</u> credit hours
Mathematics	<u>30</u> credit hours
Social Studies	<u>30</u> credit hours
Physical Education/Health	<u>10</u> credit hours
Speech	<u>5</u> credit hours
Personal Finance	5 credit hours
Computer Science	5 Credit hours
Total Required Hours	<u>155</u> credit hours

Total Hours Required for Graduation 230 credit hours

The required courses of study will be reviewed by the Board.

Except for the 230 credit hour requirement, certain deviations may be allowed when it is determined educationally beneficial to the student. Variance from the specific requirements may be approved by the Superintendent, upon the recommendation of the Senior High School Principal. Such recommendations shall be determined by a conference consisting of the principal, counselor, teacher(s), parent(s)/guardian and the student. All decisions for requirement variations shall be determined at appropriate intervals during the student's sophomore, junior, or senior year.

Graduation requirements for special education students will be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Each student's IEP will include a statement of the projected date of graduation at least 18 months in advance of the projected date and the criteria to be used in determining whether graduation will occur. Prior to the special education student's graduation, the IEP team shall determine whether the graduation criteria have been met.

Each student shall also complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid prior to graduation, unless the required opt-out form is completed by either: (1) the student's parent or legal guardian; (2) the Principal, if the Principal determines that good cause exists not to require the student to complete the FAFSA; or (3) an emancipated student or student of at least 19 years of age.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-729
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-3003
 NDE Rule 10

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsMake-up Work

Make-up work for students who are absent from school shall be governed by guidelines developed by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. The Guidelines shall state the criteria to be used in determining whether and to what extent the opportunity to complete class work, including examinations, missed during a period of disciplinary suspension will be granted.

The make-up work of students will be counted for course credit when satisfactorily completed according to the guidelines stated below; which are the Superintendent's guidelines, or such other guidelines as approved from time to time by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

To receive credit for work missed due to excused absences (e.g., personal illness, bereavement or emergency in the family, participation in an approved school activity), the student, upon returning to school, is responsible a) for requesting assignments for make-up work and b) for completing the make-up work on his/her own initiative by the due date. The teacher will provide materials and assistance to a student who is making up work for these reasons.

To receive credit for work missed due to a parent requested prearranged absence (e.g., medical or dental appointment, religious observance, spectator at a school activity, family trip, college visit), the student is responsible a) for requesting assignments for make-up work prior to his/her absence and b) for completing the make-up work on his/her own initiative by the due date.

The date when make-up work is due will be determined by the Principal, with two (2) days, being allowed for each day absent up to a maximum of ten (10) days. Students who plan to miss school due to scheduled school activity or a parent requested prearranged absence may request assignments and make arrangements to complete part of all of the work prior to the absence.

At the beginning of each semester, or during the semester for students who enter during the semester, a) the principal will provide students with information about the district regulations for absences and make-up work and b) teachers will explain the procedures students should use for requesting assignments and completing make-up work in their courses.

Students and parents/guardians are advised that equivalent experiences for students who miss class are difficult and sometimes impossible to recreate. Parents/guardians are also advised that testing and summarizing activities often are scheduled at the end of the quarter and the end of the semester; parent requested prearranged absences should be avoided during these times.

Date of Adoption: _____, 2023

Students

High School Credit for Middle School Courses

High school credit may be awarded to students in a middle grades course if the course content and requirements are equivalent to a course offered in the high school.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.003.05B

Date of Adoption: _____, 2023

StudentsAssociation Activities

The McCook Public School District is a member of the Nebraska School Activities Association, which is a voluntary organization of public and parochial schools of Nebraska organized for the purpose of promoting and regulating the competition between schools in what is generally known as the extracurricular activities.

All students participating in extracurricular activities shall follow the rules provided by the Nebraska School Activities Association and rules of McCook Public Schools.

Students who represent McCook Public Schools in any of its allied or extracurricular activities shall practice a high level of citizenship both in school and in community living.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsStudent Organizations

The Superintendent shall approve formal student organizations, provide adequate supervision, and administer student finances for student organizations and activities. Student organizations, as a vital part of the total education program, should accomplish the following criteria:

- 1) Extend and reinforce the instructional program.
- 2) Give students practice in democratic self-government.
- 3) Develop student morale and support for the school.
- 4) Honor outstanding student achievement.
- 5) Provide wholesome social and recreational activities.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsStudent Activities, Hazing, Fund-Raising and Supervision

Secret Organization. No student shall participate in or be a member of any secret fraternity or secret organization that is in any degree a school organization. Students who violate this rule may be denied any or all school privileges and may be expelled.

Initiation & Hazing Activities. Initiations and hazing activities are not permitted. Students who violate this rule may be denied any or all school privileges and may be expelled.

Fund-raising. All teachers shall earnestly seek to educate students in the services performed by the humanitarian agencies, and shall encourage students to participate in their financial support as a social and community project, but no fund-raising drives are to be conducted by non-school agencies or for non-school activities among the student population. Students in grades 6 through 12 may engage in raising funds, under the control of school officials, for certain approved student activities, provided the project has the approval of the principal of the school involved.

Students or student groups desiring to raise money through fund drives in one form or another will present their written requests to the principal for their approval. The approval will be based on the following criteria:

- A. Where the funds will be used. Preference will be given to those activities in which usage of tax money would be doubtful or illegal, such as trips and awards of a personal nature. Any drive which seeks or tends to circumvent a Board decision will be rejected. A definite goal for the expenditure of the funds received must be established.
- B. Quality of the product or suitability of the product sold. Items which are overpriced or of an embarrassing or controversial nature to the school will be rejected. Items which are in direct competition with local businesses shall be avoided where practicable.
- C. The number of fund drives per organization are limited to three (3) per year.
- D. The Board will not be responsible for any losses incurred. Principals will need to approve locations and subject matter of all posters posted in the drive.

Adult Sponsors. Adult sponsors must be in attendance at all school sponsored activities.

Adult Drivers. The District does not sponsor activities involving driving vehicles unless a school employee or sponsor or an adult is driving.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-2101 to 79-2103

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsSelection of Students for Participation in Activities

“Team selection” and “playing time” decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity. Consistent, however, with the purposes of the activities program, the coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

1. School Representative. Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner which reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.
2. Success. Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of these criteria include the student's: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student's own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach, the school, and the community.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsSchool Dances

A school sponsored dance is a school activity subject to all provisions of the Student Activity Code, and is a privilege available to students meeting all requirements for participation.

General Rules of Student Conduct at Dances. In addition to all rules of student conduct in the Student handbook, students attending dances shall adhere to the following rules of conduct:

1. Who Can Attend: Only students of McCook Public Schools and their guests may attend.
 - a. Students currently attending McCook High School or another Nebraska high school who have not been restricted from attending extracurricular activities at McCook High School or their own school may be considered appropriate dates or invited guests upon approval from the building principal.
 - b. Persons who are younger than 16 or older than 19 years of age and not attending high school are generally considered to not be appropriate dates or invited guests for our school dances.
 - c. Some school dances may be restricted to students attending specified grades levels at McCook Public Schools. For any dances at the middle school level, only students attending McCook Public Schools in the grade(s) for which the dance is being held may attend.
 - d. Students who have been suspended from school or from extracurricular activities may not attend.
 - e. The school reserves the right to exclude persons who may or do cause a disruption or detract from the event. Dates or invited guests not attending our school are expected to get prior approval from a McCook principal and are expected to follow the same rules of conduct which apply to our students.
 - f. Rules for dances may restrict students and their guests from leaving the dance until the dance ends without written parental permission on a form provided.
 - g. Students or their guests who engage in inappropriate behavior, whether on or off of the dance floor, may be asked to leave.

2. Prohibited Substances: Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and tobacco (including electronic nicotine delivery systems) are prohibited. Anyone using these or showing the affects of use will not be allowed admission or, if discovered after admission, be removed from the dance. Their parents may be contacted.

Students and their dates may be required to submit to a breathalyzer prior to gaining entrance. Those who choose not to submit to a breathalyzer will not gain entrance. Law enforcement will be contacted if there is reasonable suspicion that the student or a student's date is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

3. Appropriate Attire: Students and their guests must meet the dress code requirements established for each dance. Teachers or administrators will make the final decision as to whether or not a student's attire is appropriate. Students will be asked to change

unacceptable items, which may mean that the student may have to return home to change the inappropriate clothing. It is advisable to check in advance of the dance with the Principal or staff sponsor for the event if you are uncertain about your attire.

Eligibility for Selection of Royalty. Nomination and selection of royalty for school sponsored dances is an honor awarded by students to those of their peers that exemplify the highest standards of integrity and achievement. Students nominated for dance royalty must have demonstrated through their conduct, academic achievement and activities that they have represented, and will represent, themselves, their classmates, and their school in a manner which reflects outstanding effort, commitment to their school and fellow students, and integrity and good citizenship in the school and in the community. The students selected to be the “royalty” for the Homecoming and Prom or any other school sponsored dance or activity shall meet that general standard as determined by the administration and, in addition, meet the following specific academic, activity and conduct standards:

1. Specific Dance Eligibility and Selection Requirements:
 - a. Homecoming Queen & King:
 - Only a senior girl shall be eligible to be Queen and only a Senior boy shall be eligible to be King.
 - To be eligible, a candidate must agree to attend the Homecoming Dance and represent the school properly.
 - The queen and king will be chosen from the qualified nominees by secret vote of the student body during Homecoming week. Crowning will be held at the fall sports event deemed to have the largest attendance.
 - b. Color Day:
 - Only a Senior girl shall be eligible to be Queen and a Senior boy shall be eligible to be King. The candidates may not have been previously selected as royalty at another school sponsored dance.
 - To be eligible, a candidate must agree to attend the Color Day Dance and represent the school properly.
 - The queen and king will be chosen based on the established rules set by the sponsoring group (student council).

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students (& Employees)Anti-discrimination, Anti-harassment, and Anti-retaliation**A. Elimination of Discrimination.**

The McCook Public School District hereby gives this statement of compliance and intends to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This school district intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination.

The McCook Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Your building level principal.

Employees and Others: The Superintendent of Schools

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (816) 268-0550 (voice), Fax (816) 268-0599, (800) 877-8339 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

B. Prohibited Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation of Employees, Students and Others.**1. Purpose:**

The McCook Public School District is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees, including, co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties, and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Harassment is a form of discrimination and includes verbal, non-verbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct relating to a person's sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status, that is sufficiently serious to deny, interfere with, or limit a person's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational or work program or activity, including, but not limited to:

- a. Conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or abusive educational or work environment, or

- b. Requiring an individual to endure the offensive conduct as a condition of continued employment or educational programs or activities, including the receipt of aids, benefits, and services.

Educational programs and activities include all academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs of the school, whether those programs take place in a school's facilities, on a school bus, at a class or training program sponsored by the school at another location, or elsewhere.

Discriminatory harassment because of a person's sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status, may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Name-calling,
- b. Teasing or taunting,
- c. Insults, slurs, or derogatory names or remarks,
- d. Demeaning jokes,
- e. Inappropriate gestures,
- f. Graffiti or inappropriate written or electronic material,
- g. Visual displays, such as cartoons, posters, or electronic images,
- h. Threats or intimidating or hostile conduct,
- i. Physical acts of aggression, assault, or violence, or
- j. Criminal offenses

The following examples are additional or more specific examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment:

- a. Unwelcome sexual advances or propositions,
- b. Requests or pressure for sexual favors,
- c. Comments about an individual's body, sexual activity, or sexual attractiveness,
- d. Physical contact or touching of a sexual nature, including touching intimate body parts and inappropriate patting, pinching, rubbing, or brushing against another's body,
- e. Physical sexual acts of aggression, assault, or violence, including criminal offenses (such as rape, sexual assault or battery, and sexually motivated stalking), against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's age, intellectual disability, or use of drugs or alcohol,
- f. Requiring sexual favors or contact in exchange for aids, benefits, or services, such as grades, awards, privileges, promotions, etc., or
- g. Gender-based harassment; acts of verbal, nonverbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct based on sex or sex-stereotyping, but not involving conduct of a sexual nature.

If the District knows or reasonably should know about possible harassment, including violence, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable, thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred (see section entitled

“Grievance Procedures,” below), and take appropriate interim measures, if necessary. If the District determines that unlawful harassment occurred, the District will take prompt and effective action to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects, if appropriate. If harassment or violence that occurs off school property creates a hostile environment at school, the District will follow this policy and grievance procedure, within the scope of its authority.

All District employees are expected to take prompt and appropriate actions to report and prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by others. Employees who witness or become aware of possible discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, must immediately report the conduct to his or her supervisor or the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated compliance coordinator).

2. Anti-retaliation:

The District prohibits retaliation, intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person for opposing discrimination, including harassment, or for participating in the District's discrimination complaint process or making a complaint, testifying, assisting, or participating in any manner, in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing. Retaliation is a form of discrimination.

The District will take immediate steps to stop retaliation and prevent its recurrence against the alleged victim and any person associated with the alleged victim. These steps will include, but are not limited to, notifying students, employees, and others, that they are protected from retaliation, ensuring that they know how to report future complaints, and initiating follow-up contact with the complainant to determine if any additional acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation have occurred. If retaliation occurs, the District will take prompt and strong responsive action, including possible discipline, including expulsion or termination, if applicable.

3. Grievance (or Complaint) Procedures:

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination, harassment or retaliation to their immediate supervisor or teacher or to the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated coordinator). If the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student may report the alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation (“discrimination”) to the designated coordinator, or in the case of students, to another staff person (such as a counselor or principal).

Other individuals may report alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator. If the designated coordinator is the person alleged to have committed the discriminatory act, then the complaint should be submitted to the Superintendent for assignment. A discrimination complaint form is attached to this grievance procedure and is available in the office of each District building, on the District's website, and from the designated coordinators.

Under no circumstances will a person filing a complaint or grievance involving discrimination be retaliated against for filing the complaint or grievance.

i. Level 1 (Investigation and Findings):

Once the District receives a grievance, complaint or report alleging discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or becomes aware of possible discriminatory conduct, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable, thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred. If necessary, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim and prevent further potential discrimination, harassment, or retaliation during the pending investigation. The alleged victim will be notified of his or her options to avoid contact with the alleged harasser, such as changing a class or prohibiting the alleged harasser from having any contact with the alleged victim pending the result of the District's investigation. The District will minimize any burden on the alleged victim when taking interim measures to protect the alleged victim.

The District will promptly investigate all complaints of discrimination, even if an outside entity or law enforcement agency is investigating a complaint involving the same facts and allegations. The District will not wait for the conclusion or outcome of a criminal investigation or proceeding to begin an investigation required by this grievance procedure. If the allegation(s) involve possible criminal conduct, the District will notify the complainant of his or her right to file a criminal complaint, and District employees will not dissuade the complainant from filing a criminal complaint either during or after the District's investigation.

The District will aim to complete its investigation within **ten (10) working days** after receiving a complaint or report, unless extenuating circumstances exist. Extenuating circumstances may include the unavailability of witnesses due to illness or incapacitation, or additional time needed because of the complexity of the investigation, the need for outside experts to evaluate the evidence (such as forensic evidence), or multiple complainants or victims. If extenuating circumstances exist, the extended timeframe to complete the investigation will **not exceed ten (10) additional working days without the consent of the complainant, unless the alleged victim agrees to a longer timeline.** Periodic status updates will be given to the parties, when appropriate.

The District's investigation will include, but is not limited to:

- a. Providing the parties with the opportunity to present witnesses and provide evidence.
- b. An evaluation of all relevant information and documentation relating to the alleged discriminatory conduct.
- c. For allegations involving harassment, some of the factors the District will consider include: 1) the nature of the conduct and whether the conduct was unwelcome, 2) the surrounding circumstances, expectations, and relationships, 3) the degree to which the conduct affected one or more students' education, 4) the type, frequency, and duration of the conduct, 5) the identity of and relationship between the alleged harasser and the suspect or suspects of the harassment, 6) the number of individuals involved, 7) the age (and sex, if applicable) of the alleged harasser and the alleged victim(s) of the harassment, 8) the location of the incidents and the

context in which they occurred, 9) the totality of the circumstances, and 10) other relevant evidence.

- d. A review of the evidence using a “preponderance of the evidence” standard (based on the evidence, is it more likely than not that discrimination, harassment, or retaliation occurred?)

The designated compliance coordinator (or designated investigator) will complete an investigative report, which will include:

- a. A summary of the facts,
- b. Findings regarding whether discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate conduct occurred, and
- c. If a finding is made that discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate conduct occurred, the recommended remedy or remedies necessary to eliminate discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate conduct.

If someone other than the designated compliance coordinator conducted the investigation, the compliance coordinator will review, approve, and sign the investigative report. The District will ensure that prompt, appropriate, and effective remedies are provided if a finding of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation is made. The District will maintain relevant documentation obtained during the investigation and documentation supportive of the findings and any subsequent determinations, including the investigative report, witness statements, interview summaries, and any transcripts or audio recordings, pertaining to the investigative and appeal proceedings.

The District will send concurrently to the parties written notification of the decision (findings and any remedy) regarding the complaint within **one (1) working day** after the investigation is completed. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 11232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99, permits the District to disclose relevant information to a student who was discriminated against or harassed.

ii. Level 2 (Appeal to the Superintendent):

If a party is not satisfied with the findings or remedies (or both) set forth in the decision, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Superintendent within **five (5) working days** after receiving the decision. The Superintendent will review the appeal and the investigative documentation and decision, conduct additional investigation, if necessary, and issue a written determination about the appeal **within ten (10) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Superintendent’s determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. [If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the party will file the appeal directly with the Board.]

iii. Level 3 (Appeal to the Board):

If the party is not satisfied with the Superintendent’s determination, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Board of Education **within five (5) working days** after receiving the Superintendent’s determination. The Board of Education will review the appeal, the Superintendent’s determination, the investigative documentation and decision, and allow the party to address the Board at a Board meeting to present his or her appeal. The party will be allowed to address the Board at the Board’s next regularly scheduled

Board meeting (unless the Board receives the appeal within one week of the next regularly scheduled Board meeting) or at a time and date agreed to by the Board, designated compliance officer and the party. The Board will issue a written determination about the appeal **within thirty (30) days** after the party addresses the Board. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Board's determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. The Board's determination, and any actions taken, will be final on behalf of the District.

4. Confidentiality:

The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by state and federal law. The District will notify the complainant of the anti-retaliation provisions of applicable laws and that the District will take steps to prevent retaliation and will take prompt and strong responsive actions if retaliation occurs.

If a complainant requests confidentiality or asks that the complaint not be pursued, the District will take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with the request for confidentiality or the request not to pursue an investigation, as long as doing so does not prevent the District from responding effectively to the harassment and preventing harassment of other students. If a complainant insists that his or her name or other identifiable information not be disclosed to the alleged perpetrator, the District will inform the complainant that its ability to respond may be limited. Even if the District cannot take disciplinary action against the alleged harasser, the District will pursue other steps to limit the effects of the alleged harassment and prevent its recurrence, if warranted,

5. Training:

The District will ensure that relevant District employees, including but not limited to officials, administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, counselors, nurses and other health personnel, coaches, assistant coaches, paraprofessionals, aides, bus drivers, and school law enforcement officers, are adequately trained so they understand and know how to identify acts of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, and how to report it to appropriate District officials or employees.

6. Designated Compliance Coordinators:

Designated compliance coordinators will be responsible for:

- a. Coordinating efforts to comply with anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation laws and regulations.
- b. Coordinating and implementing training for students and employees pertaining to anti-discrimination, anti-harassment and anti-retaliation laws and regulations, including the training areas listed above.
- c. Investigating complaints of discrimination (unless the coordinator designates other trained individuals to investigate).
- d. Monitoring substantiated complaints or reports of discrimination, as needed (and with the assistance of other District employees, if necessary), to ensure discrimination or harassment does not recur, and that retaliation conduct does not occur or recur.

- e. Overseeing discrimination complaints, including identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems, and reporting such patterns or systemic problems to the Superintendent and the Board of Education.
- f. Communicating regularly with the District's law enforcement unit investigating cases and providing current information to them pertaining to anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation standards and compliance requirements.
- g. Reviewing all evidence in harassment or violence cases brought before the District's disciplinary committee or administrator to determine whether the complainants are entitled to a remedy under anti-discrimination laws and regulations that was not available in the disciplinary process.
- h. Ensuring that investigations address whether other students or employees may have been subjected to discrimination, including harassment and retaliation.
- i. Determining whether District employees with knowledge of allegations of discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, failed to carry out their duties in reporting the allegations to the designated compliance coordinator and responding to the allegations.
- j. Recommending changes to this policy and grievance procedure.
- k. Performing other duties as assigned.

The designated compliance coordinators will not have other job responsibilities that may create a conflict of interest with their coordinator responsibilities.

7. Preventive Measures:

The District will publish and widely distribute on an ongoing basis a notice of nondiscrimination (notice) in electronic and printed formats, including prominently displaying the notice on the District's website and posting the notice at each building in the District. The District also will designate an employee to coordinate compliance with anti-discrimination laws (see Designated Compliance Coordinator section, above, for further information on compliance coordinator), and widely publish and disseminate this grievance procedure, including prominently posting it on the District's website, at each building in the District, reprinting it in District publications, such as handbooks, and sending it electronically to members of the school community. The District will provide training to employees and students at the beginning of each academic year in the areas (B.6.a-g) identified in the Training section, above.

The District also may distribute specific harassment and violence materials (such as sexual violence), including a summary of the District's anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation policy and grievance procedure, and a list of victim resources, during events such as school assemblies and back to school nights, if recent incidents or allegations warrant additional education to the school community.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

**Complaint Form
Discrimination, Harassment or Retaliation**

The McCook Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. This complaint form is to be used when a person has a complaint related to discrimination, harassment or retaliation on such bases in regard to employment or the programs and activities of the school district.

Refer to Board Policy 4003 and/or 5401 for the particulars of the complaint and grievance process. You may attach additional materials to this form if needed.

The applicable coordinator may be contacted if you have questions about filling out this complaint form:

Students: [Name of Director], Director of Student Services [or other title], [Street Address], [City], NE [Zip Code] (____) ____ - ____ ([Email Address]).

Employees and Others: [Name of Director], Human Resources Director [or other title], [Street Address], [City], NE [Zip Code] (____) ____ - ____ ([Email Address]).

Name: _____ Date: _____

(1) Description of the complaint: _____

_____.

(2) Names of any witnesses to the matter being complained about: _____
_____.

(3) Identify and attach any document supporting the complaint: _____
_____.

(4) Confidentiality: I ___ do___ do not give consent to my identity being shared with the person(s) against whom I am complaining. If I do not give consent, I understand that the investigation may be hindered, but that the District will nonetheless investigate and take prompt and effective action to remediate the concerns I have raised, if appropriate.

_____.

(5) Relief requested (what I want done in response to this complaint):

_____.

The undersigned states: The facts in this complaint are true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I give permission for an investigation to be made into this complaint. I understand that the District will take steps to prevent me being retaliated against for filing this complaint, that I am to notify the District if any such retaliation occurs, and that the District will take prompt and strong responsive action if retaliation occurs.

Received by: _____ Signature: _____
Date: _____

StudentsChild Abuse and Neglect

School employees shall promptly report to the appropriate law enforcement agency and the principal when they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, including sexual abuse, or circumstances which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect. The principal will ensure that the report has been made to the proper law enforcement agency or other agency as required by law.

This requirement shall also apply to all school employees, including coaches and volunteers, participating in interstate amateur athletic competition. The term “promptly” means “within a 24-hour period.”

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 28-711
 34 U.S.C. Sec. 20341

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsMarried Students

Married students shall have the same educational opportunities in this school system as unmarried students. There shall be no discrimination on the basis of sex, marital status of any person, or the condition of being a parent. To enforce this prohibition, aggrieved persons shall use the District's anti-discrimination policies.

Legal References: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-2,114 to 79-2,124
20 U.S.C. Sec. 1681 (Title IX)

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is prohibited. No staff member or other agent of the District may use physical force with a student except to the extent such is reasonably necessary for self-defense, the protection of persons or the safe-guarding of property, and only such physical force as is reasonably necessary for such purposes shall be used.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-295
NDE Rule 27

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsSearch and Seizures

When it is determined based on searches that a person has violated a Board policy, administrative regulation, building rule, student conduct rule or personnel expectation, or the law, the person shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and a report to law enforcement may be made.

Student lockers, desks and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over school property. Students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in or on school property because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of student lockers may be conducted in the discretion of the administration.

The following procedures will be used for conducting searches:

1. School officials may conduct a search if there is a reasonable basis to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or rule violation. The search must be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Random searches of student lockers, desks, and other similar school property provided for use by students may be conducted in the discretion of the administration.
3. Drug or alcohol tests may be conducted on students based on reasonable suspicion.
4. Drug or alcohol tests may be conducted on a random basis for students participating in extracurricular activities, provided that: a) the student gave consent for testing in advance (attendance at or participation in the extracurricular activity may be withheld in the absence of consent), b) the testing actually be random, c) that the testing procedures limit any intrusion on student privacy, and provide for an appropriate level of confidentiality and accuracy, and d) that the response to positive tests take into consideration student safety and compliance with laws related to reporting and releasing students to law enforcement.
5. School officials may search offices and storage devices provided to or used by employees where permitted by law, such as where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the employee has committed work-related misconduct, or that a search is necessary for a non-investigatory work-related purpose, such as to retrieve a file.
6. Searches of the District's computer system may be conducted in the discretion of the administration at any time.

The following procedures will be used for the removal of personal property:

1. Illegal items or other items reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety of others or a threat to educational purposes may be seized by school officials. Any illegal drugs, firearm or dangerous weapon shall be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement as soon

as practicable. A personal safety or security device (such as a taser, mace or pepper spray) not previously approved by the Administration constitutes a “dangerous weapon.”

2. Items which have been or are reasonably expected to be used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be removed from student possession.

The District is not responsible for the security or safety of personal property which employees, students, or other building users may bring to school.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 28-1204.04 (firearms)

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Vandalism

Students and their parents shall be responsible for all damage to equipment or school property. This responsibility applies in the matter of books and supplies of all kinds, as well as equipment, buildings and grounds.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-237

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsHealth Inspections

The school district shall cause every child under its jurisdiction to be separately and carefully inspected, except as otherwise provided by law, to ascertain if such a child is suffering from (1) defective sight or hearing, (2) dental defects, or (3) other conditions as prescribed by the Department of Health and Human Services (“Department”). Such inspections shall be conducted on a schedule prescribed by the Department and shall be based on current medical and public health practice. In lieu of conducting the inspections, the school board may employ regularly licensed physicians to make such inspections.

If such inspection determines that any child has defective sight or hearing, dental defects, or other condition for which screening is required, the school shall notify the parent of the child in writing of such condition and explain to the parent the necessity of professional attendance for such child.

Whenever a child apparently shows symptoms of any contagious or infectious disease, such child shall be sent home immediately or as soon as safe and proper conveyance can be found and the school board shall be at once notified. Such student may be excluded from school as provided in the Student Discipline Act.

A child shall not be required to submit to an inspection required by this policy if his or her parent or guardian provides school authorities with a statement signed by a physician, a physician assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse practicing under and in accordance with his or her respective credentialing act or other qualified provider as identified by the Department’s applicable rules and regulations, stating that such child has undergone such required inspection within the past six months. A child shall submit to any required inspection for which such a statement is not received.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-248 and 79-249
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-264
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-526

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsCommunicable DiseasesCommunicable Disease Control

McCook Public Schools shall cooperate with county and state health department officials in developing procedures for the control of communicable diseases in the schools. All procedures shall conform to the regulations for communicable disease control set up by the state health department.

In general, a student with a communicable condition will be allowed to attend school in the student's usual class setting only after written approval has been secured from the student's physician stating that the disease is not in a communicable stage. Without such a written statement, a student with a communicable condition is subject to an emergency exclusion. The school reserves the right to consult with a second physician to secure another opinion if a second opinion is deemed necessary by school personnel.

In general, a district employee with a communicable condition will be allowed to work only after securing a physician's written statement indicating that the disease is not in a communicable stage. The school reserves the right to secure an independent second opinion if such is deemed necessary.

Students' Communicable Conditions

- A) The school principal and the Student Assistance Team or Response to Intervention team (RtI) will function as liaisons with the student's physician as necessary, and will coordinate the health management procedures within the school building.
- B) The decision to exclude a student from school shall be made by the Superintendent, after consultation with the appropriate building principal. Decisions regarding the type of educational setting for students who are not excluded from classes will be based on the behavior, neurological development and physical condition of the student and the expected type of interaction within others in that setting. Educational plans for these students will be developed by the Student Assistance Team or RtI Team, with the help of parents or guardians and the appropriate medical personnel.
- C) The privacy of the student and family must be protected, and knowledge that a student has a communicable condition should be confined to persons with a direct need to know. If it becomes necessary to inform others, these persons will be provided with information concerning necessary precautions, and they will be made aware of confidentiality requirements.
- D) Students who present a high risk of disease transmission may be temporarily excluded from school by the administration after consultation with the Student Assistance Team or RtI Team, the student's physician, parents, and/or their representative, school nurse, or the school's physician.

- E) A student might be considered at high risk if the student: exhibits behaviors that may spread the disease (e.g., biting, lacks toilet training or is incontinent) or has an open sore that cannot be concealed or hygienically covered, any of which could result in direct spreading of the condition or disease.
- F) During the time a student is excluded from the classroom, an appropriate alternative or adjustment to the student's education will be provided. The Student Assistance Team or RtI Team will review long-term cases at least monthly, or more often if necessary.

Employees' Communicable Conditions

- A) Any employee who contracts a communicable condition should report the same to the building principal who should, in turn, report to the Superintendent in a confidential manner. The Superintendent shall then consult with the employee and appropriate medical personnel to evaluate the medical and psychological condition of the employee. The Superintendent shall recommend reasonable accommodations so that the employee may continue in employment as long as the employee is physically able to do so.
- B) The privacy of the employee must be protected, and knowledge that an employee has a communicable condition should be confined to persons with a direct need to know. If it becomes necessary to inform others, these persons will be provided with information concerning necessary precautions and will be made aware of confidentiality requirements.
- C) Employees who present a high risk of disease transmission will be temporarily excluded from work after consultation with appropriate medical authorities.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsMissing Persons

A missing person shall mean a person sixteen (16) years or younger reported to any law enforcement agency as abducted or lost.

Upon notification by the Nebraska State Patrol of a missing student, the school will flag the student's records in such a way that any personnel looking at such birth certificate or record shall be alerted to the fact that the birth certificate or record is of a missing person. If the record has been flagged as that of a missing person, and a request for transfer of the student's records is received, school personnel shall not forward such records to the requesting school, but shall instead notify the Principal, who shall notify the Sheriff's Department of the request and that the student is a reported missing person.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-214
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 43-2001 to 43-2012

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsRequests to Contact Students and Student Interviews by Non-School PersonnelA. Removals of Students and Interviews of Students

In dealing with law enforcement officials, McCook Public Schools' employees are not to obstruct government operations or unreasonably refuse or fail to aid a peace officer, but are also to attempt to prevent undue interference with District operations or educational programming.

1. Removals of Students by Law Enforcement Officials

Law enforcement officers should not be permitted to remove a child from school while the child is properly in attendance, without permission of the child's parent or guardian, except when legally authorized to do so. For purposes of this policy, a law enforcement officer is defined as: sheriffs, coroners, jailers, marshals, police officers, state highway patrol officers, members of the National Guard on active service by direction of the Governor during periods of emergency, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §49-801).

Law enforcement officers may in the line of duty require a student to accompany him or her for questioning or detention either with or without an arrest warrant. A peace officer has the lawful authority to take immediate temporary custody of children under the age of 18 with an arrest warrant, or without a warrant or order of the court when:

- (a) the child has violated a state law or municipal ordinance and such child was eleven years of age or older at the time of the violation, and the officer has reasonable grounds to believe such child committed such violation and was eleven years of age or older at the time of the violation;
- (b) the child is seriously endangered in his or her surroundings and immediate removal appears to be necessary for the child's protection;
- (c) the officer believes the child to be mentally ill and dangerous as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-908 and that the harm described in that section is likely to occur before proceedings may be instituted before the juvenile court;
- (d) the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the juvenile has run away from his or her parent, guardian, or custodian;
- (e) a probation officer has reasonable cause to believe that a juvenile is in violation of probation and that the juvenile will attempt to leave the jurisdiction or place lives or property in danger;
- (f) the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the juvenile is truant from school. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§43-418 and 43-248).

- (g) the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the child is immune from prosecution for prostitution under subsection (5) of section 28-801; or
- (h) the child has committed an act or engaged in behavior described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 and such child was under eleven years of age at the time of such act or behavior, and the officer has reasonable cause to believe such child committed such act or engaged in such behavior and was under eleven years of age at such time.

If a peace officer or probation officer requests to take custody of a student who is at that time under the control and jurisdiction of McCook Public Schools, the following action is to be taken:

- (a) Establish Authority to Remove. The student should be released after appropriate measures are taken and documented to ensure that the officer has the authority to take the student. The form attached as Exhibit “A” to this Policy may be used for this purpose.
- (b) Notify Local Law Enforcement. In some instances there may be orders for custody of a student served by the officers with authority to arrest from outside the jurisdiction McCook Public Schools. Local law enforcement should be contacted and requested to participate in or monitor the removal.
- (c) Notify Parent of Removal. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor student to the officer and the place to which the student is reportedly being taken. Provided, however, when a minor student has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, the principal or other school official is not required to notify the parent or guardian, but shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor student’s parents or guardian.

A student should not be released to a private detective or “special police officer” who is not an officer of a Nebraska political subdivision or an officer of an agency of the federal government without consent of the student’s parent, guardian or custodian.

2. Interviews of Students by Law Enforcement Officials

Law enforcement officers and other law authorities should be urged to contact students for questioning outside the instructional day and off school premises whenever possible. When it is appropriate that such questioning occur, the following guidelines are to be followed:

- (a) Interviews not related to District Events. If an interview of a student is requested during school hours concerning an ongoing investigation of a crime not related to McCook Public Schools, questioning should not take place until the student's parent, guardian or custodian has been contacted and permission is given for such interview. The consent should be documented. The presence of a school employee during the interview is not necessary.
- (b) Interviews Related to District Events. If the investigation relates to an incident which took place on school premises or during instructional time, it is not necessary to obtain consent of the student's parent, guardian or custodian. In these situations, an employee of the District should be present during the interview to ensure that the interview relates only to the incident which took place on school premises or during instructional time or something which is directly related thereto.
- (c) Child Abuse or Neglect. If an investigator represents that an interview is necessary to collect information concerning an allegation of child abuse or neglect or an offense involving a family relation and it is clear that obtaining parental consent for the interview would be impossible or counter-productive, the interview may be conducted without consent of the student's parent, guardian or custodian. In these situations, an employee of McCook Public Schools should be present during the interview to ensure that the interview relates only to those matters.
- (d) Probation Officer Interview. A probation officer assigned to a student by a court may be allowed the opportunity, on request, to interview a student on school premises. In such situations, it is neither necessary nor desirable that a District employee be present during the interview. It also is not necessary to obtain the consent of the parent, guardian, or custodian.

3. Disclosure of Student Records

School employees shall not, in the course of dealing with a peace officer or probation officer, disclose any confidential student records or information from such student records other than in response to a court order or subpoena or as otherwise authorized by state law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

4. Removals and Interviews by Persons other than Law Enforcement Officials

A person who comes to school premises to interview a student or remove a student prior to the end of the student's instructional day must obtain permission of an administrator or designee.

Permission to remove is not to be granted without consent of the student's parent, guardian or custodian, or a person authorized by the student's parent, guardian or custodian to give such permission.

Permission to interview on subjects not related to school matters is not to be granted unless there is a clearly valid and proper reason for the interview and such is not disruptive to school operations or the student's educational program. Ordinarily such contacts shall be restricted to the student's parent, guardian or custodian or a friend of the family when an emergency or other similar circumstance exists.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 43-248; 43-418; 79-294; 79-2104
20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g (FERPA)

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

AR-5413--Exhibit A

Affidavit and Release to Remove Student

Date: _____

The undersigned hereby states and affirms to the McCook Public Schools as follows:

1. That I am duly-appointed and acting peace officer employed by _____ and am currently acting within the scope of such employment.

2. That request is hereby made of the McCook Public Schools to deliver to me the following named student: _____.

3. That I am entitled to immediate physical custody of said student by virtue of:

() Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-248 for the reason that said student (1) violated a state or municipal law in my presence, (2) is believed by me to have committed a felony, (3) is seriously endangered in his or her surroundings and immediate removal appears to be necessary for the student’s protection, or (4) is believed to have run away from his or her parent, guardian, or custodian.

() There having been issued a valid warrant for such student’s arrest, a true copy of which is attached hereto.

() There being reasonable grounds for me to arrest such student without a warrant, such grounds being that: _____

() Other (specify) the student being placed under arrest due to following authority:

4. That the undersigned will take immediate action to notify the parent(s), custodian, or legal guardian of said student that said student has been taken into custody and the reason or reasons for said custody.

5. That the undersigned has the legal right to take custody of the student without the consent of said student’s parent(s), guardian, custodian, or the McCook Public Schools.

6. That any facts or circumstances set out on the back of this affidavit and release are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

(Give complete description of officer’s name and position, including badge number)

**AR-5413--Exhibit B
Affidavit to Interview or Question Student**

Date: _____

The undersigned requests the right to interview or question _____, a student of the McCook Public Schools, and hereby states and affirms to the McCook Public Schools as follows:

() That the undersigned is a duly appointed probation officer acting pursuant to a valid appointment by the _____ Court of _____ County, Nebraska.

() That the undersigned is duly authorized by law to investigate allegations of criminal activity and this request is made to facilitate such an investigation.

() That the undersigned is duly authorized by law to investigate allegations of criminal activity and this request is made to facilitate an investigation of criminal activity which occurred on the school premises.

() That the undersigned is duly authorized by law to investigate allegations of abuse or neglect as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-710(3) and this request is made to facilitate an investigation where a family member is alleged to have committed acts of abuse or neglect against the above-named student.

() That requesting consent to the interview from the child's parent or guardian and notification of child's parent or guardian of the interview would be counter productive, and request is hereby made that the same be kept confidential.

That the additional information, if any, set out on the back of this affidavit is true and correct and is incorporated herein by reference.

(Give complete description of officer's name and position including badge number)

StudentsIdentification of Learners with High Ability

The Board of Education recognizes that the student population includes students with exceptional academic abilities. Efforts to refer and identify learners with high ability will be made at each grade level. Multiple criteria shall be used for identification purposes and identification efforts shall be inclusionary.

Learners with high ability shall be identified in the academic areas of mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts. Identification of learners in grades 3-11 with high ability in the specified academic areas shall be based on the criteria listed below. Students shall meet two of the following criteria to be identified as a learner with high ability.

- 1) Composite total test score of the 95th percentile or above on the NRT **OR**, 95th percentile or above in math, reading, language arts, science, or social studies; **PLUS** a composite total of 90% or above on the same test.
- 2) A score of above average or higher on a cognitive screening test.
- 3) Teacher nomination.

A listing of students who meet the district criteria for learners of high ability and the areas of high capability of each of those students will be made available to classroom teachers, by the school district administration, within the first thirty (30) days of each school year.

Within the first thirty (30) days of each school year, the school district administration shall make available to parents or guardians of identified learners with high ability information about how their child has been identified.

The administration shall implement the district wide plan for learners with high ability, as such plan is modified from time to time, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-1106 to 79-1108.03
NDE Rule 3

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsAnti-Bullying Policy

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-2,137
Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-254 to
79-296
NDE February 2003 State Board Action; Reaffirmed
December 2005

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsStudent Fees Policy

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

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

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes Appendix "I," which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2023-2024 school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

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

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

the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.

(2) Personal or consumable items & miscellaneous

(a) Extracurricular Activities. Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in extracurricular activities.

(b) Courses

(i) General Course Materials. Items necessary for students to benefit from courses will be made available by the District for the use of students during the school day. Students may be encouraged, but not required, to bring items needed to benefit from courses including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, notebooks, trappers, protractors and math calculators. A specific class supply list will be published annually in a Board-approved student handbook or supplement or other notice. The list may include refundable damage or loss deposits required for usage of certain District property.

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

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

(iv) Music Course Materials. Students will be required to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy. The District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

(v) Parking. Students may be required to pay for parking on school grounds or at school-sponsored activities, and may be subject to payment of fines or damages for damages caused with or to vehicles or for failure to comply with school parking rules.

(3) Extracurricular Activities-Specialized equipment or attire. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District. The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire

fitted for the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such as dance squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir) uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or band members, will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouth pieces, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant. Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extracurricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire. For musical extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

(4) Extracurricular Activities-Fees for participation. Any fees for participation in extracurricular activities for the 2023-2024 school year are further specified in Appendix "1." Admission fees are charged for extracurricular activities and events.

(5) Postsecondary education costs. Students are responsible for postsecondary education costs. The phrase "postsecondary education costs" means tuition and other fees only associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive high school credit and for which the student may also receive postsecondary education credit, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

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

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

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

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

(10) Breakfast and lunch programs. Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a "school store," a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

(11) Waiver Policy. The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities and (2) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced price lunches for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials.

(12) Distribution of Policy. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall publish the District's student fee policy in the Student Handbook or the equivalent (for example, publication may be made in an addendum or a supplement to the student handbook). The Student Handbook or the equivalent shall be provided to every student of the District or to every household in which at least one student resides, at no cost.

(13) Student Fee Fund. The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

CERTIFICATION

On the ___ day of _____, 20___, the school board held a public hearing at a meeting of the school board on a proposed student fee policy. Such public hearing followed a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the

student fee policy for the preceding school year. The foregoing student fee policy was adopted after such public hearing by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting in compliance with the public meetings laws.

Superintendent or Other Authorized School Official

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-2125 to 79-2135 and Laws 2003, LB 249 (The Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act)
Neb. Constitution, Article VII, section 1.
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-241, 79-605, and 79-611(transportation)
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-2104 (student files or records)
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-715 (eye-protective devices)
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-737 (liability of students for damages to school books)
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-1104 (before-and-after-school or pre-kindergarten services)
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-1106 to 79-1108.03 (accelerated or differentiated curriculum program)

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

**Appendix "1" to 2023-2024 Student Fees Policy of
McCook Public Schools**

Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees¹

Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum)² or Specific Material Required
Elementary Program		
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt
Art classes and special projects or events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged
Music-Optional band Courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None--costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to \$5.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to \$100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	\$50 to \$200 per class.

¹ This listing is a part of the current Student Fees Policy and is intended to provide supplemental information. For additional specifications, refer to the Policy.

² Generally, dollar amounts are stated in terms of "maximums." The actual fee or charge may be less during the current school year.

Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge).	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast (Grades 1-4)--\$1.40 Lunch (Grades 1-4)--\$2.40 Milk (Grades 1-4)--\$.35 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
Secondary Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and white socks, running shorts, T-shirt
Art and shop classes and special projects, science classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire) Goggles-1 pair provided per year. If lost or damaged students are required to purchase a new pair.	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing for shop classes; approved protective goggles for science classes.
Music-Optional band courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student.
Classroom Supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Classroom Projects, i.e, Family & Consumer Science, Industrial Technology	Project Cost	Student pays cost that is beyond the standard project provided by the school.
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Some calculators will be available at school. If lost or damaged a replacement fee will be assessed at a rate paid by the school. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Ten cents (.10) per page when charges apply.

School Meals		Breakfast (Grades 5-12)--\$1.55 Lunch (Grades 5-12)--\$2.55 Milk (Grades 5-12)--\$.35 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
Post-secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit.	None—Any postsecondary education costs are to be paid directly by students to the college.
End of year lost or damaged books	Damage fee or replacement cost	Fees and fines up to \$5.00 for damaged books. Lost books or ruined books are charged replacement cost, generally at a maximum of \$60.00
Yearbooks - Optional	School Book	Yearbooks are published and made available for purchase every year. Cost is generally about \$35
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep programs & tests	Costs of college entrance tests or prep courses, such as ACT preparation tutoring, PSAT test, and ACT test, are optional and to be paid directly to the private companies involved.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	Drivers education class: \$175 to \$275
Locker usage	Use of school padlock	\$5.00 fee if damaged or not returned at the end of the year.
Extracurricular and other programs	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Athletic Programs		
1. Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	\$5.00 per event maximum. Students may purchase an Activity Ticket for \$30.00 per year. For District and Conference events hosted by the School, cost to be set by NSAA but not to exceed \$20.00 per event.
2. Athletic Physicals	NSAA required athletic Physicals	Cost varies; payable directly to student's physician or clinic.

3. Equipment and Attire	Students are responsible for required equipment and attire appropriate to the sport or activity which are not provided by the school, and are responsible for any optional clothing, equipment, or other items associated with the sport or activity. Uniform items are checked out to students. If lost or damaged students will be assessed fees in the amount of replacement cost.	Required items include athletic undergarments (supporter, bra, socks and undershirts), practice attire, including shorts, shirts, socks and shoes suitable for the activity, and dress attire suitable for team travel. Optional items for which students are responsible include: personal athletic bags, hair ties, sweat bands, non-required gloves, swim goggles, towels, forearm pads and personal medical devices (braces, orthopedic inserts, etc.). Additional required items for particular sports or activities include:	
		Basketball	No additional
		Football	Mouthpiece
		Golf	Golf bag & clubs
		Speech	Dress attire; copies of research
		Track	No additional
		Volleyball	Volleyball knee pads
		Wrestling	Wrestling head gear
		Cheerleading and Flag Team Squads	Shoes, approved uniforms (top & skirt; jacket), poms and other accessories
4. Travel meals	Meals	Students are responsible for their own meals while traveling.	
5. Locker use	Padlock for locker	\$5.00 fee if damaged or not returned at the end of the year.	
6. Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps or clinics	Students are responsible for the cost of all clinics, camps and conditioning programs. Any personal items purchased at camps or clinics, such as t-shirts, shall be at the student's expense.	
7. Athletic Clubs	Letterman's club and other clubs supporting the athletic program	Currently no dues required. Annual dues not to exceed \$25.00 per club.	

8. Marching Band and Musical Groups	Equipment and attire.	Students will be responsible for the same costs as are set out for the athletic program. Students will be responsible for supplying their own musical instruments and accessories and for their own uniforms. Uniforms for the marching band will be supplied by the school; students may be required to pay a refundable band uniform rental fee of up to \$50.00. For High School Band Students an \$8.00 uniform cleaning fee is requested. For Junior High Band Students a \$7.00 uniform cleaning fee is requested. For High School Vocal students a \$6.00 choir robe cleaning fee is requested.
Vocal Music Group	Coordinating group attire	Students will pay for outfits selected by the group. Cost will be based on selection at a maximum of \$130.00
Clubs/Organizations		
Future Farmers (F-F-A)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Future Career/Community Leaders (FCCLA)	State & national dues, meals and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
National Honor Society	State & national dues, meals and activities	Currently no dues required. Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Swing Choir	Attire	Students are responsible for purchasing outfits and accessories. Not to exceed \$150.00.
All Girls Swing Choir	Attire	Students are responsible for purchasing outfits and accessories.
Student Council	State & national dues, meals and activities	Currently no dues required. Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.
Dance Team	Uniforms	Uniforms range up to \$250.00. Camp attendance is optional.
Cheerleading	Uniforms	Uniforms range up to \$500.00. Camp attendance is optional.
Social & Recognition Activities		
1. School plays, musicals and social activities	Admission to events	\$10.00 per play or activity
2. School dances	Admission to prom, homecoming, etc.	Up to \$10.00 per event

3. Class dues		Currently no dues are assessed. Each of the six secondary classes may assess its members an amount not to exceed \$50.00 annually for rental and decoration of dance facilities, punch and snacks at social activities, memorials and recognition plaques, flowers, and cards, and similar class activities. The payment of such an assessment shall be strictly voluntary, but students who do not pay may be denied admission to extracurricular activities supported by the class dues.
4. Picture Packets	Optional - Pictures are still taken for use in school yearbook.	Students purchase packets as desired and pay directly to photo company.
5. Senior recognition assessment	Optional graduation Activities	Participation in class activities attendant to graduation (such as being part of the composite picture, special yearbook pages, etc.) is not required in order for students to receive their high school diploma. Students who choose to participate will be required to pay the cost of the items involved in the graduation ceremony and attendant class activities. These may include the rental of graduation robes, caps, tassels, class flowers, one mother's flower, class gift, yearbook picture page, and class composite picture. A single Senior Class Recognition Assessment, not to exceed \$50, will be assessed to those Seniors who elect to participate in such activities. Expenses for above mentioned items will be paid out of the "Class Activity" account until funds are depleted. After this fund is empty, students will be responsible for all optional graduation activity costs.
6. Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	For the extracurricular and options trip - Seniors' Day Out to Lincoln and Omaha, students will be assessed a \$5.00 fee and will be responsible for meals. Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extracurricular activity. The maximum costs of such trips will be \$2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on

		the trip does not count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.
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**APPLICATION FOR FEE WAIVER
AND SHARING INFORMATION CONSENT
MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

FEE WAIVER REQUEST

The Nebraska Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act allows fee waivers for students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs. The fee waivers give qualifying students the right to not have to pay certain student fees and to be provided with specialized materials or equipment to participate in certain activities. **Specifically, the fee waiver applies to: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, and (2) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities.** Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section.

The Board's Student Fee Policy states: *Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials.* To request a fee waiver, or to decline a fee waiver, complete the following:

- No! I **DO NOT** want a fee waiver for any programs or activities.
- Yes! I **DO** want a fee waiver. I request a fee waiver for the following (Note: Please describe the fee waiver, materials, or equipment requested, and the activity or course; failure to make timely request for a fee waiver for any fees, equipment, material, or instrument not listed may result in a fee waiver not being provided):

Student Name: _____ Student Number: _____

Activity or Course: _____

Describe fee waiver or materials or equipment requested, including amount if known:

Activity or Course: _____

Describe fee waiver or materials or equipment requested, including amount if known:

Activity or Course: _____

Describe fee waiver or materials or equipment requested, including amount if known:

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____
Principal/Designee Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

This form is to be returned to the Principal/Designee.

SHARING INFORMATION CONSENT

To save you time and effort, the information you gave on your Application for Free or Reduced Meals may be shared with other programs for which your children may qualify. **For the fee waiver program, we must have your permission to share your Application for Free or Reduced Meals information in order to confirm your eligibility for a fee waiver. However, in no event will the manner in which you complete the consent form change whether your child gets free or reduced price meals.**

- No! I **DO NOT** want information from my Application for Free or Reduced Meals share for purposes of the fee waiver program.
- Yes! I **DO** want school officials to share information from my Application for Free or Reduced Meals with appropriate school officials for purposes of the student fee waiver program and any other program that would benefit student(s).

Child's Name: _____ School: _____

Student Identification Number: _____

Printed Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

For more information, you may call your school Principal.

Original to Superintendent

Once this fee waiver application form is turned into the school completed correctly, the school will verify the student's free and reduced lunch status. The School will also review the items on the Application to insure consistency with the School Board's policy. The fee waived items for your student are covered by the district as long as your student is actively participating in fund raising (where applicable) and contributing to their activity.

Students**School Wellness Policy**

A mission of McCook Public Schools (“District”) is to provide curriculum, instruction, and experiences in a health-promoting school environment to instill habits of lifelong learning and health. Therefore, the Board adopts the following School Wellness Policy.

1. District Wellness Committee**Committee Role and Membership**

The District will convene a representative District Wellness Committee (“DWC”) or work within an existing school health committee that meets at least four times per year to establish goals for and oversee school health and safety policies and programs, including development, implementation and periodic review and update of this District wellness policy.

The DWC membership will represent all school levels and include (to the extent possible), but not be limited to: parents and caregivers; students; representatives of the school nutrition program; physical education teachers; health education teachers; school health professionals or staff; mental health and social services staff; school administrators; school board members; and the general public. When possible, membership will also include Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education coordinators. To the extent possible, the DWC will include representatives from each school building and reflect the diversity of the community.

Leadership

The Superintendent or designee(s) will convene the DWC and facilitate development of and updates to the wellness policy, and will ensure each school’s compliance with the policy.

Each school will designate a school wellness policy coordinator, who will ensure compliance with the policy.

2. Wellness Policy Implementation, Monitoring, Accountability and Community Engagement***Implementation Plan***

The District will develop and maintain a plan for implementation to manage and coordinate the execution of this wellness policy. The plan delineates roles, responsibilities, actions and timelines specific to each school; and includes information about who will be responsible to make what change, by how much, where and when; as well as specific goals and objectives for nutrition standards for all foods and beverages available on the school campus, food and beverage marketing, nutrition promotion and education, physical activity, physical education and other school-based activities that promote student wellness. It is recommended that the school use the Healthy Schools Program online tools to complete a school-level assessment based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s School Health Index, create an action plan that fosters implementation and generate an annual progress report.

This wellness policy and the progress reports can be found at the District’s website.

Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at the Superintendent's office and/or on the District's computer network. Documentation maintained in this location will include but will not be limited to:

- The written wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating that the policy has been made available to the public;
- Documentation of efforts to review and update the Local Schools Wellness Policy; including an indication of who is involved in the update and methods the district uses to make stakeholders aware of their ability to participate on the DWC;
- Documentation to demonstrate compliance with the annual public notification requirements;
- The most recent assessment on the implementation of the local school wellness policy;
- Documentation demonstrating the most recent assessment on the implementation of the Local School Wellness Policy has been made available to the public.

Annual Notification of Policy

The District will actively inform families and the public each year of basic information about this policy, including its content, any updates to the policy and implementation status. The District will make this information available via the District website and/or district-wide communications. The District will provide as much information as possible about the school nutrition environment. This will include a summary of the District's events or activities related to wellness policy implementation. Annually, the District will also publicize the name and contact information of the District officials leading and coordinating the committee, as well as information on how the public can get involved with the school wellness committee.

Triennial Progress Assessments

At least once every three years, the District will evaluate compliance with the wellness policy to assess the implementation of the policy and include:

- The extent to which the District's schools are in compliance with the wellness policy;
- The extent to which the District's wellness policy compares to [a] the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's model wellness policy; and
- A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of the District's wellness policy.

The position/person responsible for managing the triennial assessment and contact information is the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

The DWC, in collaboration with individual schools, will monitor schools' compliance with this wellness policy.

The District will actively notify households/families of the availability of the triennial progress report.

Revisions and Updating the Policy

The DWC will update or modify the wellness policy based on the results of the annual School Health Index and triennial assessments and/or as District priorities change; community needs

change; wellness goals are met; new health science, information, and technology emerges; and new Federal or state guidance or standards are issued. The wellness policy will be assessed and updated as indicated at least every three years, following the triennial assessment.

Community Involvement, Outreach and Communications

The District is committed to being responsive to community input, which begins with awareness of the wellness policy. The District will actively communicate ways in which representatives of DWC and others can participate in the development, implementation and periodic review and update of the wellness policy through a variety of means appropriate for that district. The District will also inform parents of the improvements that have been made to school meals and compliance with school meal standards, availability of child nutrition programs and how to apply, and a description of and compliance with Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. The District will use electronic mechanisms, such as email or displaying notices on the District's website, as well as non-electronic mechanisms, such as newsletters, presentations to parents, or sending information home to parents, to ensure that all families are actively notified of the content of, implementation of, and updates to the wellness policy, as well as how to get involved and support the policy. The District will ensure that communications are culturally and linguistically appropriate to the community, and accomplished through means similar to other ways that the District and individual schools are communicating important school information with parents.

The District will actively notify the public about the content of or any updates to the wellness policy annually, at a minimum. The District will also use these mechanisms to inform the community about the availability of the annual and triennial reports.

3. Nutrition

School Meals

The District is committed to serving healthy meals to children, with plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free and low-fat milk; that are moderate in sodium, low in saturated fat, and have zero grams *trans* fat per serving (nutrition label or manufacturer's specification); and to meeting the nutrition needs of school children within their calorie requirements. The school meal programs aim to improve the diet and health of school children, help mitigate childhood obesity, model healthy eating to support the development of lifelong healthy eating patterns and support healthy choices while accommodating cultural food preferences and special dietary needs.

All schools within the District that participate in USDA child nutrition programs, including the National School Lunch Program (NSLP), the School Breakfast Program (SBP), and any additional Federal child nutrition programs will meet the nutrition requirements of such programs. The District may also operate additional nutrition-related programs and activities. All schools within the District are committed to offering school meals through the NSLP and SBP programs, and other applicable Federal child nutrition programs, that:

- Are accessible to all students;
- Are appealing and attractive to children;
- Are served in clean and pleasant settings;

- Meet or exceed current nutrition requirements established by local, state, and Federal statutes and regulations. (The District offers reimbursable school meals that meet USDA nutrition standards.)
- Promote healthy food and beverage choices using at least ten of the following Smarter Lunchroom techniques:
 - Whole fruit options are displayed in attractive bowls or baskets (instead of chaffing dishes or hotel pans).
 - Sliced or cut fruit is available daily.
 - Daily fruit options are displayed in a location in the line of sight and reach of students.
 - All available vegetable options have been given creative or descriptive names.
 - Daily vegetable options are bundled into all grab-and-go meals available to students.
 - All staff members, especially those serving, have been trained to politely prompt students to select and consume the daily vegetable options with their meal.
 - White milk is placed in front of other beverages in all coolers.
 - Alternative entrée options (e.g., salad bar, yogurt parfaits, etc.) are highlighted on posters or signs within all service and dining areas.
 - A reimbursable meal can be created in any service area available to students (e.g., salad bars, snack rooms, etc.).
 - Student surveys and taste testing opportunities are used to inform menu development, dining space decor and promotional ideas.
 - Student artwork is displayed in the service and/or dining areas.
 - Daily announcements are used to promote and market menu options.

Staff Qualifications and Professional Development

All school nutrition program directors, managers and staff will meet or exceed hiring and annual continuing education/training requirements in the USDA professional standards for child nutrition professionals. These school nutrition personnel will refer to USDA's Professional Standards for School Nutrition Standards website to search for training that meets their learning needs.

Water

To promote hydration, free, safe, unflavored drinking water will be available to all students throughout the school day and throughout every school campus ("school campus" and "school day" are defined in the glossary). The District will make drinking water available where school meals are served during mealtimes.

Competitive Foods and Beverages

The District is committed to ensuring that all foods and beverages available to students on the school campus during the school day support healthy eating. The foods and beverages sold and served outside of the school meal programs (e.g., "competitive" foods and beverages) will meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, at a minimum. Smart Snacks aim to improve student health and well-being, increase consumption of healthful foods during the school day and create an environment that reinforces the development of healthy eating habits. A summary of the standards and information, as well as a Guide to Smart Snacks in Schools are available at: <http://www.fns.usda.gov/healthierschoolday/tools-schools-smart-snacks>. The

Alliance for a Healthier Generation provides a set of tools to assist with implementation of Smart Snacks available at www.foodplanner.healthiergeneration.org.

To support healthy food choices and improve student health and well-being, all foods and beverages outside the reimbursable school meal programs that are sold to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks nutrition standards or, if the state policy is stronger, will meet or exceed state nutrition standards. These standards will apply in all locations and through all services where foods and beverages are sold, which may include, but are not limited to, à la carte options in cafeterias, vending machines, school stores and snack or food carts.

Celebrations and Rewards

All foods offered on the school campus will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards or, if the state policy is stronger, will meet or exceed state nutrition standards, including through:

1. Celebrations and parties. The District will provide a list of healthy party ideas to parents and teachers, including non-food celebration ideas.
2. Classroom snacks brought by parents. The District will provide or make available to parents a list of foods and beverages that meet Smart Snacks nutrition standards.
3. Rewards and incentives. The District will provide teachers and other relevant school staff a list of alternative ways to reward children or other comparable resources. Foods and beverages will not be used as a reward, or withheld as punishment for any reason, such as for performance or behavior.

Fundraising

Foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition standards may be sold through fundraisers on the school campus during the school day. The District will make available to parents and teachers a list of healthy fundraising ideas or comparable resources.

Nutrition Promotion

Nutrition promotion and education positively influence lifelong eating behaviors by using evidence-based techniques and nutrition messages, and by creating food environments that encourage healthy nutrition choices and encourage participation in school meal programs. Students and staff will receive consistent nutrition messages throughout schools, classrooms, gymnasiums, and cafeterias. Nutrition promotion also includes marketing and advertising nutritious foods and beverages to students and is most effective when implemented consistently through a comprehensive and multi-channel approach by school staff, teachers, parents, students and the community.

The District will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students throughout the school campus, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs. This promotion will occur through:

- Implementing at least ten or more evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs using Smarter Lunchroom techniques; and
- Ensuring 100% of foods and beverages promoted to students meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.

Nutrition Education

The District will teach, model, encourage and support healthy eating by all students. Schools will provide nutrition education and engage in nutrition promotion that:

- Is designed to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to promote and protect their health;
- Is part of not only health education classes, but also integrated into other classroom instruction through subjects such as math, science, language arts, social sciences and elective subjects;
- Includes enjoyable, developmentally-appropriate, culturally-relevant and participatory activities, such as cooking demonstrations or lessons, promotions, taste-testing, farm visits and school gardens;
- Promotes fruits, vegetables, whole-grain products, low-fat and fat-free dairy products and healthy food preparation methods;
- Emphasizes caloric balance between food intake and energy expenditure (promotes physical activity/exercise);
- Links with school meal programs, cafeteria nutrition promotion activities, school gardens, Farm to School programs, other school foods and nutrition-related community services;
- Teaches media literacy with an emphasis on food and beverage marketing; and
- Includes nutrition education training for teachers and other staff.

Essential Healthy Eating Topics in Health Education

The District will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on healthy eating:

- Relationship between healthy eating and personal health and disease prevention
- Food guidance from MyPlate
- Reading and using FDA's nutrition fact labels
- Eating a variety of foods every day
- Balancing food intake and physical activity
- Eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grain products
- Choosing foods that are low in fat, saturated fat, and cholesterol and do not contain *trans* fat
- Choosing foods and beverages with little added sugars
- Eating more calcium-rich foods
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Risks of unhealthy weight control practices
- Accepting body size differences
- Food safety
- Importance of water consumption
- Importance of eating breakfast
- Making healthy choices when eating at restaurants

- Eating disorders
- The Dietary Guidelines for Americans
- Reducing sodium intake
- Social influences on healthy eating, including media, family, peers and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to nutrition and dietary behavior
- How to develop a plan and track progress toward achieving a personal goal to eat healthfully
- Resisting peer pressure related to unhealthy dietary behavior
- Influencing, supporting, or advocating for others' healthy dietary behavior

Food and Beverage Marketing in Schools

The District is committed to providing a school environment that ensures opportunities for all students to practice healthy eating and physical activity behaviors throughout the school day while minimizing commercial distractions. The District strives to teach students how to make informed choices about nutrition, health and physical activity. These efforts will be weakened if students are subjected to advertising on District property that contains messages inconsistent with the health information the District is imparting through nutrition education and health promotion efforts. It is the intent of the District to protect and promote student's health by permitting advertising and marketing for only those foods and beverages that are permitted to be sold on the school campus, consistent with the District's wellness policy.

Any foods and beverages marketed or promoted to students on the school campus during the school day will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards or, if stronger, state nutrition standards, such that only those foods that comply with or exceed those nutrition standards are permitted to be marketed or promoted to students.

Food and beverage marketing is defined as advertising and other promotions in schools. Food and beverage marketing often includes oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product made by the producer, manufacturer, seller or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product. This term includes, but is not limited to the following:

- Brand names, trademarks, logos or tags, except when placed on a physically present food or beverage product or its container.
- Displays, such as on vending machine exteriors
- Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on school equipment, such as marquees, message boards, scoreboards or backboards (Note: immediate replacement of these items are not required; however, districts will replace or update scoreboards or other durable equipment when existing contracts are up for renewal or to the extent that it is financially possible over time so that items are in compliance with the marketing policy.)
- Corporate brand, logo, name or trademark on cups used for beverage dispensing, menu boards, coolers, trash cans and other food service equipment; as well as on posters, book covers, pupil assignment books or school supplies displayed, distributed, offered or sold by the District.
- Advertisements in school publications or school mailings.
- Free product samples, taste tests or coupons of a product, or free samples displaying advertising of a product.

As the District/school nutrition services/Athletics Department/PTA/PTO reviews existing contracts and considers new contracts, equipment and product purchasing (and replacement) decisions should reflect the applicable marketing guidelines established by the District wellness policy.

4. Physical Activity

Children and adolescents should participate in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day. A substantial percentage of students' physical activity can be provided through a comprehensive school physical activity program (CSPAP). A CSPAP reflects strong coordination and synergy across all of the components: quality physical education as the foundation; physical activity before, during and after school; staff involvement and family and community engagement and the District is committed to providing these opportunities. Schools will ensure that these varied physical activity opportunities are in addition to, and not as a substitute for, physical education (addressed in "Physical Education" subsection). All schools in the District will be encouraged to participate in *Let's Move! Active Schools* (www.letsmoveschools.org), or comparable program, in order to successfully address all CSPAP areas.

Physical activity during the school day (including but not limited to recess, classroom physical activity breaks or physical education) will not be withheld as punishment. The District will provide teachers and other school staff with a list of ideas or resources for alternative ways to discipline students.

To the extent practicable, the District will ensure that its grounds and facilities are safe and that equipment is available to students to be active. The District will conduct necessary inspections and repairs.

Physical Education

The District will provide students with physical education, using an age-appropriate, sequential physical education curriculum consistent with national and state standards for physical education. The physical education curriculum will promote the benefits of a physically active lifestyle and will help students develop skills to engage in lifelong healthy habits, as well as incorporate essential health education concepts (discussed in the "*Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education*" subsection). The curriculum will support the essential components of physical education.

All students will be provided equal opportunity to participate in physical education classes. The District will make appropriate accommodations to allow for equitable participation for all students and will adapt physical education classes and equipment as necessary.

All elementary students in each grade will receive physical education for at least 60-89 minutes per week throughout the school year.

All secondary students (middle and high school) are required to take the equivalent of one academic year of physical education.

The District's physical education program will promote student physical fitness through individualized fitness and activity assessments (via the Presidential Youth Fitness Program or other appropriate assessment tool) and will use criterion-based reporting for each student.

Essential Physical Activity Topics in Health Education

Health education will be required in all elementary grades and the District will require middle and high school students to take and pass at least one health education course. The District will include in the health education curriculum a minimum of 12 of the following essential topics on physical activity:

- The physical, psychological, or social benefits of physical activity
- How physical activity can contribute to a healthy weight
- How physical activity can contribute to the academic learning process
- How an inactive lifestyle contributes to chronic disease
- Health-related fitness, that is, cardiovascular endurance, muscular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, and body composition
- Differences between physical activity, exercise and fitness
- Phases of an exercise session, that is, warm up, workout and cool down
- Overcoming barriers to physical activity
- Decreasing sedentary activities, such as TV watching
- Opportunities for physical activity in the community
- Preventing injury during physical activity
- Weather-related safety, for example, avoiding heat stroke, hypothermia and sunburn while being physically active
- How much physical activity is enough, that is, determining frequency, intensity, time and type of physical activity
- Developing an individualized physical activity and fitness plan
- Monitoring progress toward reaching goals in an individualized physical activity plan
- Dangers of using performance-enhancing drugs, such as steroids
- Social influences on physical activity, including media, family, peers and culture
- How to find valid information or services related to physical activity and fitness
- How to influence, support, or advocate for others to engage in physical activity
- How to resist peer pressure that discourages physical activity.

Recess (Elementary)

All elementary schools will offer at least 20 minutes of recess on all days during the school year. Exceptions may be made as appropriate, such as on early dismissal or late arrival days. If recess is offered before lunch, schools will have appropriate hand-washing facilities and/or hand-sanitizing mechanisms located just inside/outside the cafeteria to ensure proper hygiene prior to eating and students are required to use these mechanisms before eating. Hand-washing time, as well as time to put away coats/hats/gloves, will be built in to the recess transition period/timeframe before students enter the cafeteria.

Outdoor recess will be offered when weather and other conditions make it feasible for outdoor play.

In the event that recess must be held indoors, teachers and staff will follow the indoor recess guidelines that promote physical activity for students, to the extent practicable.

Recess will complement, not substitute, physical education class. Recess monitors or teachers will encourage students to be active, and will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Classroom Physical Activity Breaks (Elementary and Secondary)

Students will be offered periodic opportunities to be active or to stretch throughout the day on all or most days during a typical school week. The District recommends teachers provide short (3-5-minute) physical activity breaks to students during and between classroom time at least three days per week. These physical activity breaks will complement, not substitute, for physical education class, recess, and class transition periods.

The District will provide resources and links to resources, tools, and technology with ideas for classroom physical activity breaks. Resources and ideas are available through the USDA and the Alliance for a Healthier Generation.

Active Academics

Teachers will incorporate movement and kinesthetic learning approaches into “core” subject instruction when possible (e.g., science, math, language arts, social studies and others) and do their part to limit sedentary behavior during the school day.

The District will support classroom teachers incorporating physical activity and employing kinesthetic learning approaches into core subjects by providing annual professional development opportunities and resources, including information on leading activities, activity options, as well as making available background material on the connections between learning and movement.

Teachers will serve as role models by being physically active alongside the students whenever feasible.

Before and After School Activities

The District offers opportunities for students to participate in physical activity either before and/or after the school day through a variety of methods. The District will encourage students to be physically active before and after school by sponsoring or permitting: physical activity clubs and physical activity in aftercare, intramurals or interscholastic sports.

Active Transport

The District will support active transport to and from school, such as walking or biking. The District will encourage this behavior by requiring that its schools engage in six or more of the activities below, to be selected by each school administration; including but not limited to:

- Designate safe or preferred routes to school
- Promote activities such as participation in International Walk to School Week and National Walk and Bike to School Week
- Secure storage facilities for bicycles and helmets (e.g., shed, cage, fenced area)

- Instruction on walking/bicycling safety provided to students
- Promote safe routes program to students, staff, and parents via newsletters, websites, local newspaper
- Use crossing guards
- Use crosswalks on streets leading to schools
- Use walking school buses
- Document the number of children walking and or biking to and from school
- Create and distribute maps of school environment (e.g., sidewalks, crosswalks, roads, pathways, bike racks, etc.)

5. Other Activities that Promote Student Wellness

The District will integrate wellness activities across the entire school setting, not just in the cafeteria, other food and beverage venues and physical activity facilities. The District will coordinate and integrate other initiatives related to physical activity, physical education, nutrition and other wellness components so all efforts are complementary, not duplicative, and work towards the same set of goals and objectives promoting student well-being, optimal development and strong educational outcomes.

Schools in the District are encouraged to coordinate content across curricular areas that promote student health, such as teaching nutrition concepts in mathematics, with consultation provided by either the school or the District's curriculum experts.

All efforts related to obtaining federal, state or association recognition for efforts, or grants/funding opportunities for healthy school environments will be coordinated with and complementary of the wellness policy, including but not limited to ensuring the involvement of the DWC.

All school-sponsored events will adhere to the wellness policy guidelines. All school-sponsored wellness events will include physical activity and healthy eating opportunities when appropriate.

Community Partnerships

The District will develop, enhance, or continue relationships with community partners (e.g., hospitals, universities/colleges, local businesses, SNAP-Ed providers and coordinators, etc.) in support of this wellness policy's implementation. Existing and new community partnerships and sponsorships will be evaluated to ensure that they are consistent with the wellness policy and its goals.

Community Health Promotion and Family Engagement

The District will promote to parents/caregivers, families, and the general community the benefits of and approaches for healthy eating and physical activity throughout the school year. Families will be informed and invited to participate in school-sponsored activities and will receive information about health promotion efforts.

As described in the "Community Involvement, Outreach, and Communications" subsection, the District will use electronic mechanisms (e.g., email or displaying notices on the District's website), as well as non-electronic mechanisms, (e.g., newsletters, presentations to parents or

sending information home to parents), to ensure that all families are actively notified of opportunities to participate in school-sponsored activities and receive information about health promotion efforts.

Staff Wellness and Health Promotion

The DWC will have a staff wellness subcommittee that focuses on staff wellness issues, identifies and disseminates wellness resources and performs other functions that support staff wellness in coordination with human resources staff.

Schools in the District will implement strategies to support staff in actively promoting and modeling healthy eating and physical activity behaviors. The District promotes staff member participation in health promotion programs and will support programs for staff members on healthy eating/weight management that are accessible and free or low-cost.

Professional Learning

When feasible, the District will offer annual professional learning opportunities and resources for staff to increase knowledge and skills about promoting healthy behaviors in the classroom and school (e.g., increasing the use of kinesthetic teaching approaches or incorporating nutrition lessons into math class). Professional learning will help District staff understand the connections between academics and health and the ways in which health and wellness are integrated into ongoing district reform or academic improvement plans/efforts.

Glossary

School Campus: areas that are owned or leased by the school and used at any time for school-related activities, including on the outside of the school building, school buses or other vehicles used to transport students, athletic fields and stadiums (e.g., on scoreboards, coolers, cups, and water bottles), or parking lots.

School Day: the time between midnight the night before to 30 minutes after the end of the instructional day.

Triennial – recurring every three years.

Legal Reference: Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, 42 U.S.C. Section 1758b; 7 CFR Sections 210.11 and 210.30; National School Lunch Program, 42 U.S.C Sections 1751-1760, 1770; Regulations and Procedures for Accreditation of Schools, NDE Rule 10

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Administrative Regulation for School Wellness Policy

Additional Wellness Goals, Nutrition Guidelines and Implementation Plan

The School Wellness Policy establishes a mission of providing a curriculum, instruction, and experiences in the environment of a health-promoting school community, to instill habits of lifelong learning and health. The School Wellness Policy authorizes the Superintendent to establish such further goals and nutrition guidelines as are determined appropriate to meet the stated mission. This regulation sets forth additional goals and nutrition guidelines as appropriate to meet the District's school wellness mission and implement the School Wellness Policy.

Nutrition Education Activities to Promote Student Wellness

The base goal is to implement a curriculum that meets or exceeds the health and nutrition education objectives established by the Nebraska Department of Education. The administration establishes the following additional goals and actions to achieve such goals:

1. Curriculum: Nutrition education will be integrated into other subjects to complement, but not replace, the health and nutrition education curriculum that is provided in accordance with NDE Rule 10. Educators are to incorporate the promotion of healthy eating nutrition lifestyles in all subject areas as appropriate.
2. Display Nutrition Education Materials: The cafeteria shall display posters or other communications suitable to the ages of students served that promote healthy nutrition choices (e.g., display food pyramid). Educators are encouraged to incorporate such communications in their classrooms as well.
3. Nutrition Health Events: Educators are encouraged to search for and take advantage of events that promote nutrition education. Activities may include:
 - a. health fairs
 - b. traveling health exhibits
 - c. field trips to farm or food production facilities
 - d. school gardens
 - e. health speakers (school assemblies or class speakers on nutrition)
4. Family:
 - a. Parents are to be welcomed to join their children at school lunch as appropriate.
 - b. School communications to parents will include information about healthy nutrition; such as by including information about healthy snacks for children.
5. Staff: Our employees are encouraged to be healthy role models for students. It is important for students to receive consistent messages. Staff is discouraged from eating foods or drinking beverages of minimal nutritional value during the school day in the presence of students.

Physical Activities to Promote Student Wellness

The established goal is to implement a curriculum that meets or exceeds the health and physical education objectives established by the Nebraska Department of Education. The administration establishes the following additional goals and actions to achieve such goals:

1. Curriculum: Health and physical education will be integrated into other subjects to complement, but not replace, the health and physical education curriculum provided in accordance with NDE Rule 10. Educators are to incorporate physical activity promotion and non-sedentary lifestyles in all subject areas as appropriate.
2. Physical Activity During the School Day:
 - a. Recess:
 - i. Elementary students will have the opportunity for daily recess. Weather and other

conditions permitting, recess will be outdoors. Students who are idle during recess are to be encouraged by supervising staff to engage in physical activity. Daily minimums are as follows: Pre-school: 30 minutes; Grades K-3: 50 minutes (15 for ½ day Kindergarten); Grades 4-6: 35 minutes. Minimums include lunch recess. Minimums are set for “ordinary” days and are subject to modification in the judgment of the educator when events such as field trips, testing, etc. occur during the day.

- ii. Middle School and High School students will have the opportunity for physical activity during their lunch period. The gym or outside facilities will be open to use during lunch when possible.
 - b. Class Time: Physical activity within class periods (e.g. stretching breaks when students are at task for more than 50 minutes) will be encouraged.
3. Physical Activity To/From School:
 - a. To encourage biking or walking to school, the administration will work with law enforcement and as appropriate volunteer parent safety monitors to provide safe routes to school. Bike racks will be established commensurate with need.
 - b. In establishing bus pick up/drop off sites, the fact that students will have to walk farther from a particular site will not necessarily be considered as a negative factor.
 4. As Punishment: Physical activity will not be used as punishment and will not be withheld as punishment. This guideline shall not apply to extra-curricular activities. Educators may use appropriate professional discretion to make exceptions to this guideline. In no event, however, will physical activity be used as a form of corporal punishment.
 5. Display Physical Activity Educational Materials: The cafeteria, gym and health classrooms shall display posters or other communications suitable to the ages of students served that promote physical activity and non-sedentary lifestyles (e.g., display sports posters, walking fitness posters). Educators are encouraged to incorporate such communications in their classrooms as well.
 6. Physical Activity Health Events: Educators are encouraged to search for and take advantage of events that promote physical activity education. Activities may include:
 - a. health fairs
 - b. traveling health exhibits
 - c. field trips to physical activity centers
 - d. physical activity speakers (school assemblies or class speakers representing sports figures, medical people)
 7. Family:
 - a. The school’s physical activity facilities (playground, gym) will be made available to use by parents with their children outside the normal school day, subject to priority use being for children and subject to other competing uses and safety and risk management considerations.
 - b. School communications to parents will include information that promotes physical activity. Such communications may include information about the benefits of physical activity to children and the distribution of information about youth sports programs.
 8. Staff: Our employees are encouraged to be healthy role models for students. It is important for students to receive consistent messages. Staff is encouraged to be seen engaging in non-sedentary lifestyles. For example, staff is encouraged to walk or bike to work; use stairs even if an elevator is available; and share as appropriate personal information about physical activities they engage in to remain fit.

Other School Activities to Promote Student Wellness

The established goal is to offer other suitable opportunities to students to engage in health-promoting activities. The administration establishes the following additional goals and actions to achieve such goals:

1. Extracurricular Programs: The District will offer athletic and other activity programs subject to and

in compliance with the bylaws of the Nebraska School Activities Association. Secondary school students will be offered the opportunity to participate in intramural sports activities commensurate with their interests and school resources.

2. After-School Facility Uses: The school's physical activity facilities (playground, gym) will be made available to use by students outside the normal school day, subject to other competing uses and safety and risk management considerations.
3. Advertising: The administration will monitor advertising that occurs in the school and endeavor to limit messages that promote foods of minimal nutritional value.
4. Staff Development:
 - a. Professional staff members will be provided with professional development and guidance on appropriate practices and procedures to implement the school wellness goals and recommendations. Professional development activities will include activities each year related to the integration of physical activities and nutrition education into the academic curriculum, use of food as rewards and denial of physical activities as a disciplinary consequence, and other wellness goals and activities.
 - b. The District will provide ongoing training and development for food service staff related to nutrition and wellness goals and activities.
5. Community Resources: The administration will coordinate the school wellness program efforts with those available from medical and other community organizations.

Nutrition Guidelines

The established nutrition guidelines for foods available in each school building during the school day are as follows: (1) school breakfast and lunch programs will be offered which meet or exceed the requirements of federal and state law and regulatory authorities and (2) no foods in competition with the school lunch or breakfast program shall be sold or otherwise made available to students anywhere on school premises during the period of one-half hour prior to the serving period for breakfast and lunch and lasting until one-half hour after the serving of breakfast and lunch.

The administration establishes the following additional nutrition guidelines and actions to meet the guidelines:

1. Conditions for School Meals:
 - a. Scheduling meals. Lunch periods will be scheduled at times when students are in need of nutrition (e.g., in the middle of their school day). Students will be provided adequate time to eat. In general students will, upon arrival in the cafeteria, have at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and 15 minutes to eat lunch.
 - b. Conditions for meals. Efforts shall be made to establish comfortable and relaxed eating conditions. The factors to promote these conditions will be a clean, orderly environment, pleasant food services staff, adequate seating, enforcement of student conduct rules and adequate supervision.
2. Selection of School Meals:
 - a. School Meals: School meals shall at a minimum meet nutrition requirements established by state and federal law. The school food service staff is to offer meals that are of a nutritional value higher than that required. Emphasis is to be on good menu planning principles that offer healthy food choices including lean meats, a variety of fruits and non-fried vegetables daily, whole grains once each week, and low-fat or nonfat milk daily. Locate these choices where they are readily accessible to students. Limit portion sizes of desserts and fried foods.
 - b. Ala carte selections: Elementary students are to be offered balanced meals. Elementary students are not to be sold individual food or beverage selections except for limited portions of low-fat foods, no-fat milk, fruits, and non-fried vegetables. Middle School and High School students may be sold foods and beverage ala carte provided the ala carte items not include foods of minimal nutritional value and that the offerings include fruits, non-fried vegetables, and healthy beverages (waters and 100% fruit juices).

3. Student's Meals From Home: Students will be discouraged from sharing food and be prohibited from sharing foods brought from home. Parents will be encouraged via health promotional materials to make healthy choices for student lunches.
4. Closed Campus. To encourage students to eat a nutritious lunch, students will not be permitted to leave school during the school day for the purpose of lunch. Exceptions: Students may leave at lunch time if they will be eating lunch at home, with parent permission. Juniors and Seniors may leave campus for lunch, even if they will not be eating lunch at home, with parent permission. Students who leave campus for lunch may not bring any purchased meals or other food back to school. The administration may grant special exceptions to the closed campus rule as needed (e.g., for students with special dietary needs).
5. Vending machines:
 - a. Vending machines will not be available for student use at any school for the period of ½ hour before and ½ hour after breakfast and lunch periods.
 - b. Elementary school students: Vending machines with foods of minimal nutritional value will not be available to use by elementary school students at any time during the school day.
 - c. Middle school students: Vending machines with foods of minimal nutritional value will not be available to use by middle school students for the period of 1 hour before and 1 hour after breakfast and lunch periods.
 - d. High school students: Vending machines with foods of minimal nutritional value will not be available to use by high school students for the period of 1 hour before and 1 hour after breakfast and lunch periods.
 - e. Promotion of Healthy Choices: At least one vending machine in each school building shall include healthy choices (e.g., water, 100% fruit juices, low-fat/non-fat milk, animal crackers, granola bars, whole-grain fruit bars, pretzels, nuts, plain trail mix).
6. Foods available during the school day:
 - a. Water: Students will be allowed access to water during the school day. Water fountains are available. Educators may in their discretion allow students to bring water bottles to classes. Students will not be permitted to bring soda pop or other drinks or food to class.
 - b. Food rewards. Food will not be used as rewards. No foods are to be provided by the school or school staff during instructional time except: healthy foods, foods provided for instructional purposes (e.g., cultural programs, FCS classes, and foods given in accordance with a special education student's IEP).
 - c. Classroom Celebrations:
 - i. Staff is not to offer students foods of minimal nutritional value for classroom celebrations.
 - ii. Parents are to be encouraged to bring healthy foods for classroom celebrations.
7. Fund-raising:
 - a. School clubs are not to sell food for the period of ½ hour before and ½ hour after breakfast and lunch periods.
 - b. Student clubs are encouraged to not sell foods of minimal nutritional value as part of fund-raising efforts.
 - c. Each activity sponsor shall report to the Principal the percentage of total fund-raising receipts from sales of foods of minimal nutritional value as of the end of the each school year.
8. School activities/events:
 - a. Athletes: Student athletes serve as role models. Coaches are to encourage healthy eating by student athletes. The coaches' conduct rules may limit consumption of foods of minimal nutritional value by their athletes during their sport season.
 - b. Concessions: Concession stands will include healthy food choices. Efforts will be made to reduce offerings of foods of minimal nutritional value.

9. Definition of Foods of Minimal Nutritional Value: For purposes of this regulation, “foods of minimal nutritional value” has the same meaning as in the federal regulations for the National School Lunch program. Foods of minimal nutritional value are as follows:

Food of minimal nutritional value means: (i) In the case of artificially sweetened foods, a food which provides less than five percent of the Reference Daily Intakes (RDI) for each of eight specified nutrients per serving; and (ii) in the case of all other foods, a food which provides less than five percent of the RDI for each of 8 specified nutrients per 100 calories and less than 5% of the RDI for each of eight specified nutrients per serving. The 8 nutrients to be assessed for this purpose are -- protein, vitamin A, vitamin C, niacin, riboflavin, thiamine, calcium, and iron.

Specific foods of minimal nutritional value are:

- (1) Soda Water.
 - (2) Water Ices (except those which contain fruit or fruit juices).
 - (3) Chewing Gum.
 - (4) Certain Candies -- Processed foods made predominantly from sweeteners or artificial sweeteners with a variety of minor ingredients which characterize the following types:
 - (i) Hard Candy -- A product made predominantly from sugar (sucrose) and corn syrup which may be flavored and colored, is characterized by a hard, brittle texture, and includes such items as sour balls, fruit balls, candy sticks, lollipops, starlight mints, after dinner mints, sugar wafers, rock candy, cinnamon candies, breath mints, jaw breakers and cough drops.
 - (ii) Jellies and Gums -- A mixture of carbohydrates which are combined to form a stable gelatinous system of jelly-like character, and are generally flavored and colored, and include gum drops, jelly beans, jellied and fruit-flavored slices.
 - (iii) Marshmallow Candies -- An aerated confection composed as sugar, corn syrup, invert sugar, 20 percent water and gelatin or egg white to which flavors and colors may be added.
 - (iv) Fondant -- A product consisting of microscopic-sized sugar crystals which are separated by thin film of sugar and/or invert sugar in solution such as candy corn, soft mints.
 - (v) Licorice -- A product made predominantly from sugar and corn syrup which is flavored with an extract made from the licorice root.
 - (vi) Spun Candy -- A product that is made from sugar that has been boiled at high temperature and spun at a high speed in a special machine.
 - (vii) Candy Coated Popcorn. -- Popcorn which is coated with a mixture made predominantly from sugar and corn syrup.
10. Definition of Healthy Foods: For purposes of this regulation, “healthy foods” means foods that are not foods of minimal nutritional value, and that are low in fats, sodium and sugars, and high per serving in the nutrients which are needed to meet Reference Daily Intakes.

StudentsHomeless StudentsA. General Policy Statement

The District shall ensure that homeless children and youths shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

B. Definitions

“School of Origin” shall mean the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including preschool. School of origin shall also include any designated receiving school for the next grade level for all feeder schools when a student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.

“Homeless children and youths” shall mean any individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in (1-3).

“Unaccompanied youth” shall mean a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

C. School Stability

1. School Selection: Each school shall presume that keeping a homeless child or youth enrolled in the child’s or youth’s school of origin is in the child’s or youth’s best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.

To overcome the presumption that a child or youth should remain in his/her school of origin, the school shall consider student-centered factors including: the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.

2. Enrollment: Once the school is selected in accordance with the child's or youth's best interest, that child or youth shall be immediately enrolled even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment including, but not limited to, previous academic records, immunization or other health records, proof of residency or has missed any application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
3. Transportation: If the child or youth continues to attend his or her school of origin, transportation shall be provided promptly even if there is a dispute pending regarding which school is in the child's or youth's best interest to attend. Transportation will continue to be provided to and from the school of origin for the remainder of any academic year during which the child or youth becomes permanently housed.

D. Records

Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained:

1. Such that all records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enrolls in a new school or school district;
2. Any information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a confidential student education record, and shall not be deemed to be directory information; and
3. In a manner consistent with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

E. Services

The Local Education Agency Liaison shall identify an appropriate staff person to be the Local Educational Liaison (LEL) for all homeless children and youth attending school in the District. The LEL responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Ensure homeless children and youth are identified through outreach and coordination activities including coordination with the Nebraska Department of Education Homeless Education Liaison, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths;

2. Receive appropriate time and training in order to carry out the duties required by law and this policy;
3. Ensure homeless families and homeless children and youths are referred to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing and any other appropriate services;
4. Ensure that homeless children and youths:
 - a. Are enrolled in school which includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities;
 - b. Have a full and equal opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths;
 - c. Receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus supports.
 - d. Unaccompanied youths are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and may obtain assistance from the LEL to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
5. Ensure that public notice of the educational rights and available transportation services of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youths and unaccompanied homeless youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable.
6. Ensure the dispute resolution process identified below is carried out in accordance with the law and district policy.

F. Dispute Resolution

1. The dispute procedure must be available for disputes over eligibility, as well as school selection or enrollment.
2. In the event of a dispute regarding where a child or youth should enroll, the child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals. The district shall immediately provide the child's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth a written explanation of the decision made regarding the school selection including the right to appeal such decision. Said writing shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and also include the LEL contact information.

The LEL shall carry out the dispute resolution process within 30 calendar days from the date of said writing pursuant to 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 19-005.02.

3. Appeals: Any parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge of a homeless child or youth that is dissatisfied with the decision of a school district after the dispute resolution process may file an appeal with the Commissioner within thirty calendar days of receipt of the decision by following the process in 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 19-005.03 and 19-005.03C.

A party may appeal the decision of the Commissioner or designee by filing a Petition with the State Board of Education within thirty (30) calendar days of the receipt of the decision. Refer to NDE, Rule 19, Section 005.03C for further details. https://www.education.ne.gov/legal/webrulespdf/CLEAN19_2016.pdf

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-215
Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC Sections 11431, et seq.
Every Student Succeeds Act

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Homeless Education Program

HOMELESS STUDENT ENROLLMENT INFORMATION & PLACEMENT REQUEST

Child's Name: (Last Name) (First Name) (M.I.) Birth Date: Grade

Parent/Guardian Name (Last Name) (First Name) (M.I.) Unaccompanied Youth ("Yes" or "No")

Current Address

Telephone Number: (If phone # not available, phone number of someone who can be contacted and their relationship, if any).

Information provided on this form is confidential.

1. Homeless Status

a. Do you live in any of these following situations?

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (example: evicted from home, cannot afford housing, etc.)
in a motel, hotel, campground or similar setting due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations
in emergency or transitional shelters such as domestic violence or homeless shelters or transitional housing shelter or agency
have a primary nighttime residence that is a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans
in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings
None of the above.

b. How long do you anticipate living in current location?

2. School Most Recently Attended

School: (School Name) (City) (State)

Dates of Attendance: to

Grade level when last attended:

3. Eligible for any of these educational and school related activities and services?

Special Education (IDEA) If yes, please identify disability and special education services previously provided :

- English Language Learners (ELL) Gifted Vocational Education
- Other _____

4. Possible Barriers to Education

- No Birth Certificate No immunizations or other medical records
- No School Records Transportation School Selection
- Other issues/barriers _____

5. Requested Services and Activities to be Provided by Homeless Student Program

- Obtaining or transferring records necessary for enrollment
- Emergency assistance related to school attendance
- Expedited evaluations
- Transportation Clothing to meet a school requirement School supplies
- Early childhood program Tutoring or other instructional support
- Before/after-school, mentoring, summer programs
- Referrals for medical, dental, or other health services
- Referral to other programs/services
- Assistance with participation in school programs
- Parent education related to rights/resources
- Coordination between schools and agencies
- Counseling Addressing needs related to domestic violence
- Staff professional development/awareness
- Other _____

6. Placement

a. School placement requested by parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth: _____

b. Reason(s) for Request: _____

c. Name of "School of Origin" _____

(School of Origin means the school that the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled).

Enrollment Date _____

Has student been withdrawn? _____

If so, what was the withdraw date? _____

d. Distance from:

i. Residence to the school of origin (miles): _____

ii. Residence to the school requested (if not school of origin): _____

Parent or Guardian or Unaccompanied Youth's signature

Date

Children living in homeless situations have certain rights under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Please contact the Homeless Coordinator with any questions.

WRITTEN NOTIFICATION OF ENROLLMENT/PLACEMENT DECISION FOR HOMELESS STUDENT

Child's Name: _____

In compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the following written notification is provided to:

Parent/Guardian _____ Unaccompanied Youth _____
(Name) (Name)

After reviewing your request to enroll the child, the determinations are as follows:

Homeless student program eligibility:

_____ Child does not qualify under the homeless student program.
_____ Child qualifies under the homeless student program. This determination was based upon: _____

Placement (if enrolled under the homeless student program) was made based on best interest of the student. The placement will be at: _____
(Name)

Explanation for this determination (if not school of origin or the choice of parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth, give detail): _____

If you are not satisfied with the determinations, you have the right to use the dispute resolution process. Contact the Homeless Coordinator and complete a Dispute Resolution Form.

Notices:

- The student has the right to be immediately admitted in the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute.
- You may contact the Nebraska Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
matt.blomstedt@nebraska.gov
Telephone: (402) 471-5020
- You may seek the assistance of advocates or attorneys.

Administrator

Date

Written Notification Form was given to parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth on _____ (Date).

Homeless Education Program

DISPUTE RESOLUTION FORM

This form should be completed when a dispute arises over school enrollment/placement.

Child's Name: _____

Person completing form: _____ (Name) (Relation to Student)

I may be contacted at (address/phone/e-mail): _____

I wish to dispute the following decision: _____

The decision I am disputing was wrong because (give detailed information in support of your position and use an attachment if necessary): _____

Persons who have information to support my position (include contact information): _____

I request that the following action be taken on this dispute: _____

Parent or Guardian or Unaccompanied Youth's signature

Date

-----For School Use-----

Date received by Homeless Coordinator _____

-----Determination of Homeless Coordinator-----

In compliance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, the following written notification is provided to:

Parent/Guardian _____ (Name) Unaccompanied Youth _____ (Name)

After reviewing the information relevant to your dispute my determination is as follows:

Explanation for this determination: _____

Notice of Right to Appeal: If you are not satisfied with the determination on this dispute, you have the right to appeal as provided for in the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19. The appeal is to be filed with the Commissioner of Education within 30 calendar days of receipt of this decision. For information about an appeal you may contact:

Nebraska Commissioner of Education
Nebraska Department of Education
matt.blomstedt@nebraska.gov
Telephone: (402) 471-5020

Administrator

Date

The Determination of the Homeless Coordinator on this dispute was given to parent/guardian or unaccompanied youth on _____ (Date).

StudentsStudent Privacy Protection Policy

It is the policy of McCook Public Schools to develop and implement policies which protect the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws. The District's policies in this regard include the following:

- A. Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties
Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.
- B. Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive
The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.
- C. Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials
Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term instructional materials for purposes of this policy.

The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times and place as will not interfere with the educator's intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.

D. Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings

The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parent opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

E. Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students

The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information.

Personal information for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) home address, (3) telephone number, and (4) social security number. The term personal information, for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

F. Parent Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information

While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed

to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection Policy

The District shall provide parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy and other policies related to the student privacy. Such notice shall be given to parents of students enrolled in the District at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in such policies.

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events

The District shall directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

1. The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information);
2. Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and
3. Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parent opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings;

(2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities. In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive

Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be Asensitive@ for purposes of this policy:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's parent;
3. sex behavior or attitudes;
4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student's parent;
8. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Mental Health Assessment or Service

The District shall obtain informed consent from the parent of each child who is under 18 years of age to participate in any mental-health assessment or service that is funded under the Every Student Succeeds Act (“ESSA”). Before obtaining the consent, the District shall provide the parent written notice describing in detail such mental health assessment or service, including the purpose for such assessment or service, the provider of such assessment or service, when such assessment or service will begin, and how long such assessment or service may last.

Legal Authorities: Every Student Succeeds Act
 Protection of Pupil Privacy Amendment, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232h and 34 CFR Part 98;
 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.1232g;
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-530 to 79-533

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

StudentsDating Violence

McCook Public Schools strives to provide physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors are encouraged in the educational program and are required of all students and staff. Dating violence will not be tolerated.

For purposes of this policy “dating violence” means a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. “Dating partner” means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long term.

Incidents of dating violence involving students at school will be addressed as the administration determines appropriate, within the scope and subject to the limits of the District’s authority.

Staff training on dating violence shall be provided as deemed appropriate by the administration. The dating violence training shall include, but need not be limited to, basic awareness of dating violence, warning signs of dating violence, and the District's dating violence policy.

Dating violence education that is age-appropriate shall be incorporated into the school program. Dating violence education shall include, but not be limited to, defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships.

The administration will be responsible for ensuring that this dating violence policy is published in the school district’s student-parent handbook or an equivalent such publication. Parents and legal guardians shall be informed of the dating violence policy by such other means as the administration determines appropriate. If requested, parents or legal guardians shall be provided a copy of the dating violence policy and relevant information.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-2139 to 79-2142

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Students

Use of Restraints and Seclusion

This policy sets forth the requirements, restrictions and procedures related to the use of physical restraints and seclusions at McCook Public Schools.

1. Definitions

- A. Physical Restraint. Physical restraint means one or more persons using a physical hold to restrict a student's freedom of movement as a response to student behavior. A light touching of a student while conducting a physical escort or a touching to provide instructional assistance is not a physical restraint for purposes of this Guidance.
- B. Seclusion. Seclusion is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving as a response to student behavior.

Seclusion is distinguishable from an in-school suspension, in which other students or adults may be present. While students are required to remain in the in-school suspension area, the students are not physically prevented from leaving.

2. Physical Restraint

- A. When Physical Restraint May be Used. Physical restraint may be used in the following circumstances:
- To prevent a student from completing an act that would result in injury to the student or others when there is a substantial risk that the student would commit the act.
 - A verbal threat by a student does not present a substantial risk that a student would commit an aggressive act unless the student also demonstrates the ability and intent to carry out the threat.
 - Destruction of or damage to property does not present a substantial risk of personal injury unless personal injury would be caused as a result of the destructive act (for example, throwing sharp or heavy objects when others are present, or the person whose property is about to be destroyed is likely to react physically if the person's property were destroyed). (Note: If a student is about to destroy or damage property, the act of grasping the student's arm or leg solely to prevent the striking, throwing or kicking of the item is not prohibited).
 - To move a student to a seclusion room, or to remove a student to another location because the student is creating a substantial disruption to others, in

circumstances where the student is unable to be moved or removed without the use of physical restraint; and

- In circumstances where the student's IEP or a Behavioral Plan provides for the use of physical restraint in circumstances other than the foregoing. If it is anticipated that physical restraint may need to be used with a special education student, the IEP team is to discuss and include use of physical restraint in the student's IEP if the IEP team determines use of physical restraint to be appropriate. (Note: IEPs or Behavioral Plans should not provide for such physical restraint except in those circumstances where the professional staff determines that non-aversive or positive intervention strategies would not be effective).

Physical restraint may not be used:

- When a known medical or psychological condition contraindicates its use.
- As a form of punishment.

- B. Conditions. Use of physical restraint shall take into consideration the safety and security of the student.

In determining whether a student who is being physically restrained should be removed from the area where such restraint was initiated, the staff shall consider the potential for injury to the student, the student's privacy interests, and the educational and emotional well-being of other students in the vicinity.

If physical restraint is imposed upon a student whose primary mode of communication is sign language or an augmentative mode, the student shall be permitted to have his or her hands free of restraint for brief periods, unless staff determines that such freedom appears likely to result in harm to the student or others.

- C. Timeline. Physical restraint is to be used only as long as necessary to resolve the reason for which it was initiated.
- D. Training. Physical restraint shall be applied only by individuals who have received systematic training that includes all the elements described below. An individual who applies physical restraint shall use only techniques in which he or she has received such training within the preceding two (2) years.

Training with respect to physical restraint may be provided either by the School District or by an external entity and shall include, but need not be limited to:

- Appropriate procedures for preventing the need for physical restraint, including the de-escalation of problematic behavior, relationship-building, and the use of alternatives to restraint;

- A description and identification of dangerous behaviors on the part of students that may indicate the need for physical restraint and methods for evaluating the risk of harm in individual situations in order to determine whether the use of restraint is warranted;
- The simulated experience of administering and receiving a variety of physical restraint techniques, ranging from minimal physical involvement to very controlling interventions;
- Instruction regarding the effects of physical restraint on the person restrained, including instruction on monitoring physical signs of distress and obtaining medical assistance;
- Instruction regarding documentation and reporting requirements and investigation of injuries and complaints; and
- Demonstration by participants of proficiency in administering physical restraint.

An individual may provide training to others in a particular method of physical restraint only if he or she has completed training in that technique that meets the foregoing requirements within the preceding one-year period.

3. Seclusion

A. When Seclusion May be Used. Seclusion may be used in the following circumstances:

- When a student's behavior is so out of control that the student's behavior creates a risk of injury to the student or others;
- When a student's behavior is so out of control that the student is causing a substantial disruption to school activities and there is no other technique and no other place the student may be moved to prevent continued disruption;
- When a student's behavior is so out of control that the student is unable to engage in educational activities and there is no other technique that could reasonably be employed to allow the student's emotions to cool down and engage in appropriate behaviors and educational activities; and
- The student has an IEP or a Behavioral Plan which provides for the use of seclusion in circumstances other than the foregoing. If it is anticipated that seclusion may need to be used with a special education student, the IEP team is to discuss and include use of seclusion in the student's IEP if the IEP team determines use of seclusion to be appropriate. (Note: IEPs or Behavioral Plans should not provide for use of seclusion except in those circumstances where the professional staff determines that non-aversive or positive intervention strategies would not be effective).

Seclusion may not be used:

- When a known medical or psychological condition contraindicates its use.
- As a form of punishment.

B. Conditions. Use of seclusion shall take into consideration the safety and security of the student.

Enclosures used for seclusion, other than enclosures used on a temporary basis, shall:

- Have the same ceiling height as the surrounding room or rooms and be large enough to accommodate not only the student being isolated but also any other individual who is required to accompany that student.
- Be constructed of materials that cannot be used by students to harm themselves or others, be free of electrical outlets, exposed wiring, and other objects that could be used by students to harm themselves or others, and be designed so that students cannot climb up the walls (including walls far enough apart so as not to offer the student being isolated sufficient leverage for climbing).
- If an enclosure used for isolated time out is fitted with a door, the door shall either be a steel door or a wooden door of solid-core construction. If the door includes a viewing panel, the panel shall be unbreakable.
- Be designed to permit visual monitoring of and communication with the student sufficient to ensure the student's safety and security. For students who do not communicate verbally, arrangements shall be made to permit the student to periodically communicate the student's needs.
- If a locking mechanism is used on the enclosure, the mechanism shall be constructed so that it will engage only when a key, handle, knob, or other similar device is being held in position by a person, unless the mechanism is an electrically or electronically controlled one that is automatically released when the building's fire alarm system is triggered. Upon release of the locking mechanism by the supervising adult, the door must be able to be opened readily.

The procedures for use of seclusion include:

- An adult who is responsible for supervising the student shall remain within close proximity of the enclosure.
- The adult responsible for supervising the student must periodically check on the student visually if possible.

C. Timeline. A student shall not be kept in seclusion for more than 20 minutes after the student ceases presenting the specific behavior for which isolated time out was

imposed or any other behavior for which isolated time out would be an appropriate intervention.

- D. Training. Orientation will be provided to staff members who are anticipated to be involved in the use of seclusion. The orientation shall cover the procedures contained in this Guidance.

4. Documentation and Evaluation

- A. Documentation of Use of Physical Restraint or Seclusion. A written record of each use of seclusion or physical restraint shall be prepared and maintained in the student's temporary record. The student's case manager, if any, shall also maintain a copy of each such record. Each such record shall include:

- The student's name;
- The date of the incident;
- The beginning and ending times of the incident;
- A description of any relevant events leading up to the incident;
- A description of any interventions used prior to the implementation of physical restraint or seclusion;
- A description of the incident and/or student behavior that resulted in implementation of physical restraint or seclusion;
- A log of the student's behavior during physical restraint or seclusion, including a description of the restraint technique(s) used and any other interaction between the student and staff;
- A description of any injuries (whether to students, staff, or others) or property damage;
- A description of any planned approach to dealing with the student's behavior in the future;
- A list of the school personnel who participated in the implementation, monitoring, and supervision of physical restraint or seclusion;
- The date on which the parent or guardian was notified.

The record shall be completed by the beginning of the school day following the use of seclusion or physical restraint.

- B. Notification of Administration. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall be notified of the incident as soon as possible, but no later than the end of the school day on which it occurred.

- C. Notification of Parent or Guardian. Within 24 hours after use of seclusion or physical restraint, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall send written notice of the incident to the student's parents or guardians, unless the parent or guardian has provided the District a written waiver of this requirement for notification. The parent or guardian shall be informed of the date of the incident, a description of the intervention (physical restraint or seclusion) used, and who at the school may be contacted for further information.

- D. Evaluation. An evaluation shall be conducted whenever a physical restraint exceeds 15 minutes or results in physical injury, whenever a seclusion exceeds 30 minutes, or use of physical restraint or seclusion is repeated with an individual student during any three-hour period:
- A certified staff person trained in the use of physical restraint, or knowledgeable about the use of seclusion, as applicable, shall evaluate the situation.
 - The evaluation shall consider the appropriateness of continuing the procedure in use, including the student's potential need for medication, nourishment, or use of a restroom, and the need for alternate strategies (e.g., assessment by a mental health crisis team, assistance from police, or transportation by ambulance).
 - The results of the evaluation shall be committed to writing and copies of this documentation shall be placed into the student's temporary student record and provided to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Community RelationsEmergency Exclusion of Persons from School

If the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee determines that a person may pose a health or safety risk to others, the Superintendent may exclude such person from school property. If such person is a student, then the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee may refer to the emergency exclusion provisions of Policy 5101. If such person is a staff member, then the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee may place said staff member on paid or unpaid leave. If such person is not a student or staff member, then the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall inform such person as soon as possible that they are not permitted on school property until further notice from the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

The Superintendent may consult with law enforcement, health officials or other experts in determining whether such exclusion should occur.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies

Conflict of Interest—Other Than Contracts or Employment

1. Members of the Board of Education of this School District shall abstain from voting on matters on which they may have a conflict of interest. Any Board member who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public, shall take the following actions as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should reasonably be aware of such potential conflict, whichever is sooner:

- (A) Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict; and,
- (B) Deliver a copy of the statement to the Secretary of the Board of Education, who shall enter the statement into the public records of the School District.

The Board member shall take such action as the Commission shall advise or prescribe to remove himself or herself from influence over the action or decision in the matter.

2. The provisions of paragraph 1 above shall not prevent a Board member from making or participating in the making of a School District-related decision to the extent that the individual's participation is legally required for the action or decision to be made. In such event, the Board member shall report the occurrence to the Commission.

3. Except as defined in Nebraska statute and this policy, conflict of interest of a Board member shall not prevent a Board member from serving on the Board or restrict the hiring or purchasing practices of this School District.

4. The Superintendent, or the Superintendent's designee, shall provide:
- (A) Each Board member with copies of state statutes of Nebraska pertaining to conflicts of interest at the organizational meeting of the Board of Education held at the regular School Board meeting in January of each year. In addition, any newly appointed or elected Board member shall be provided such statutes.
 - (B) When possible, provide each Board member with a list of financial matters on the agenda to come before the Board of Education at the next regular meeting in sufficient detail to allow the Board member to identify potential conflicts of interest and report and receive advice from the Commission.

5. For purposes of this policy, immediate family member shall be defined as a child residing in the Board member's household, a Board member's spouse or an individual claimed by that Board member or the Board member's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 49-1425; Sec. 49-14,101; Sec. 49-14,102; Sec. 49-14,103; Sec. 49-14,103.01; Sec. 49-14,103.02; Sec. 49-14,103.03; Sec. 49-14,103.04; Sec. 49-14,103.05; Sec. 49-14,103.06; Sec. 79-818; Sec. 79-544 and Sec. 49-1499.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersReporting Procedures

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that any school Board member who has a direct or indirect interest in a formal contract entered into with McCook Public Schools, or an open account, shall provide the Superintendent of schools with the following:

1. Names of the contracting parties.
2. Nature of the interest of the school Board member.
3. Date that the contract was approved by the school Board.
4. Amount of the contract.
5. Basic terms of the contract.

The above information shall be provided to the Superintendent of schools no later than ten (10) days after the contract has been signed by both parties. Such information shall be kept on a ledger, and shall be retained in the ledger for five (5) years from the date of the last day in office of the school Board member. The ledger kept by the Superintendent of schools shall be available for public inspection during the normal working hours.

It shall further be the policy of McCook Public Schools that in the case of open accounts, the above information shall be filed within ten (10) days after the account is opened and thereafter the interested officer shall file a revision to the statement within ten (10) days of each payment on the account specifying the date and amount of the payment.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 49-14,103.02

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

CONFLICTS LEDGER
CONTRACTS IN WHICH BOARD MEMBER HAS A POSSIBLE CONFLICT

(1) Names of the contracting parties-- (a) Business	(b) Board member with possible conflict	(2) Nature of the interest of the officer in question	(3) Date contract was approved by Board	(4) Amount of the contract ¹	(5) Basic terms of the contract

Note: May attach and reference NADC Form C-3.

Sec. 49-14,103.02. Contract with officer; information required; ledger maintained. The person charged with keeping records for each governing body shall maintain separately from other records a ledger containing the information listed in subdivisions (1) through (5) of this section about every contract entered into by the governing body in which an officer of the body has an interest and for which disclosure is made pursuant to section 49-14,103.01. Such information shall be kept in the ledger for five years from the date of the officer's last day in office and shall include the:

- (1) Names of the contracting parties;
- (2) Nature of the interest of the officer in question;
- (3) Date that the contract was approved by the governing body;
- (4) Amount of the contract; and
- (5) Basic terms of the contract.

The information supplied relative to the contract shall be provided no later than ten days after the contract has been signed by both parties. The ledger kept pursuant to this section shall be available for public inspection during the normal working hours of the office in which it is kept.

Source: Laws 1986, LB 548, Sec. 3; Laws 2001, LB 242, Sec. 22.

Sec. 49-14,103.03. Open account with officer; how treated. An open account established for the benefit of any governing body with a business in which an officer has an interest shall be deemed a contract subject to sections 49-14,103.01 to 49-14,103.06. The statement required to be filed by section 49-14,103.02 shall be filed within ten days after such account is opened. Thereafter, the person charged with keeping records for such governing body shall maintain a running account of amounts purchased on the open account. Purchases made from petty cash or a petty cash fund shall not be subject to sections 49-14,103.01 to 49-14,103.06.

Source: Laws 1986, LB 548, Sec. 4.

¹ If contract involves an open account insert "open account." A running account of amounts purchased is maintained in the records of the District Bookkeeper.

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersCode of Ethics

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that members of the Board of Education will exercise their responsibilities in accordance with the following Code of Ethics:

1. As a member of the local Board of Education, representing all the citizens of the McCook School District, each Board member will recognize:
 - a. That he or she has been entrusted with the educational development of the children and youth of the district.
 - b. That the district expects that the first and greatest concern of a school Board member will be the best interest of each and every one of the young people enrolled in the district's schools.
 - c. That the future welfare of this district, of this state, and of our nation depends in the largest measure upon the quality of education provided in McCook Public Schools to meet the needs of every learner.
 - d. That members of the Board of Education must collectively take the initiative in helping all the people in this district to have updated, accurate information about the public schools system, and to provide the finest possible school programs, school staff, and school facilities.
 - e. That by statute the authority of the Board of Education is derived from the state which is ultimately responsible for the organization and operation of the public schools and which determines the degree of discretionary power exercised by the Board representing the people of the McCook district.
 - f. That a school Board member must never neglect his or her personal obligation to the district and legal obligation to the State of Nebraska, nor surrender these responsibilities to any other person, group or organization; but that, beyond this, each school Board member has a moral and civic obligation to our country which can remain strong and free only so long as public schools in the United States are kept strong and free.
2. In view of the foregoing consideration, it must be the constant endeavor of each school Board member:
 - a. To devote time, thought and study to the duties and responsibilities of a school Board member so that he/she may render effective and creditable service.

- b. To work with fellow school Board members in a spirit of harmony and cooperation so as to convert differences of opinion which arise during discussion and debate into a consensus for the benefit of the students enrolled in McCook Public Schools.
- c. To base personal decisions upon all available facts in each situation, to vote honest conviction in every case, unswayed by partisan bias of any kind; thereafter, to abide by and uphold the final majority decision of the Board of Education.
- d. To remember at all times that individual Board members have no local authority outside the meetings of the Board of Education, and to conduct relationships with school staff members, local citizens, and all media of communication on the basis of this fact.
- e. To resist every temptation and outside pressure to use the position as a school Board member to benefit either oneself, immediate family or any other individual or agency apart from the total interest of the school system.
- f. To recognize that it is as important for the Board of Education to understand and evaluate the educational program of McCook Public Schools as it is to plan for the business of the school district.
- g. To bear in mind under all circumstances that the primary function of the Board of Education is to establish and maintain the policies by which the schools are to be administered, but that the administration of the educational program and the conduct of school business shall be the primary responsibility of the Superintendent of Schools and the professional and non-professional staff members who are employed to work with the Superintendent of Schools.
- h. To welcome and encourage active cooperation by citizens, organizations, and the media of communication in McCook Public Schools with respect to the establishment of policy on current school operation and proposed future developments.
- i. To strive step by step to achieve the ideal conditions for the most effective service by a Board of Education to its district, in a spirit of teamwork and unwavering commitment to the American system of public education as a primary means for preservation and perpetuation of our representative democracy.

Board Member Signature: _____

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationMethods of Operation

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that the Board of Education exercises authority over the schools in accordance with applicable laws. It determines policy; delegates executive supervisory and instructional authority to its employees; and appraises results achieved in light of goals established by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall direct its attention primarily to broad questions of policy and the appraisal of results rather than to administrative details. It shall be recognized that the implementation and the application of policy is an administrative task to be performed by the Superintendent of Schools and professional and non-professional staff elected to work with the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent and Principals shall be held responsible for the effective administration and supervision of McCook Public Schools and its policies.

All matters to be submitted to the Board of Education shall first be brought to the Superintendent of Schools for study, analysis, review and recommendation. The Superintendent will present to the Board of Education those matters which require formal action by the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-526
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-520

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationFormulation of Policies

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that the Board of Education, representing the people of the McCook School District, will be the governing body which determines all questions of general policy to be employed in the governance of the McCook Public Schools.

Proposals regarding school district policies and operation may be initiated by any of several sources: a parent, a taxpayer, a professional employee, a school board member, a non-professional employee, a professional consultant, a civic group, etc. Ordinarily policies will be developed for presentation to the Board of Education by the Superintendent.

Formal action on policy proposals, whatever their source, will be taken by the Board of Education in accordance with its bylaws. Ordinarily, the Board of Education shall take action on such matters upon the basis of recommendations presented to the Board of Education by the Superintendent or Policy Committee.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-554
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-520

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationAdoption, Amendment or Suspension of Policies

- A. Proposed policies introduced and recommended to the Board shall require a majority vote of the Board for adoption and if so passed shall take effect immediately.
- B. Any policy of the Board may be suspended for an agreed upon period of time by a majority vote of the members of the Board.
- C. The Superintendent, in case of emergency or to comply with legal requirements, may suspend any part of these policies and regulations as it pertains to administration of schools provided, however, that the Superintendent shall report the fact and the reason for such suspension at the next meeting of the Board of Education and, provided further that the suspension shall expire at the time of said report unless continued in effect by action of the Board of Education.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of Operation

Formulation of Administrative Regulations

The Board of Education shall delegate to the Superintendent of Schools the function of specifying required actions and outlining detailed arrangements for operation of the schools. These rules and detailed arrangements shall constitute the administrative regulations governing the schools. These rules and arrangements must, in every respect, be consistent with the policies adopted by the Board of Education.

The Board of Education shall approve administrative regulations when specific state laws require such action or when the Superintendent recommends that the Board of Education take such action.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-520

Date of Adoption: _____, 2023

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationMeetings

The formation of school policy is a public matter and final action on such a matter must be taken in an open meeting. Every meeting of the Board of Education shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of the Board of Education, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, and by federal and state law.

The term "meeting" shall refer to all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of the Board of Education for the purpose of briefing, discussing public business, forming tentative policy, or taking any action of the Board of Education. This definition of "meeting" includes any meeting of an advisory committee of the Board of Education, but specifically excludes any meeting of a subcommittee, or standing committee, of the Board of Education unless such subcommittee or standing committee has been given the authority to take formal action on behalf of the Board.

Since members of the Board of Education are unable to function officially as individuals, the meeting of the Board of Education will present an opportunity for the school program to be discussed and appraised and for individual biases and opinions to be aired as the members of the Board of Education strive for consensus decisions on specific issues. In addition, the meeting will provide an appropriate place for items of interest or concern to individual citizens or groups of the school community to be heard and considered. The Board of Education will take formal action only when the Board is meeting in open session.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-554
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-555
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 84-1412

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationTypes of MeetingsRegular Meetings

Regular scheduled meetings may be of two kinds: business or education or both. The education meetings may be held for the purpose of reviewing the school program, or for the development and discussion of policy.

Special Meetings

A special meeting may be called by the President of the Board, or upon recommendation of the Superintendent, or by two members collectively in the event the President fails to act, upon due notice as specified by the bylaws. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except that for which the meeting is called or that of an emergency nature.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-554
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 84-1409

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationDesignated Method of Giving Notice of Meetings

The Board of Education will give advance notice of meetings by publishing such notice in a newspaper of general circulation within the District's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's web site. If a newspaper refuses, neglects, or is unable to timely publish such notice, then notice may be given by (1) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (2) posting such notice in conspicuous public places within the District. The Board Secretary shall keep a written record of such postings.

Notice shall be given a reasonable time in advance of the meeting. Two (2) days advance notice shall be considered sufficient.

For an emergency meeting, notice shall not be required to be given; however, the Board will complete minutes for such an emergency meeting as required by law. An emergency has been defined as any event or occasional combination of circumstances which calls for immediate action or remedy; pressing necessity; exigency; a sudden or unexpected happening; an unforeseen occurrence or condition.

The Secretary of the Board of Education, or the Secretary's designee, shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to such news media of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at the meeting.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-554; 79-555 and 84-1411

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationAgenda Construction and Control

- A. Written meeting agendas will be prepared by the Superintendent in collaboration with the President of the Board of Education. Any Board member may submit agenda items to be placed on the agenda by the Superintendent and the Board President for consideration. If two or more members of the Board of Education submit an agenda item, it will be placed on the agenda if the addition abides by other policies and regulations concerning public school agendas.

- B. Control of the agenda is the responsibility of the Board President. Agenda items shall set forth the matter to be discussed at that agenda item. An agenda, kept continuously current, shall be readily available for public inspection on the District's website and at the office of the Superintendent of Schools of the McCook School District during normal business hours. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than 24 hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting. The School Board shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only by action taken at the public meeting at which the item is to be considered. Agenda items shall be sufficiently specific to advise the public of the issues to be discussed under that agenda item.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 84-1411

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board PoliciesLocation of School Board Meetings

The traditional meeting place for Board meetings will be the School District's Boardroom located in the Jr. High building on West 7th street. The President or Superintendent may designate a different meeting place for individual meetings with advance notice to the members.

All meetings of the Board shall be held at the location designated in the notice of said meeting. If circumstances dictate meeting in a different location than designated in the notice, it shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to take the appropriate steps to inform Board members and the public.

Meetings of the Board may be held outside the School District boundaries when deemed necessary by the Board and approved by the Board at any preceding meeting. Meetings of the Board may be held outside the state of Nebraska upon compliance with applicable laws.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 84-1411 and 84-1412

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of Operation

Procedures During Meetings

In the absence of the President and the Vice President of the Board of Education at any meeting, the Board shall choose a President pro tempore.

Any action taken on a question or a motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the Board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or abstained.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-569
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-520
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 84-1413

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationPublic Participation at Board MeetingsA. Attend

Members of the public shall be permitted to attend and to speak at Board meetings. They will not be required to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting.

The Board may allow advisors, consultants, and other persons who are not Board members to appear at the meeting via telephone or other similar means.

The President has the authority to assure that people conduct themselves in an orderly manner at the meeting. Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of business will not be allowed. The President may order persons who are disorderly to be removed from the meeting.

B. Hear

The Board will, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at the meeting.

C. Record

Members of the public may use recording devices (phone, video camera, etc.) to record any part of a board meeting, except for closed sessions. The President shall control the placement of the recording device so the device does not obstruct the view of Board members or other members of the public attending the meeting and does not otherwise interfere with the meeting.

D. Access to Written Materials

At least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting will be made available at the meeting for examination and copying by members of the public.

E. Speak

Members of the public will be permitted to speak at Board meetings. Members of the public may also speak when invited to make a presentation or when recognized by the President.

For all meetings of the Board, individual speakers shall have up to 5 minutes to address the Board, and the Board shall hear up to 30 cumulative minutes of public comment. The Board may vote to modify these time limits when the Board deems appropriate. The President may implement other reasonable requirements for public comment, consistent with the Open Meetings Act.

Members of the public will not be required to have their name be placed on the agenda prior to the meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda.

Any member of the public desiring to address the body shall be required to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person, unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual. Citizens wishing to present petitions to the Board relating to that item may do so at this time. However, the Board will only receive the petitions and will not act upon them or their contents.

Any written or printed materials to be circulated for a meeting of the school board must be submitted to the Superintendent by the Wednesday preceding a Monday night meeting. Adding such information to the agenda packet will be at the discretion of the Superintendent after consultation with the board president.

Speakers will be permitted to address the Board consistent with free speech rights. However, offensive language, defamatory remarks, and hostile conduct will not be tolerated. Further, charges or complaints against a school employee shall not be made for the first time at a public Board meeting without having followed the school's complaint procedure.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. 84-1412

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationTeacher-Administrator-Board of Education Relationships

Since it is recognized that providing a high quality education for children is the paramount aim of McCook Public Schools and that good morale is necessary for the best education of children, the Board sets forth the following policy concerning the relationship of the Board, the administration, and the staff:

- A. The Board of Education, under law, has the final responsibility of establishing policies for the district.
- B. The Superintendent and staff have the responsibility of carrying out the policies established through the development and monitoring of administrative rules and regulations.
- C. The professional teaching personnel has the ultimate responsibility of providing the best possible education in the classroom through the careful following of Board policies and administrative rules and regulations.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationPurpose and Role of the Board

The responsibilities of the Board of Education shall be as follows:

1. Provide a school system which offers a Kindergarten through twelfth grade program.
2. Confer with the Superintendent of schools about recommendations for school programs.
3. Consider and adopt textbooks selected by the Superintendent and staff together with the courses of study recommended by them.
4. Set and annually review long-term written goals for the school district.
5. Consider and approve the annual operating budget prepared by the Superintendent.
6. Consider and approve claims for expenditure.
7. Be responsible to interpret the school programs to the community through a community relations program.
8. Represent the needs of the school system before city and state authorities as well as the general public.
9. Refer parent and community criticism and suggestions to the Superintendent for consideration and recommendation.
10. Serve as a body of final appeal for staff members and school patrons on matters properly appealable from orders of the Superintendent.
11. Establish and maintain policies consistent with the Board's interpretation of the wishes of the community and the requirements of the law. Conduct an annual review of policies as and to the extent required by law.
12. Develop a procedure whereby policy changes and/or additions may be proposed by board members, other school employees, or the general public by submitting them to the Superintendent for consideration and recommendation.
13. Continuously evaluate the effectiveness of Board policies.
14. Adopt rules and regulations in cooperation with the Superintendent for governance of the school system.

15. Select the Superintendent and support the Superintendent in the efficient discharge of the Superintendent's duties.
16. Require reports from the Superintendent.
17. Evaluate the Superintendent of Schools in accordance with applicable state laws.
18. Elect school personnel upon nomination and recommendation of the Superintendent.
19. Annually elect officers of the Board and appoint auxiliary personnel as necessary.
20. Distinguish between selfish, uninformed criticism and genuinely helpful criticism.
21. Perform specific duties imposed on school boards by statutes of the State of Nebraska.
22. Participate in local, state and national organizations for school board members.
23. Cooperate with other governmental bodies and agencies.
24. Cooperate with professional and educational organizations.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-501
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-512
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-525
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-526

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationDuties and Functions of the Board of Education

- A. The Board of Education shall exercise full legislative control over McCook Public Schools, in accordance with the statutes of the State of Nebraska.
- B. The Board of Education shall elect a Superintendent to carry out the executive duties of McCook Public Schools. The Superintendent's appointment shall be a major item of business at the December meeting, unless the present Superintendent is on a term contract.
- C. The Board of Education shall, through its legislative function, initiate questions of policy and act on the recommendations of the Superintendent in matters of policy, employee employment or dismissal, salary schedules or other personnel regulations, courses of study, selection of text books, and other matters pertaining to the direct welfare of the schools.
- D. The Board of Education shall require reports from its executive officer concerning conditions of efficiency and needs of the schools. The Board shall take steps to appraise the effectiveness with which the schools are achieving the educational purposes of the school system as may be determined by the Board of Education.
- E. The Board of Education shall provide for the preparation and adoption of the annual budget and shall provide, by the exercise of its taxing power, the funds necessary to finance the operation of the schools within the guidelines of Nebraska State Statute.
- F. In order to exercise its rights and duties, the Board of Education shall prepare and publish a body of policies and regulations covering organization, policies, and procedures of the school system. The Board of Education shall cause its policies and regulations to be kept in constant revision, conduct an annual review to the extent and shall republish such policies as and to the extent required by law and as deemed necessary.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationAnnual Organizational Meeting

- A. An organizational meeting of the McCook School District Board of Education shall be held on or before the third Monday of January of each year for the purposes of seating any new members and electing officers.

The following are procedures for election of officers and other business to take place at the annual organizational meeting of the Board:

1. After new Board members are sworn in, the Board will elect from its members a President, Vice President, and Secretary, and if it is determined by the Board of Education to be needed an ex officio secretary and treasurer and those elected will assume office at the organizational meeting.

Upon call for nominations for each office by the Chair, nominations shall be made by written or oral ballot. Voting will be by oral or written ballot on all members nominated and repeated until a majority is achieved for a nominee. If no member receives a majority of 1 hour, the Board member who was the President of the Board during the immediately preceding term shall continue as President. In the event that the previous Board President is no longer a Board member, then the Vice President from the immediately preceding term shall become the President. In the event that both the prior President and Vice President are no longer members of the Board, then the longest tenured Board member shall serve as President. The vote may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

2. The President shall assume the chair immediately upon the President's election.
3. The motions for the officer elections should read: Move that _____ be elected as _____ (name of office) to serve a term of one year, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified.

- B. The order of business for meeting may be as follows:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Oath of office for most recently elected
3. Elections
 - a. President
 - b. Vice President
 - c. Secretary

- d. Appointment of Ex officio secretary and treasurer
- 4. Approval of committees, positions, and designations
 - a. Consider, discuss and take action to elect Recording Secretary of the BOE
 - b. Consider, discuss and take action to select Legal counsel
 - c. Consider, discuss and take action to select Depository bank(s)
 - e. Consider, discuss and take action to select District newspaper(s) of record
- 5. Approval of current Board policies and regulations
- 6. Dissemination to each Board member of conflict of interest state statutes
- 7. Adjournment

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Board Committees

President selection of committees and committee members

In compliance with statutory responsibility, the Board president shall, at the beginning of each school year, appoint from its members a committee, to be known as the Americanism Committee.

- A. Additional Board committees may be established by the Board president as deemed necessary. The Board president shall determine the authority, duties, composition, and procedures for such standing committees. The Board committees shall be composed of such Board members as appointed by the Board president.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationStanding Committees

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that the following will be the standing committees of the Board of Education:

1. Negotiations Committee
2. Committee on American Civics
3. Facilities Committee
4. Finance Committee
5. Policy Committee
6. Programs Committee
7. Activities Committee

It shall further be the policy of McCook Public Schools that the Board President shall appoint the members of the above committees.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-724
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-520

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board PoliciesStanding Committee on Negotiations

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that the Negotiations Committee shall consist of three members appointed by the Board President.

The Negotiations Committee will represent the full Board of Education in negotiations with recognized labor organizations. The full Board of Education may also include selected administrators on the negotiations team. The Board of Education reserves the right to appoint a chief spokesperson who is not a member of the Board to represent the Board in negotiations.

After negotiations are completed, the negotiations committee will make a recommendation to the full Board of Education on the salary schedule and benefits under consideration.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationStanding Committee on American Civics

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that the Committee on American Civics shall consist of three members appointed by the Board President. The Committee shall meet at least twice per year. One of the responsibilities of this committee will be to examine recommended social studies textbooks and report findings based on this examination to other members of the Board of Education. The Committee shall take all other steps to ensure compliance with Nebraska law.

It shall further be the policy of McCook Public Schools that the Committee on American Civics shall review all major proposals prepared by the superintendent of schools and instructional staff for adoption of new textbooks, development of new instructional programs, revision of existing instructional programs, modification of established graduation requirements, and other related matters. After the review is completed, the Committee on Curriculum and Americanism will make a recommendation to the full Board of Education about approval or adoption of the matter under consideration.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-724
 Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-520
 LB 399 (2019)

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationTemporary Committees

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that in addition to the appointment of standing committees, the President of the Board of Education or the full Board may appoint such temporary committees as are deemed necessary.

Temporary committees shall serve at the pleasure of the President of the Board of Education or of a majority of the members of the Board of Education, but in general the duration of temporary committees shall not exceed beyond the next annual meeting of the Board of Education.

Temporary committees will be expected to submit their recommendations to the full Board of Education for appropriate action.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-520

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Board Members

Retirement

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that retiring members of the Board of Education shall be appropriately recognized and thanked for the service which they have rendered to the schools and to the community.

When a Board member is retiring from service, the President of the Board of Education will direct that preparation be made for any presentation or award which will be made at the final meeting attended by the retiring Board member.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersOrientation for Newly-Elected Members of the Board of Education

The Board of Education and staff members shall assist each new elected member to understand the functions, policies, and procedures of the Board of Education before the member takes office. To this end the following steps shall be taken:

1. The newly-elected member shall be given selected materials such as a copy of the Board's policies, a copy of the school budget, a copy of Nebraska school laws and information on the responsibility of a school Board member.
2. The newly-elected member shall be invited to attend meetings of the Board of Education and to participate in the discussions.
3. The secretary of the Board of Education shall supply material pertinent to the meetings and the Superintendent of the School shall explain the use of such materials.
4. The newly-elected member shall be invited to meet with the Superintendent and Principal to discuss their area of responsibility as defined by the Board of Education.
5. Any other material deemed helpful shall be made available upon request.

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersPolicy for Board Member Attendance at Educational Workshops, Conferences, Training Programs, Official Functions, Hearings, and Meetings

Board members are expected to maintain effectiveness by being well-informed on educational issues. Accordingly, Board members are encouraged to attend educational workshops, conferences, training programs, official functions, hearings, or meetings which are sponsored by the school district, state, and national education organizations.

Board members are specifically authorized to attend such functions which are sponsored by this school district, the Nebraska Association of School Boards, the National School Boards Association, AASA, NRCSA and similar organizations without specific action by the Board of Education. In addition, school Board members may attend such functions at district expense sponsored by other organizations upon specific prior approval of the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-512

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies - Board MembersCoffee Act Policy (Reimbursable Expenses)

A. Board members, employees or volunteers of the school district are expected to maintain effectiveness by being well informed on educational and related issues and are encouraged to diligently perform their required duties, attend educational workshops, conferences, training programs, official functions, hearings or meetings which are necessary to perform required duties, sponsored by the school district or State and national educational organizations or which are otherwise in the best interests of this school district as follows:

1. Board members as a result of this policy are hereby given prior approval by this school Board and upon approval by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee are specifically authorized to attend such functions without additional or further approval by the school Board unless otherwise so determined and the school district shall pay the registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for such functions along with actual travel expenses, if travel is by commercial or charter means or if a personal automobile is used, mileage shall be allowed at the rate provided by law with meals and lodging to be reimbursed based upon substantiated costs actually and necessarily incurred or applicable Federal Rates.

2. Employees and volunteers are authorized to attend such functions upon prior approval by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee and the school district shall pay registration costs, tuition costs, fees or charges for such functions along with actual travel expenses, if travel is by commercial or charter means or if a personal automobile is used, mileage shall be allowed at the rate provided by law with meals and lodging to be reimbursed based upon substantiated costs actually and necessarily incurred or applicable to Federal rates.

B. Payment or reimbursement for expenses incurred by Board members, employees or volunteers as otherwise specifically permitted by law shall also be allowed as provided by such law.

C. Since it is hereby determined to be important and in the best interest of this school district to recognize service by Board members, employees and volunteers, the school Board hereby authorizes the President, Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to determine when and to whom plaques, certificates of achievement, flowers or other items of value should be granted provided that no such plaque, certificate, flowers or other item of value to be awarded shall cost more than \$50.00.

D. School Board members are not paid members and when appropriate because of the timing, length or other factors, sandwiches or meals may be provided to School Board members, employees and volunteers attending public meetings or in other appropriate or necessary situations such as joint meetings with other governing bodies.

E. That non-alcoholic beverages, cookies or other similar items may be provided to individuals attending public meetings, private meetings, discussions or public or private conferences as determined necessary or appropriate by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee to be in the best interest of this school district.

F. Non-alcoholic beverages and meals may be provided for individuals while performing or immediately after performing relief, assistance or support activities in emergency situations or during or immediately following their participation in any activity approved by the School Board.

G. In addition to the other matters covered and allowed by this policy, one recognition dinner each fiscal year may be held for Board members, employees or volunteers provided the maximum cost per person, which is hereby established for such dinner shall not exceed \$50.00 and further provided that such annual dinner may be held separately for employees of each department or separately for volunteers or any of them in combination.

H. The authority necessary to carry out the provisions of this policy should be and is hereby delegated from the School Board to the designated officials so indicated herein.

I. Nothing in this policy shall authorize the expenditure of public funds to pay for any expenses incurred by a spouse of a Board member, employee or volunteer unless the spouse is also a Board member, employee or volunteer.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 13-2201 to 13-2204
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec.79-546

Date of Adoption: July 8, 2024

Internal Board Policies/PersonnelUse of Public Resources by Board Members and EmployeesRestrictions on Use

No Board member or employee of McCook Public Schools shall use or authorize the use of his or her public office or any confidential information received through the holding of the public office to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which the individual is associated.

No Board member or employee shall use or authorize the use of school district personnel, resources, property, or funds under his or her official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items, other than compensation provided by law, for personal financial gain.

No Board member or employee shall use or authorize the use of school resources 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. For purposes of this restriction, "school resources" means personnel, property, resources, or funds under the official care and control of the Board member or employee.

Authorized Uses

The uses described below are not authorized by employees, and violate this policy, where an employee's use: (1) interferes with the conduct of school business; (2) interferes with the performance of the employee's duties and responsibilities; (3) is contrary to another Board policy or a rule or directive set forth in an employee handbook or other employee communication device; (4) is contrary to a supervisor's directive; or (5) the use is for the employee's personal financial gain or potential for personal financial gain.

Incidental or De Minimis Use: Use of school resources by a Board member or employee which is incidental or de minimis does not constitute a violation of this policy.

Personal Use as Part of Compensation: Use of school resources for personal purposes is authorized by this policy if:

1. the use of the resource for personal purposes is part of the employee's compensation provided in an employment contract or is consistent with this policy; and
2. the personal use of the resource as compensation is reported in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and taxes, if any, are paid by the affected employee.

Employees who engage in such personal use shall, upon request of the Board of Education or the administration, provide evidence to establish that the compensation has been reported and taxes paid as required by the Tax Code.

School Vehicles: Use of a school vehicle by a Board member or employee to travel to a designated location or the home of the Board member or employee is permissible when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. Such use is authorized by this policy. No travel other than directly to the school-related trip destination shall occur, however, when students are in the vehicle or if the vehicle is a school bus.

Communication Devices: A Board member or employee may use a telecommunication system, a cellular telephone, an electronic handheld device, or a computer under the control of the school district for email, text messaging, a local call, or a long-distance call, to a child at home, a teacher, a doctor, a day care center, a baby-sitter, a family member, or any other person to inform any such person of an unexpected schedule change or for other essential personal business. Any such communication shall be kept to a minimum and shall not interfere with the conduct of school business or the performance of an employee's duties.

A Board member or employee shall be responsible for payment or reimbursement of charges (e.g. long distance charges), if any, that directly results from any such communication. The Board member or employee shall promptly report any such communication that results in an expense to the School District to the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish procedures for reimbursement of charges incurred as a result of such communications.

Use of the District's internet system for such communications shall not be permitted to the extent such use violates the terms of the E-Rate program, which restricts use of the internet system to "educational purposes."

Election Issues: A Board member or the Superintendent, in the normal course of his or her duties, may use school resources to research and prepare materials to assist the School Board in determining the effect of a ballot question on the School District.

Mass mailings, mass duplication, or other mass communications at school expense for the purpose of qualifying, supporting, or opposing a ballot question is not permitted. Mass communications does not include placing public records demonstrating the consequences of the passage or defeat of a ballot question affecting the School District on its existing websites.

A Board member or employee may campaign for or against the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question or the nomination or election of a candidate when no school resources are used. An employee shall not engage in campaign activity for or against the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question or the nomination or election of a candidate while on duty time.

A Board member or authorized employee may make school facilities available 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 of

use.

The School Board may discuss and vote upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.

A Board member may respond to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to his or her opinion regarding a ballot question or provide information in response to a request for information.

A Board member or employee may identify himself or herself by his or her official title when communicating about a ballot question. Employees who do so shall clearly communicate that their communication is their personal opinion and does not reflect the position or views of the Board of Education or the School District unless express authorization is given by the Board of Education or the Superintendent.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 49-14,101.01 and 49-14,101.02

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Internal Board Policies - Board Members

Membership in School Board Associations

The Board of Education shall hold memberships in such school board associations as it may from time to time determine appropriate.

The Board will list on the school's website the organizations and memberships that the Board belongs to and the annual membership dues (if any) for such organizations and memberships, as well as the fees paid by the Board to any individual lobbyist or lobbying firm (if any).

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-512
LB 304 (2024)

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Internal Board Policies - Board MembersConflict of Interest/Contracts

It shall be the policy of McCook Public Schools that any contract whether oral or written, formal or informal, which is entered into by the school district and in which a member of the Board of Education is directly or indirectly interested, is voidable unless certain reporting, disclosure and abstention requirements are met. The school district is authorized to enter into a contract in which a member of the Board of Education is directly or indirectly interested so long as:

1. The Board member makes a declaration on the record regarding the nature of his/her interest prior to official consideration of the contract.
2. The affected Board member does not participate in consideration or discussion of the contract.
3. The Board member does not vote on the granting of the contract except that if the number of members of the Board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the Board with all members present from securing a quorum in the issue, then all members may vote on the matter.
4. The Board member does not in any way participate in the inspection, operation, administration or performance under the contract on the part of the district.

It shall further be the policy of McCook Public Schools that the above provisions apply not only to formal contracts but also to open accounts.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 49-14,103.01

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Internal Board PoliciesConflict of Interest - Employment of Family Member of Board Member or Supervisor and Employment of Board Member

1. A member of the Board of Education or an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities may employ or recommend or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
 - a. He or she does not abuse his or her official position (for this purpose, “abuse” means employing an immediate family member: who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position; at an unreasonably high salary; or who is not required to perform the duties of the position);
 - b. He or she makes a full disclosure on the record to the Board of Education and a written disclosure to the Superintendent and/or Secretary of the Board; and,
 - c. The Board of Education approves the employment or supervisory position.

2. No immediate family member of a Board of Education or an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities shall be employed by the School District:
 - a. Without first having made a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for such employment.
 - b. Who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position.
 - c. For any unreasonably high salary.
 - d. Who is not required to perform the duties of the position.

3. Neither the Board of Education nor an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities shall 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. This policy shall not apply to an immediate family member of a member of the Board of Education or an administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities who was previously employed in a position with the School District prior to the election or appointment of the Board member or employee. Prior to or as soon as reasonably possible after the official date a Board member takes office or an employee assumes his or her responsibilities, such Board member, administrator or other employee with supervisory responsibilities shall make a full disclosure of any immediate family member employed in a position subject to this policy.

5. A member of the Board of Education may not be engaged in a contract to teach with the McCook Public School District. Nor shall a member of the Board of Education cast a vote in favor of the election of any employee when the Board member is related by blood or marriage to such employee.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 49-1499.04; Sec. 49-1499.05; 79-544; and 79-818

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