Wauneta-Palisade Board of Education Regular Meeting

Wauneta-Palisade School Central Office, 214 West Wichita, Wauneta, Nebraska
214 W Wichita Street
Wauneta, NE 69045

Monday, July 13, 2026 5:00 PM

Hondo Fanning: Present

John Jutten: Present

Laurie Maris: Present

Aaron McKinney: Present

Allison Sandman: Present

Marty Wheeler: Absent

I. Call to Order
I.1. Pledge of Allegiance
I.2. Posting Verification

Maris and McKinney verified.

I.3. Open Meeting Act
I.4. Mission Statement
II. Roll Call
III. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Proposed Agenda
IV. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comments
V. Action Items
V.1. Approval and Signing of June Minutes

To approve and sign the 6/15/2026 regular meeting minutes Passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by Hondo Fanning.

Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea

V.2. Approval of District Expenditures and Monthly Budget Reports

To accept the monthly budget reports as presented and approve the districts expenditures of Payroll $214.988.29, GF Accounts Payable $94,631.55 for a total of $336,619.83 Passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by John Jutten.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea

VI. Policy Review

VI.1. Second Reading and Adoption of Policy 1110, 3130, 3560, 5004, 5005, 5006,5008, 5101, 5205, 8130, 8342

To waive the oral second reading and to adopt policies 1110, 3130, 3560, 5004, 5005, 5006,5008, 5101, 5205, 8130, 8342 as presented Passed with a motion by John Jutten and a second by Aaron McKinney.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea

VII. Administrative Reports

VII.1. Superintendent Report

Geier shared that outdoor projects are near completion (playground equipment, ADA accessibility of football/track area), painting outdoor buildings, and the press box building, outdoor parking upgrades

VII.2. Principal Report

Ms. Williams shared her excitement about her new role as Principal and has been working on organizing items, sitting in on interviews, reviewed school data, completed grant applications.

VII.3. NASB Report

Candidate Workshop, August 3rd in McCook, NASB Board Meeting August 8th, Area Membership Meeting September 2nd

VIII. Executive Session

VIII.1. Enter into Executive Session

VIII.2. Return to Open Session

IX. Next Regular Meeting

Monday, August 10, 2026, at 5:00 pm MT/6:00 pm CT.
Americanism Committee Hearing 4:50 pm MT/5:50 pm CT.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn 5:38 pm MT. Passed with a motion by Allison Sandman and a second by Laurie Maris.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, John Jutten: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea

Wauneta-Palisade Schools Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes

The Board of Education for the District of Chase County School District #15-0536 a/k/a Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools was convened in open, public session for a Regular Meeting at 5:00 PM MT on June 15, 2026, in the Wauneta-Palisade School Central Office, 214 W Wichita Street, Wauneta, NE 69045, by President Sandman.

Notice of the meeting was given in advance by publication and/or posting in accordance with the Board approved method for giving notice of meetings. Notice of this meeting was given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. The Secretary of the Board maintains a list of the news media requesting notification of the meetings and advance notification to the listed media of the time and place of the meeting and the subjects to be discussed at this meeting was provided. Availability of the agenda was communicated in the publicized notice and a current copy of the Agenda was maintained as stated in the publicized notice. All proceedings of the Board of Education, except as may be hereinafter noted, were taken while the convened meeting was open to the attendance of the public.

Announcement of Open Meetings Act Posting

At the beginning of the meeting, President Sandman announced and informed the public that a current copy of the Open Meeting Act is permanently posted in the meeting room on a laminated poster, accessible to members of the public.

Mission Statement
Inspiring our Youth, Expecting Results Every Day

I. Call to Order. President Sandman called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm MT.

I.1. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

I.2. Posting Verification. Maris and McKinney verified the meeting posting.

I.3. Open Meeting Act Notice

I.4. Mission Statement

II. Roll Call

Present Board Members: Hondo Fanning, Laurie Maris, Aaron McKinney, Allison Sandman, and Marty Wheeler.
Absent Board Member: John Jutten

III. Amendments to the Agenda/Approval of the Proposed Agenda

III.1. Addition of 2026-2027 Substitute Pay to the Action Items

To approve the addition of 2026-2027 substitute pay to the action items passed with a motion by Hondo Fanning and a second by Marty Wheeler.

Hondo Fanning: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

IV. Recognition of Visitors/Public Comments. None

V. Action Items

V.1. Approval and Signing of May Minutes

To approve the signing of the May minutes passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by Hondo Fanning.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

V.2. Approval of District Expenditures and Budget Reports

To accept the monthly budget reports as presented and approve the district's expenditures of Payroll $291,929.05, General Fund Accounts Payable $94,035.46 for a total of $385.964.51 passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by Allison Sandman.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

V.3. Approval of Principal Contract

To approve 2026-2027 principal contract and salary of $107,500 with Michelle Williams passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by Allison Sandman.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

V.4. 2026-2027 Substitute Pay

To approve 2026-2027 substitute pay of $165/day passed with a motion by Aaron McKinney and a second by Marty Wheeler.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VI. Policy Review

VI.1. Review of Updated Policy Changes from Perry Law Firm

To approve the first reading and waive the oral readings of updated policies passed with a motion by Laurie Maris and a second by Hondo Fanning.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

VII. Administrative Reports

VII.1. Superintendent Report

Mr. Geier shared that custodial staff is working on cleaning up floors, painting, and completing teachers' classroom wish lists. Einspahr Construction is planning to complete the crow's nest this summer, working on parking lot pipe for building safety, completing cement projects. Geier is looking at preliminary budget numbers.

VII.2. Principal Report

Mr. Frecks shared that the playground installation is moving forward and is planned within the next couple of weeks. Staff is continuing to work on the football field maintenance and painting. Frecks thanked the board for supporting him during his tenure as principal and looking forward to his new role.

VII.3. ESU 15 Report

Sandman shared that ESU 15 is looking forward to supporting the districts next year, new location information is under review, reminder there will not be a July meeting.

VII.4. NASB Report

Geier accompanied Shaylee Dorn 6/3/2026 to attend the NASB non-incumbent board member workshop. NASB will host one in McCook in July.

VIII. Next Regular Meeting

Monday, July 13, 2026, at 5 pm MT/6 pm CT.

X. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 6:05 pm MT passed with a motion by Allison Sandman and a second by Laurie Maris.
Hondo Fanning: Yea, Laurie Maris: Yea, Aaron McKinney: Yea, Allison Sandman: Yea, Marty Wheeler: Yea

Respectfully submitted,
Marj Rundback,
Recording Board Secretary

Dated this June 15, 2026
Chase County School District #536
a/k/a Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools

By: _____ Attest: _____
Board Secretary Board President

Community Relations

Bulletin Boards, Display Case, and Posted Material

School bulletin boards, display cases, and posting areas are solely designated for the purposes of conveying information about school activities and programs to students, staff, and the visiting public as deemed appropriate by the Principal or designee.

Upon request, a professional employees' organization, as defined by state law, shall be granted reasonable access to the physical or electronic mailboxes of certificated employees for purposes consistent with state law and Board Policy. The Superintendent or designee may establish reasonable, content-neutral procedures governing the time, place, and manner of such access to ensure that school business is not disrupted and that the District maintains employee privacy. A professional employees' organization shall also be permitted to provide information to certificated employees, including at employee meetings or orientation sessions, subject to reasonable administrative scheduling and oversight.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-526
LB 429 (2026)

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Business Operations

Purchasing Policies

The Superintendent shall ensure that all purchases are made in the interest of economy and efficiency. Where necessary, standards and procedures shall be established to accomplish the following policies of the Board of Education:

1. Purchases up to $5,000. For the greatest efficiency in expediting purchases, the administration shall be authorized to purchase any item specifically budgeted which has a sale price within the established limit.

2. Purchases from $5,000 up to $90,000. The Superintendent shall request the submission of proposals for purchases which have a sale price within the established limit. The Superintendent shall receive and evaluate all proposals in making a recommendation to the Board of Education for acceptance. The Board of Education may review all proposals submitted relating to the recommended purchase. Since this is a proposal system, not a bidding process, the school district in no way shall be obligated to arbitrarily award the contract to the lowest proposal, but shall reserve the right to reject any and all proposals or to waive any informality in any proposal it deems advisable, and to award to the proposer which, in its opinion, is most desirable.

3. Purchases of $90,000 and above. The Superintendent shall advertise for sealed bids which shall be opened in conformity with any applicable laws and in compliance with any procedures established by the Superintendent. The Board retains the right to determine the responsibility of the bidders, and shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder meeting specifications, be the bidder a member or apart from the local community.

4. The purchasing limits or requirements set forth in this policy may be waived in the event of an emergency or time-sensitive purchase where delay would materially disrupt District operations, threaten health or safety, result in the loss of services, or cause financial harm. In such circumstances, the Superintendent shall obtain prior approval from the Board President when reasonably practicable, and the Board of Education may ratify such purchase at a subsequent meeting.

5. Any school employee who orders any supplies or equipment outside of that which has been included in the annual budget and without written authorization of the principal or Superintendent shall be personally liable for payment for the supplies or equipment purchased.

6. School employees or students purchasing supplies and equipment out of an activity account must first secure a purchase order from the principal authorizing the purchase. Failure to do so will cause the person to be personally liable for payment for the supplies or equipment purchased.

7. The District need not comply with the bidding requirements if the District purchases property from the Nebraska State Purchasing Bureau, so long as the Nebraska State Purchasing Bureau competitively bid the purchase of property.

8. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, no employee may enter into any agreement or understanding on behalf of the District that may financially benefit the employee, member of the employee's immediate family, or a business with which the employee is associated, unless the Board of Education approves such contract or arrangement in advance.

Credit Card Purchasing Program

1. The Board of Education authorizes the Superintendent or designee to contract with one or more financial institutions, card-issuing banks, credit card companies, charge card companies, debit card companies, or third-party merchant banks capable of operating a purchasing card program on behalf of the District.

2. The Board of Education delegates to the Superintendent or designee: (a) the determination of the type of purchasing card or cards to be utilized in the District's purchasing card program; and (b) the determination of which employees shall be approved or disapproved to be assigned a purchasing card in the District's purchasing card program. The Superintendent shall submit the approved names to the Board, from time to time.

3. The District's purchasing card program may only be utilized for the purchase of goods and services for and on behalf of the District. No officer or employee of the District shall use a purchasing card for any unauthorized use. For purposes of this policy, "goods" shall mean tangible supplies, materials, or equipment, and "services" shall mean professional services, contractual services, subscriptions, software or technology services, maintenance agreements, or other ongoing or time-based services. Purchases of goods shall follow the thresholds and procedures set forth above. Purchases of services may be subject to additional flexibility as set forth below, particularly when continuity of service is required.

4. An itemized receipt for purposes of tracking expenditures shall accompany all purchasing card purchases. In the event that a receipt does not accompany an authorized cardholder's purchase, the Superintendent or designee shall temporarily or permanently suspend said cardholder's purchasing card privileges.

5. Upon the termination or suspension of employment of an individual using a purchasing card, the Superintendent or designee shall immediately close such individual's purchasing card account and said employee shall immediately return the purchasing card.

Service Contract Renewals

When the Board of Education has previously approved a service, program, or contractual relationship, the Superintendent or designee is authorized to approve the renewal, extension, or continuation of such service without prior Board approval when:

i. The renewal is consistent with the scope, purpose, and general cost structure previously approved by the Board;
ii. The renewal is necessary to avoid an interruption of services or to meet a contractual or service deadline that occurs prior to the next scheduled Board meeting; and
iii. The total cost of the renewal does not materially exceed the previously approved amount or includes only standard or customary increases.

The Superintendent or designee shall report any renewal to the Board of Education at the next regular meeting for review and ratification.

If a proposed renewal includes a material change in scope, pricing, or contractual terms, the renewal shall be submitted to the Board of Education for approval prior to execution whenever reasonably practicable.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 13-610
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 49-1401, et seq

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Business Operations

Records Management and Disposition

1. General Standard. Records should generally be organized, managed, retained and disposed of in accordance with law and the Secretary of State's schedules for retention and disposition of public records.

2. Records Officer. The Superintendent is hereby designated as the records officer of the school district for purposes of this policy. Any questions about the type or category of a record or the required retention period for it should be addressed to the records officer.

3. Electronic Records, Messages, and Data. District records may be created, stored, and maintained in paper or electronic format. Electronic records may include, but are not limited to, (a) email and other electronic communications; (b) digital documents and databases; (c) audio and video recordings; and (d) cloud-based and third-party hosted data. Electronic communications, documentation, and data are District records when they relate to District business and will be retained in accordance with the applicable record retention schedules. Due to system storage limitations, certain categories of electronic data (such as surveillance video or system logs) may be retained for shorter periods than other records, unless required to be preserved by law or otherwise determined by the Superintendent or designee. The District will implement reasonable measures to ensure that electronic records remain accessible, retrievable, and secure for the duration of their required retention period. Employees are responsible for retaining records within their control when they are aware, or reasonably should be aware, that such records may be subject to a records request, audit, investigation, or possible litigation.

4. Litigation Holds. When litigation against the District or its employees is filed or threatened, the District will take all reasonable action to preserve all documents and records that pertain to the issue.

   As soon as the District is made aware of pending or threatened litigation, a litigation hold directive will be issued by the records officer or designee. The directive will be given to all persons suspected of having records that may pertain to the litigation issue. Employees who receive notice of a litigation hold are to preserve all records that pertain to the litigation issue. This includes preserving electronic messages that would otherwise be deleted by the computer system; such messages are to be converted by the recipients of the litigation hold to hard copy (printed) or electronic format which can be retrieved and interpreted (downloaded) for the duration of the litigation hold.

   The litigation hold directive overrides any records retention schedule that may otherwise call for the disposition or destruction of the records until the litigation hold has been lifted.

No employee who has been notified of a litigation hold may alter or delete an electronic or other record that falls within the scope of the hold. Violation of the litigation hold may subject the employee to disciplinary actions, up to and including dismissal, as well as personal liability for civil and/or criminal sanctions by the courts or law enforcement agencies.

5. Settlement Agreements. A public written or electronic record of all settled claims shall be maintained.

The record for all such claims settled in the amount of fifty thousand dollars or more (or one percent of the total annual budget of the School District, whichever is less) shall include a written executed settlement agreement. The settlement agreement shall contain a brief description of the claim, the party or parties released under the settlement, and the amount of the financial compensation, if any, paid by or to the School District or on its behalf. Any such settlement agreement shall be included as an agenda item on the next regularly scheduled public meeting of the School Board for informational purposes or for approval, if required.

Any such settled claim or settlement agreement shall be a public record. Nonetheless, specific portions of the record may be withheld from the public to the extent permitted or provided by statute.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 84-712 through 84-712.09
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 84-1201 to 84-1227
State Records Administrator Guidelines:
Schedule 10: Records of Local School Districts
Schedule 24: Local Agencies General Records

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Students

Full-time and Part-time Enrollment

Full-time Enrollment

Students must be enrolled in Wauneta-Palisade 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, or admitted to the District pursuant to state law, 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 Wauneta-Palisade 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. Subject to Paragraph D.9. of this Policy, students may not typically 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.

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. Non-resident students may only be admitted on a part-time basis or permitted to participate in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity when required by law. The District's Activities Director will coordinate with the student's parent or guardian to secure assurances of compliance with these expectations. 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.

   Part-time students participating in extracurricular activities shall meet the following enrollment requirements, consistent with state law:

   (a) For activities regulated by an athletics or activities association (including the Nebraska School Activities Association), the student shall be enrolled in five credit hours offered by the District during each semester of participation. The student may elect to enroll in more than five credit hours.

   (b) For activities governed by a national or state organization other than the NSAA, the student shall be enrolled in the minimum number of credit hours required by such organization. The student may elect to enroll in more than five credit hours.

   (c) For activities not governed by the NSAA or a national or state organization, the student must enroll in at least five credit hours or the equivalent for middle school students.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-215, 79-2,136 & 79-526
Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Students

Student Residence, Admission and Contracting for Educational Services

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

1. Residents 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. Homeless students. 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; or

4. Are otherwise legally entitled to enroll in 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 School Board. The amount of tuition shall be no less than the average cost per pupil as determined by the previous year's financial report.

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.

Restrictions on Transfer or Disenrollment During Certain Investigations

Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, upon receipt of notice from the Department of Health and Human Services that a student is the subject of a report of child abuse or neglect involving the student's parent or guardian, the District shall not process or facilitate any request by such parent or guardian to transfer or disenroll the student for a period of 14 days following the District's receipt of the notice, or until the District receives further direction from DHHS, whichever occurs first. If the District receives a request to transfer or disenroll the student during this period by the parent or guardian, the District will promptly notify DHHS.

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 19
LB 937 (2026)

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Students

Student Attendance

Attendance Policy and Excessive Absenteeism

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and all staff are expected to implement this policy and administrative rules and regulations to encourage regular and punctual student attendance. The 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, typically 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 Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools or resides in the Wauneta-Palisade 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) unexcused absences per school year. The school shall notify the child's family in writing prior to making the referral to the county attorney. Absences due to illness, including physical or mental illness, that make attendance impossible or impracticable, and that are documented by a credentialed health professional, shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney. In cases of chronic illness, such documentation will be reviewed each semester.

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

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Students

Student 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 and 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 (i) the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; (ii) the reasons for the action taken; (iii) the actions taken by the school to attempt to address or alleviate the behavior prior to suspension; (iv) resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and (v) how the school plans to address

the behavior moving forward, including strategies to maximize the student's continued participation in school..

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 then 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 (i) the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; (ii) the reasons for the action taken; (iii) the actions taken by the school to attempt to address or alleviate the behavior prior to suspension; (iv) resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and (v) how the school plans to address the behavior moving forward, including strategies to maximize the student's continued participation in school..

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: (i) the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; (ii) the reasons for the action taken; (iii) the actions taken by the school to attempt to address or alleviate the behavior prior to suspension; (iv) resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and (v) how

the school plans to address the behavior moving forward, including strategies to maximize the student's continued participation in school..

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 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, a pre-kindergarten through second grade student shall not be suspended unless the student (1) brings a deadly weapon to school grounds, a school vehicle, or a school activity, or (2) engages in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee. In all other circumstances, the Principal or designee shall implement appropriate alternative disciplinary measures on a case-by-case basis. A student who brings a deadly weapon may be 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 may be held, upon a parent's timely request, 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. Mandatory reassignment shall be subject to the same procedural requirements and protections as long-term suspension and expulsion.

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. This includes "deep fakes" or other computer-generated images of other students or staff intended to bully, harass, intimidate, or humiliate another student or staff member.
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, including (but not limited to) a violation of the District's dress code and electronic communication device rules.
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. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for riding school buses or vehicles.

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.

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.

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 reasonably forecasted to interfere 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 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. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
   c. 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).
   d. Head wear including hats, caps, bandannas, and scarves.
   e. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar double meaning.
   f. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related

   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. Further, students will also be permitted to wear attire, including religious attire, natural and protective hairstyles, adornments or other characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion, as long as the attire does not interfere with the educational process and does not endanger another person, as determined by the administration.

No student shall be disproportionately affected by a dress code or grooming policy enforcement because of the student's gender, race, color, religion, disability, or national origin.

No school staff shall permanently or temporarily alter or cut a student's hair.

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.

A student dress code violation will be treated as a minor rule violation and may not require the student to miss substantial classroom time, instructional time, or school activities. However, a repeated violation of school rules may subject the student to further discipline, as outlined in this Policy.

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.

E. 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
Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-2,160

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Students

Graduation

To participate in commencement exercises or receive a Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools diploma, a student must fully complete all requirements for graduation prior to the official commencement exercises, and complete other administrative requirements or conditions, except as otherwise required by state law. Students who graduate from Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools must accumulate 200 hours. The total graduation requirements must include the following core curriculum:

English Language Arts	40	Semester Hours
Science	30	Semester Hours
Math	30	Semester Hours
Social Studies	30	Semester Hours
Physical Education	10	Semester Hours
Required	110	Semester Hours
Electives	90	Semester Hours

In addition, every student must complete at least one five-credit high school course in personal finance or financial literacy prior to graduation. 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.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, a student who is or was under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court and placed in out-of-home care at any time during the student's high school enrollment shall be eligible to graduate from the District if (1) the student, at any point in time, was enrolled in high school in the District, and (2) the student has met the minimum graduation requirements established by state law.

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

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Internal Board Policies - Organization

Annual Organizational Meeting

A. An organizational meeting of the Wauneta-Palisade 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, Secretary and Treasurer, 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, or a slate of officers may be presented, 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 votes after three (3) ballots, 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. Or if a slate is presented, move that the following slate of officers serve a term of one year, _____, President; _____, Vice President; _____, Secretary; _____, Treasurer.

B. The order of business for meeting should 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. Treasurer
    d. Secretary

4. Approval of committees, positions, and designations
    a. Consider, discuss and take action to elect Committees as determined by the BOE
    b. Consider, discuss and take action to select Depository bank(s)
    c. Designate the method of advance notice of Board meetings

5. Approval of current Board policies and regulations

6. Designate date for the annual review of BOE policies

7. Dissemination to each Board member of conflict of interest statutes

8. Adjournment

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Internal Board Policies - Methods of Operation

Designated Method of Giving Notice of Meetings

The Board of Education will give advance notice of meetings by a method designated by the Board at the Board's organizational meeting each January, or as otherwise determined by the Board. The designated method will be recorded in the Board's meeting minutes.

In addition, at least four times per calendar year, the Board will publish in a newspaper of general circulation the following information: (1) the regular meeting schedule, (2) the location of regular board meetings, and (3) the method of advanced notice designated by the Board. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Board reserves the right to change the regular meeting schedule or location if circumstances require such a change.

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. §§ 79-554; 79-555 & 84-1411.

Date of Adoption: 7/13/2026

Students

Option Enrollment

A. Process and Timelines to Option In

For a student to attend Wauneta-Palisade 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 Wauneta-Palisade Public School District between September 1 and March 15 for enrollment in the following school year (the "application period"), unless otherwise permitted by law.

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.

Provisions for Waiver of Application Deadline

The application deadline may be waived by the School District for applications to option into the Wauneta-Palisade Public School District, provided that the application contains a release approval from the resident district or, if the student is an option student attending a different district, the option district attended by the student and satisfies any other requirements of law.

B. Rejection of Applications; Reasons

1. Capacity: An option enrollment application shall be rejected if the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building operated by the School District would be exceeded by accepting 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 shall be rejected if the application is not filed on or before March 15, and the filing deadline has not been waived.

3. Previous Option Enrollment: An option enrollment application shall be rejected if the student has exhausted the number of allowable option enrollments under 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 completely and accurately submitted, 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. Siblings

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this policy, the application of a sibling of a student who currently attends the District will be automatically accepted. For purposes of this policy, a "sibling" means a child residing in the same household on a permanent basis who has the same mother or father or who are stepbrother or stepsister to each other. The Superintendent or designee has the discretion to waive the deadline for a sibling's application received after the deadline.

D. Priority of Acceptance

Priority shall be afforded to those applications required to be given priority by law.

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 at the same time, priority as between such same-date applications shall be determined on the basis of random drawing.

E. 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.

F. Releases for Options Out

Provisions for Release:

A request for release of a resident student or option student currently attending Wauneta-Palisade 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.

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee is hereby authorized to execute such releases on behalf of the School District and the School District.

G. 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 Wauneta-Palisade 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.

H. 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 Wauneta-Palisade 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.

   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.

2. 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.

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

As part of the option enrollment program, the administration shall make information about the Wauneta-Palisade Public Schools and the 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

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