

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Red Willow School District #73-0017
McCook Public Schools
6:00 PM Monday, May 11, 2026
Junior High Conference Room
700 W 7th St
McCook, NE 69001

1. Call to Order

1.1. Roll Call

Motion to excuse Jesse and amanda Passed with a motion by Brad Hays and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

	Regular Board Present	Regular Board Absent
Attendance Taken on 5/11/2026 at 5:59 PM	Scott Barger	
Agenda Item: Roll Call	Brad Hays	Amanda Buhr
	Mike Langan	Jesse Juenemann
	Charlie McPherson	

1.2. Recognition of Open Meeting Law

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Participation, Presentations, and Reports

2.1. Board accepts public comments

There were nopublic comments.

2.2. Presentations

2.2.1. Central Kids Poster winners - Digital Citizenship — Tina Williams

Mrs Williams and Ms. Franscescato presented the winners of the Digital citizenship poster winners. Ashton Koepp, Lincoln Brown, Anson Schilling, Lynkyn Hagan, Elijah Scherbarth, Brantley Peterson, and Cooper Davidson presented their posters.

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

Motion to approve consent agenda Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

3.1. Approval of Expenditures/Payroll for April

4. Reports from Staff Members and Committees

4.1. Policy Committee

Mr. Hays discussed the policy meeting and the process of updating these policies on the guidance of the school attorney following the legislative session. Mr. Norgaard commented on the highlights.

4.2. Americanism Committee

Committee on American Civics Hearing

5-11-2026 @ 5:30 p.m.

McCook Jr. High Boardroom

Agenda

1. Call to Order

a. Roll Call of Committee Members

i. Board members in Attendance:

ii. Administration & Staff:

2. Opening Formalities

a. Recognition of the Open Meetings Act

b. Confirmation of Meeting Documentation: Notes of this meeting will be taken

3. Statement of Committee Purpose

a. Discuss the integration of foundational subjects including civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography into the curriculum.

b. Development and use of assessments (formative, interim, and summative) to gauge mastery of social studies standards.

c. Inclusion of historically significant figures and groups from diverse cultural and racial backgrounds.

d. Administration of the naturalization civics assessment to students.

e. Adherence to statute 79-724.

4. Public Comments

a. Invitation for community input on curriculum, citizenship and patriotism education.

5. Committee Comments

a. Opportunity for committee members to discuss issues, share insights, or propose actions related to the meeting's discussions.

6. Adjournment

a. Time of adjournment to be noted:

5. Board and Administrative Comments

5.1. Written Administrative Comments — Please review prior to the regular Board of Education Meeting.

5.2. Superintendent's Report

Poverty Student Allocation Process a Part of the TEEOSA Formula

- Step 1: Identify Low Income Students

- The state calculates low income students using federal income tax data for children in households at or below poverty thresholds, adjusted to the district's student population.
- Step 2: Identify Free Lunch Students
 - Districts report free lunch eligible students using fall data, including adjustments for Community Eligibility Provision participation.
- Step 3: Select the Higher Count
 - The formula uses the greater of: low income students OR free lunch students
 - This becomes the district's initial poverty count.
- Step 4: Apply Growth Adjustment
 - If the current poverty count exceeds the three year average, the increase is added to recognize recent growth in student need.
- Step 5: Calculate Poverty Percentage
 - The adjusted poverty count is divided by total formula students to determine the district's poverty percentage.
- Step 6: Apply Tiered Weights
 - The poverty percentage is applied across tiered ranges, with increasing weights assigned as poverty concentration rises.
- Step 7: Apply District Cap
 - The calculated poverty allowance is limited by a district-specific maximum to control overall impact.
- Step 8: Add to Formula Needs
 - The final poverty allowance is added to the district's total formula needs, which may influence state aid depending on the full TEEOSA calculation.
- Summary
 - Poverty funding is determined by selecting the highest poverty measure, adjusting for recent growth, applying a weighted tier system based on concentration, and incorporating the result into overall formula need.

5.3. Changes to NPERS Retirement LB 824

- The mandatory sit out time was reduced from 180 days to 120 days for a valid retirement separation.
- During the 120-day separation period no work of any kind is allowed with a public school employer. You can work 0 days in any capacity during the 120 separation period, including voluntary work.
- You may not have a Pre-arranged return-to-work agreement.

5.4. UNMC BSN Nursing Pathway MOU Signing

- MPS has signed an MOU with UNMC for the creating of a nursing pathway.
- Key partners with establishing this opportunity for our students include: UNMC, Community Hospital, and Mid Plains Community College
- The next steps will involve marketing the program to students and enrolling those that are interested in earning that BSN.

5.5. Nebraska School Financing Review Commission — Summary

- The Governor appointed Nebraska School Financing Review Commission met in April to present information collected from extensive research conducted during Phase I of its work. During the meeting, two critically important presentations were delivered.

- The first presentation was given by the Needs Committee, a group focused on evaluating the “needs” portion of the TEEOSA state aid formula. During this presentation, committee members explained the major components of the formula, including a detailed review of how poverty allocations are determined through tiered percentage ranges applied to district poverty concentrations. The committee also described the historical rationale behind key elements of the formula and how those components were originally designed to address varying student needs across districts.
- This committee has been focused on identifying ways the formula can be refined to improve both effectiveness and economic efficiency, particularly in how student need is measured and funded.
- The Spending Committee followed the Needs Committee. This committee focused on examining property tax collections, state funding support for schools, and overall spending practices across Nebraska school districts. Their analysis found that Nebraska has taken measurable steps to reduce reliance on property taxes by increasing the state’s share of school funding from approximately 38% in 2019–2020 to about 53% in 2024–2025, while the local share has decreased from about 56% to 38%.
- The committee also concluded that school spending across Nebraska has generally remained aligned with inflationary trends, suggesting that increases in expenditures are largely driven by rising costs rather than excessive growth in spending.

5.6. Student Handbooks

- The Draft 2026-2027 Student handbooks have been attached in PDF form. Please review these handbooks prior to the June board meeting. If you find any issues with the books as you do your review, please reach out to the building principals responsible for the handbook.
- Please note, updates to the handbooks are highlighted in yellow.

5.7.

5.8. Monthly Business Manager Board of Education Report

April 2026 for May 2026 Board Meeting

Monthly Lunch #'s = 15,000 meals served

Financial #'s = After 66% of fiscal year = General Fund YTD Revenue is 70% YTD

Expense is 67%

All Funds YTD Revenue is 69%, YTD Expenses is 67%

Facilities - Updates

- Work in the junior high gym is continuing.
 - Removal of old bleachers is complete
 - Basketball goal and support repair is in progress
 - Gym floor sanding and repaint/seal is in progress

5.9. Projects In Progress

- Junior High HVAC Front End:
 - Installation of the new Honeywell front-end system for air handlers is complete.
 - Need new coils valves for each classroom to complete the system

5.10. Upcoming Projects & Infrastructure

- Elementary School: Scheduled 1st grade classroom update for May.
- Roofing Projects:
 - Junior High:
 - Central: New gutter system
- Senior High Steps: Replacement of steps by Science rooms
- JH “Mid Building” drinking fountains.

5.11. Summer Improvements

- Junior High Gym : Discussion of bleachers (bid approved previously), floor (Jim Pratt), wall mats (ordered), and painting (primetime Painting).
- Central Gym : Wall mats (ordered) and painting (Primetime Painting).
- Senior High Main Hallway: Renovations including drywall, ceiling grid/tile, carpet/base, lighting , and paint/Tape/Mud.

5.12. Current Financial Projects

- None.

5.13. Federal/state Reports filed in April:

- Non-Public Federal Programs with Boundaries
- Title I Non-Public Consultation
- SEBT Summer Data

5.14.

5.15. Board Comments

There were no board comments.

6. New Business

6.1. Accept Resignations

6.2. Approve contract for Patricia Dorshorst, 1st Semester 6th Grade ELA Teacher

I move to approve a contract for Patricia Dorshorst, 6th Grade ELA for 1st semester. MA +36, Step 15. Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Charlie McPherson. Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.3. Approve Contract with Joel Bednar for the position of Chief of K-12 Education and Instruction.

I move to approve a Contract for Joel Bednar for the position of Chief of K-12 Education and Instruction. Passed with a motion by Mike Langan and a second by Charlie McPherson. Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.4. Approve contract with Molly Sharp for the position of Elementary Principal & Curriculum Director.

I move to Approve a contract for Molly Sharp for the position of Elementary Principal & Curriculum Director. Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Mike Langan. Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea

Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.5. Approve contract for Colleen Olson, Elementary Teacher

I move to Approve a contract for Colleen Olson, Elementary Teacher at MA +36, Step 15, Passed with a motion by Mike Langan and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.6. Approve Updates to Policy No. 1110 Bulletin boards, display case, and posted material.

I move to approve Updates to Policy No. 1110 Bulletin boards, display case, and posted material. Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.7. Approve Update to Policy No. 3130 Purchasing Policies

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 3130 Purchasing Policies. Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.8. Approve Update to Policy No. 3131 Procurement

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 3131 Procurement. Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.9. Approve update to Policy No. 3132 Internal Controls

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 3132 Internal Controls. Passed with a motion by Mike Langan and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.10. Approve Update to Policy No. 3560 Records Management and Disposition

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 3560 Records Management and Disposition. Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.11. Approve Update to Policy No. 5003 Assignment of Students

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 5003 Assignment of Students. Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.12. Approve Update to Policy No. 5004 Full-time Enrollment

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 5004 Full-time Enrollment. Passed with a motion by Mike Langan and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.13. Approve Update to Policy No. 5005 Student Residence

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 5005 Student Residence. Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.14. Approve Update to Policy No. 5006 Option Enrollment

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 5006 Option Enrollment. Passed with a motion by Mike Langan and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.15. Approve Update to Policy No. 5601 Asthma, Anaphylaxis, and Allergic Reaction Protocol

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 5601 Asthma, Anaphylaxis, and Allergic Reaction Protocol. Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.16. Approve Update to Policy No. 8130 Annual Organizational Meeting.

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 8130 Annual Organizational Meeting. Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.17. Approve Update to Policy No. 8342 Method of Giving Notice.

I move to approve updates to Policy No. 8342 Method of Giving Notice. Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.18. Accept a donation from The Graff Charitable Foundation for Girls Tennis for the amount of \$1000.00

I move to accept a donation from The Graff Charitable Foundation for Girls Tennis for the amount of \$1000.00. Passed with a motion by Mike Langan and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

6.19. Accept \$1250.00 donation from CTE Construction for the Bison Kids Club after-school snack.

I move to accept a donation from CTE Construction for the Bison Kids Club snacks program for the amount of \$1,250.00. Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 4, Nay: 0

7. Positive Comments

Charlie McPherson congratulated all the graduates and was very impressed with the graduation ceremony. He also thanked the schools for the great field trips for the students. Mike Lanagn appreciated the opportunity to represent McCook on the Washington DC advocacy trip.

Scott congratulated Kim Johnson, the McCook Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year award. He also commended the graduation ceremony and the wax museum tour.

Jeff Gross thanked the community for all the volunteerism during the spring while working with our students within the community.

Brad Hays was very impressed with the graduation ceremony, and congratulated the class of 2026.

Grant Norgaard thanked Mrs. Tina Williams for all her work with the digital citizenship program and for all she does for our teacher and students as the integrated specialist.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

9. Items for Review

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Red Willow School District #73-0017
McCook Public Schools
6:00 PM Monday, April 13, 2026
Junior High Conference Room
700 W 7th St
McCook, NE 69001

1. Call to Order

1.1. Roll Call

Motion to excuse Charlie McPherson Passed with a motion by Brad Hays and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

In attendance
Regular Board

Attendance Taken at at 6:00 PM
Agenda Item: Roll Call

Scott Barger	Absent
Amanda Buhr	Regular Board
Brad Hays	Charlie McPherson
Jesse Juenemann	
Mike Langan	

1.2. Recognition of Open Meeting Law

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Participation, Presentations, and Reports

2.1. Board accepts public comments

There were no public comments.

2.2. Student Board Report

Hopefully everyone is doing well and has been enjoying the recent warm weather. The High school is in full swing as we approach the end of the year very quickly. With athletics and also with prom approaching this weekend, there seems to be a decent amount of excitement building amongst the students and it's shaping up to be a great event with the theme being a night in Rio. Everyone is looking forward to it and is planning on making it a fun and memorable night.

Sports

Last weekend we had a few students compete in the special olympics in bowling and in basketball. This week is pretty busy for athletics with boys golf playing at Lexington on Tuesday and Hastings on Thursday. Girls tennis plays at Lexington also on Tuesday and then they have a home meet on Thursday. Finally Track and Field has a meet at Gothenburg on Thursday.

This next week, band has a concert on Monday and then they have District Music on Friday of next week.

Clubs

Math Club- is finishing up on brain bowl which is scheduled for April 20th all they need now is to find teachers to help work it.

FBLA- is having a highway cleanup April 25th and then is having a pot luck on April 30th to celebrate the end of the school year.

Interact Club- is planning on having a drive in Movie on May 19th

FFA- is having a banquet this Friday

2.3. Recognize Student Board Member — Quinn Taylor

2.4. Presentations

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

Motion to approve consent agenda Passed with a motion by Amanda Buhr and a second by Jesse Juenemann.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

3.1. Approval of Expenditures/Payroll for March

4. Reports from Staff Members and Committees

5. Board and Administrative Comments

5.1. Written Administrative Comments

5.2. Superintendent's Report

School Improvement Team - Building Level Meetings

- Discussions with the Accreditation Office from NDE
 - Growth expectation coming for Improvement processes.
- Goal Performance Expectation:
 - Following the first year of implementation, the district will aim for approximately 2.5% annual growth in overall student proficiency on the NSCAS or ACT assessments, with a goal of reaching an estimated 10% total increase over time, recognizing that yearly progress may vary.
- Math Goal - Reading Goal
 - Discuss activities to be added to the district action plan at the building level.

Legislative Update

- We are quickly approaching the end to the legislative session.

- I will provide the latest on education-related bills at the board meeting. Many bills that have the potential to impact public education will be discussed on the floor over the next couple of days.

TeamMates Mentoring: Key Strengths Report (2024-2025)

- TeamMates Mentoring continues to demonstrate meaningful impact on students, schools, and communities. The following highlights represent the program’s strongest outcomes and attributes. Top 10 Positive Attributes:
 - Strong Academic Impact
 - 61% of mentees improved their grades, demonstrating measurable academic growth.
 - Significant Reduction in Behavioral Issues
 - 87% of mentees had fewer disciplinary referrals, indicating improved student behavior and decision-making.
 - Improved Student Attendance
 - 71% of mentees had fewer unexcused absences, reflecting increased engagement and school connection.
 - Exceptional Graduation Success
 - 96% graduation rate among actively matched seniors, far exceeding many typical benchmarks.
 - Post-Secondary Readiness
 - 77% of graduates reported having a post-secondary plan, including college, military, or workforce pathways.
 - Long-Lasting Mentoring Relationships
 - Average match length is 29.4 months, nearly double the national average of 16 months—highlighting program stability and relationship strength.
 - High Levels of Student Trust and Connection
 - 96% of mentees report trusting their mentor
 - 96% feel their mentor cares about them
 - Positive Student Identity and Engagement
 - 94% of mentees are proud to be in TeamMates
 - 81% report increased engagement in school and/or community
 - Increased Hope and Future Orientation
 - 81% of mentees feel more hopeful about their future, a key long-term success indicator.
 - Strong Mentor Satisfaction and Impact
 - 82% of mentors rate the relationship as Excellent or Very Good
 - 92% leave sessions in a better mood
 - 85% return to work/home more engaged
- This demonstrates that the program positively impacts not just students, but also adult participants.

NDE’s Lesser Known Accelerated Student Achievement Goals:

- 80% of 8th grade students will be proficient in mathematics on NSCAS by 2030.

- 71% of 11th grade students will be proficient in mathematics and 73% proficient in ELA on the ACT by 2030.

5.3. Monthly Business Manager Board of Education Report

March 2026 for April 2026 Board Meeting

Monthly Lunch #'s = 13,713 meals served

Financial #'s = After 58% of fiscal year = General Fund YTD Revenue is 61% YTD Expense is 59%

All Funds YTD Revenue is 60%, YTD Expenses is 59%

Facilities - Updates

- The repairs have been made @ Weiland Field to the SE Grandstands
- Work in the junior high gym has begun.
 - Removal of old bleachers
 - Basketball goal and support repair
 - Gum floor sanding and repaint/seal

Projects In Progress

- Junior High HVAC Front End:
 - Installation of the new Honeywell front-end system for air handlers is complete.
 - Need new coils valves for each classroom to complete the system

Upcoming Projects & Infrastructure

- Elementary School: Scheduled 1st grade classroom update for May.
- Roofing Projects:

- Junior High:
- Central: New gutter system
- Senior High Steps: Replacement of steps by Science rooms
- JH “Mid Building” drinking fountains.

Summer Improvements

- Junior High Gym : Discussion of bleachers (bid approved previously), floor (Jim Pratt), wall mats (ordered), and painting (primetime Painting).
- Central Gym : Wall mats (ordered) and painting (Primetime Painting).
- Senior High Main Hallway: Renovations including drywall, ceiling grid/tile, carpet/base, lighting , and paint/Tape/Mud.

Current Financial Projects

Approve Independent auditor contract in new business.

Federal/state Reports filed in March:

None

5.4. Board Comments

There were no board comments.

6. New Business

6.1. Accept Resignations

6.2. Accept the resignation of Carrie Goltl, McCook Junior High 6-8 Phys Ed/Health/Dean of Students

I move to accept the resignation of Carrie Goltl, McCook Junior High 6-8 Phys Ed/Health/Dean of Students Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Amanda Buhr.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.3. Accept the resignation of Kali Curl, McCook Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

I move to accept the resignation of Kali Curl, McCook Elementary Kindergarten Teacher Passed with a motion by Jesse Juenemann and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.4. Approve contract for Reace Anderson, 5-12 Band Teacher

I move to approve contract for Reace Anderson, 5-12 Band Teacher Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Jesse Juenemann.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.5. Accept contract for Baylee Brownawell, McCook Junior High 6-8 Physical Education Teacher

I move to accept contract for Baylee Brownawell, McCook Junior High 6-8 Physical Education Teacher Passed with a motion by Amanda Buhr and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.6. Accept Contract for Shaelin Stiver, K-8 Special Education Teacher

I move to accept Contract for Shaelin Stiver, K-8 Special Education Teacher Passed with a motion by Jesse Juenemann and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.7. Accept contract for Andrew Mantzaris-Senior High PE/Health/Weights Teacher

I move to accept contract for Andrew Mantzaris-Senior High PE/Health/Weights Teacher Passed with a motion by Amanda Buhr and a second by Jesse Juenemann.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.8. Accept the contract for Kaylee Eckert, McCook Elementary Kindergarten Teacher

I move to accept the contract for Kaylee Eckert, McCook Elementary Kindergarten Teacher Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.9. Approve the sale of district surplus

I move to approve the sale of district surplus Passed with a motion by Jesse Juenemann and a second by Amanda Buhr.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.10. Accept \$5,000.00 donation from Parker Hannifin

I move to accept \$5,000.00 donation from Parker Hannifin Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

6.11. Approve McCook High School FFA chapter out of State National FFA Convention—
October 20-24 2026

I move to approve McCook High School FFA chapter out of State National FFA Convention—
October 20-24 2026 Passed with a motion by Amanda Buhr and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea

Yea: 5, Nay: 0

7. Positive Comments

Quinn Taylor reported that his positive comment would be having the opportunity to be the student school board representative. I've enjoyed this experience and have learned a lot about what goes on in the school system and how decisions made here make a great impact. And if I'm being completely honest, before I was the student rep, I really didn't think these meetings had a ton of impact, but overtime being in them, I realized they do, especially with all the time and effort put into them to make the school district better.

Jesse Juenemann attended the 4th grade vocal concert and gave a huge thanks to Mrs Donelan for all her efforts and for a wonderful job with the students.

Mike Langan is so impressed with the YMCA facility improvements, and he states that this joint venture will be awesome for our students and district patrons.

Amanda Buhr congratulated the FFA national qualifiers.

Scott Barger thanked everyone involved with the preparation and hard work on administering the ACT test.

Jeff Gross thanked all the staff and volunteers for their efforts for all the activities taking place in the spring.

Brad Hays thanked Quinn Taylor and wished him well. He also wanted to congratulate Clint Hosick on being named the NCSA strength and conditioning coach of the year.

Grant Norgaard congratulated the Destination Imagination teams for all their hard work and success this year.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned @ 6:47 pm.

9. Items for Review

Board of Education Special Meeting
Red Willow School District #73-0017
McCook Public Schools
12:00 PM Tuesday, April 21, 2026
Junior High Conference Room
700 W 7th St
McCook, NE 69001

1. Call to Order

1.1. Roll Call

Attendance Taken at at 12:00 AM
Agenda Item: Call to Order

Regular Board

Scott Barger
Amanda Buhr
Brad Hays
Jesse Juenemann
Mike Langan
Charlie McPherson

1.2. Recognition of Open Meeting Law

1.3. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Public Participation

2.1. Board accepts public comments

Tom Bredvick thanked Grant Norgaard for all his years. He was honored to work and learn from him.

3. New Business

3.1. Accept the resignation of Grant Norgaard, McCook Public Schools Superintendent

I move to accept the resignation of Grant Norgaard, McCook Public Schools Superintendent.
Passed with a motion by Mike Langan and a second by Jesse Juenemann.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan:
Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

3.2. Discuss, consider, and take action to approve a potential contract offer for the position of Interim Superintendent.

I move to approve a 2 year contract for Interim Superintendent Jeff Gross. Salary to be set at \$190,000. annually for the duration of the contract. Passed with a motion by Brad Hays and a second by Mike Langan.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan:
Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea
Yea: 6, Nay: 0

Mr. Gross will accept the position if approved.

4. Closed Session

For the protection of the public interest and for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual, and the individual has not requested a public meeting, to discuss the terms and conditions of a potential Interim Superintendent contract.

I move to go into closed session. Passed with a motion by Charlie McPherson and a second by Scott Barger.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

I move to exit closed session. Passed with a motion by Scott Barger and a second by Charlie McPherson.

Scott Barger: Yea, Amanda Buhr: Yea, Brad Hays: Yea, Jesse Juenemann: Yea, Mike Langan: Yea, Charlie McPherson: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0

The board will enter into executive session prior to 3.2 on the agenda at 12:18 pm.

The board exited closed session at 1:44 pm.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:52 pm.

CHECKS BY DATE BOARD REPORT

APRIL 2026

General Fund

DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT	DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
4/2/2026	City Of McCook	\$2,649.52	4/30/2026	Flinn Scientific Inc	\$219.45
4/2/2026	Diode Communications	\$145.00	4/30/2026	Frontline Technolgy Group, Inc	\$17,701.52
4/2/2026	Hometown Leasing	\$5,914.72	4/30/2026	Glass Express	\$207.20
4/2/2026	Kansas City Audio-Visual	\$20,120.82	4/30/2026	Gross, Jeff	\$159.50
4/2/2026	McCook E-Free Church	\$150.00	4/30/2026	Gumdrop Books	\$594.60
4/2/2026	Nebraska Public Power District	\$9,302.84	4/30/2026	Hands of Heartland	\$17,272.00
4/2/2026	Viaero Wireless	\$86.05	4/30/2026	Hometown Family Radio	\$100.00
4/8/2026	Black Hills Energy	\$9,702.42	4/30/2026	J.W. Pepper & Sons, Inc	\$728.16
4/8/2026	Colorado Retail Ventures	\$5,930.94	4/30/2026	Jennifer Juenemann	\$107.87
4/8/2026	Essential Screens	\$144.90	4/30/2026	Jordan Lewis	\$375.71
4/8/2026	Frenchman Valley Coop	\$1,135.84	4/30/2026	K-C Motor & Electric, Inc.	\$153.60
4/8/2026	Perry, Guthery, Haase & Gessford	\$298.80	4/30/2026	Kali Curl	\$164.25
4/8/2026	Quadient Finance USA, Inc.	\$3,000.00	4/30/2026	Kansas City Audio-Visual	\$245.00
4/8/2026	US Bank	\$3,525.37	4/30/2026	Kirstie Koch	\$52.79
4/14/2026	Chase County High School	\$1,000.00	4/30/2026	Lincoln Marriott Cornhusker	\$179.00
4/14/2026	Gerih Concrete Construction	\$23,825.00	4/30/2026	Marisa Hoins	\$68.35
4/14/2026	Great Plains Communication	\$1,189.59	4/30/2026	Marks	\$631.77
4/14/2026	TreviPay-Walmart	\$351.25	4/30/2026	McCook Arnold Motor Supply	\$852.47
4/14/2026	Verizon Wireless	\$255.96	4/30/2026	McCook Gazette	\$525.91
4/14/2026	Walsworth	\$1,140.00	4/30/2026	McGraw-Hill Education	\$552.27
4/15/2026	Credit Management Services,	\$506.99	4/30/2026	Mead Lumber	\$220.67
4/15/2026	Hitchcock County Schools	\$911.76	4/30/2026	Meagan Paul	\$30.56
4/15/2026	LVNV Funding LLC	\$155.92	4/30/2026	Michelle Dickes	\$84.77
4/15/2026	McCook Schools Lunch Fund	\$100.00	4/30/2026	Mid-American Diesel	\$8,476.23
4/16/2026	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska	\$247,539.42	4/30/2026	Mid-American Research Chemical	\$8,992.71
4/17/2026	Amazon Capital Services	\$15,388.62	4/30/2026	Midwest Door & Hardware	\$1,376.32
4/20/2026	Ameritas Life Ins. Co	\$2,012.20	4/30/2026	NCSA	\$2,610.00
4/20/2026	Employee Benefits	\$7,481.50	4/30/2026	Nebraskaland Tire	\$27.99
4/20/2026	MASA	\$434.00	4/30/2026	Notable, Inc.	\$3,310.00
4/20/2026	McCook Schools Lunch Fund	\$320.00	4/30/2026	Occupational Therapy Services	\$5,443.50
4/20/2026	National Insurance Services-LTD	\$2,477.86	4/30/2026	Oriental Trading Company	\$51.22
4/20/2026	YMCA of McCook	\$687.00	4/30/2026	Paper 101	\$8,639.24
4/20/2026	National Insurance Services	\$991.57	4/30/2026	Paper Tiger Shredding	\$144.00
4/21/2026	Allison Been Hislop	\$111.00	4/30/2026	Pearson Assessment	\$640.92
4/27/2026	Aflac Group	\$2,388.46	4/30/2026	Pristine Clean Commercial Cleaning	\$16,800.00
4/30/2026	Omnify	\$128.00	4/30/2026	Quality Urgent Care	\$154.00
4/30/2026	Ace Hardware	\$324.80	4/30/2026	Really Good Stuff, Inc.	\$23.98
4/30/2026	Acme Printing Company	\$80.30	4/30/2026	Rifton Equipment	\$255.00
4/30/2026	AKRS Equipment	\$186.95	4/30/2026	Rochester 100 Inc.	\$352.80
4/30/2026	American Electric Company	\$1,156.94	4/30/2026	Rockler	\$78.94
4/30/2026	Big D Metalworks	\$415.00	4/30/2026	Schoolmate	\$806.25
4/30/2026	Cardio Partners	\$2,049.99	4/30/2026	Sharon Wordekemper	\$45.22
4/30/2026	CDW Government, Inc.	\$6,993.45	4/30/2026	Southwest Farm & Auto Supply	\$944.45
4/30/2026	Cynthia L Schroeder	\$333.20	4/30/2026	Supreme School Supply	\$90.22
4/30/2026	City Of McCook	\$59,092.00	4/30/2026	SW NE Physical Therapy PC	\$2,652.75
4/30/2026	Cosmosphere	\$1,340.00	4/30/2026	TabWrite LLC	\$1,100.00
4/30/2026	Crowne Plaza	\$1,239.60	4/30/2026	Teacher Synergy LLC	\$49.00
4/30/2026	D & S Hardware	\$467.17	4/30/2026	Titan Machinery	\$2,486.27
4/30/2026	Delvie's Plastics Inc	\$254.51	4/30/2026	TKO Pest Control, LLC	\$550.00
4/30/2026	Discount Magazine	\$633.26	4/30/2026	Traci Jennings	\$42.73
4/30/2026	Eakes Office Solutions	\$1,003.56	4/30/2026	TreviPay-Walmart	\$147.06
4/30/2026	Electronic Systems Inc	\$845.80	4/30/2026	ULine	\$409.79
4/30/2026	ESU #15	\$12,997.07	4/30/2026	Van Diest Supply Company	\$2,947.55
4/30/2026	ESU #16	\$364.52	4/30/2026	Vernon Library Supplies	\$162.50

CHECKS BY DATE BOARD REPORT**APRIL 2026****General Fund**

4/30/2026	Vestis	\$1,455.07	4/30/2026	Wagner Ford-Toyota	\$276.30
4/30/2026	VK Electronics	\$529.99	4/30/2026	WEX Bank	\$1,135.06
4/30/2026	Wagner Chevrolet-Buick	\$543.96	4/30/2026	Woodline USA	\$479.07

APRIL 2026 EFT CHECKS**General Fund**

AFLAC	\$6,914.32	LegalShield	\$133.60
Colonial Life	\$996.95	NE Dept of Revenue - State Taxes	\$27,276.41
Direct Deposit	\$716,335.84	Nebr. School Retirement System	\$150,366.07
Federal Taxes/FICA/Medicare	\$212,898.79	Retirement Plan Consultants (403b)	\$3,998.59
Horace Mann Insurance Co	\$412.79	HSA Deposits	\$16,604.08

CHECKS BY DATE BOARD REPORT**APRIL 2026****Depreciation Fund**

DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT			
4/30/2026	DELTON YOUNG	\$1,100.00			

CHECKS BY DATE BOARD REPORT**APRIL 2026****Special Building Fund**

DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT			
4/2/2026	MNB Bank	\$3,007.54			

CHECKS BY DATE BOARD REPORT**APRIL 2026****Nutrition Fund**

DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT	DATE	VENDOR	AMOUNT
4/8/2026	Activity Fund	\$50.75	4/21/2026	Opaa! Food Management, Inc.	\$66,147.54
4/8/2026	McCook Public Schools	\$142.82	4/30/2026	Jennifer Warwick	\$15.20
4/8/2026	Opaa! Food Management, Inc.	\$61,393.72	4/30/2026	Parde Electric	\$547.01

McCook Public Schools

Receipts Report

APRIL 2026

Customer Name		1 - City of McCook			
Batch No.	Receipt No.	Method	Date	Description	Amount
4903	00001	Check	4/15/2026	liquor licenses	\$3,650.00
Sub Total					\$3,650.00
Customer Name		10 - MPS			
Batch No.	Receipt No.	Method	Date	Description	Amount
4901	00001	Check	4/15/2026	Postage	\$142.82
4902	00001	Check	4/15/2026	Transportation Reimbursable	\$5,016.90
Sub Total					\$5,159.72
Customer Name		11 - ESU15			
Batch No.	Receipt No.	Method	Date	Description	Amount
4905	00001	Check	4/20/2026	Hanson Insurance	\$937.54
Sub Total					\$937.54
Customer Name		12 - State of NE			
Batch No.	Receipt No.	Method	Date	Description	Amount
4909	00001	Direct Deposit	4/30/2026	State Aid	\$546,628.00
4904	00001	Direct Deposit	4/20/2026	Sped SA FFR	\$359,961.00
4894	00001	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Title 1	\$117,661.00
4895	00001	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Lunch Reimbursement	\$34,309.52
4896	00005	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Homestead Exemption	\$56,035.31
Sub Total					\$1,114,594.83
Customer Name		13 - Other			
Batch No.	Receipt No.	Method	Date	Description	Amount
4906	00001	Check	4/20/2026	Employee Insurance	\$1,200.84
4907	00001	Credit Card	4/30/2026	Reimbursement - other districts	\$18,121.99
4907	00002	Credit Card	4/30/2026	sale of meals	(\$129.63)
4908	00001	Check	4/30/2026	sale of meals	\$12,408.55
Sub Total					\$31,601.75
Customer Name		14 - Frontier County			
Batch No.	Receipt No.	Method	Date	Description	Amount
4899	00001	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Property Tax	\$4,681.21
4899	00002	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$1,340.13
4899	00003	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Homestead Exemption	\$205.99
Sub Total					\$6,227.33
Customer Name		3 - Hitchcock Co			
Batch No.	Receipt No.	Method	Date	Description	Amount
4900	00001	Check	4/15/2026	Property Tax	\$6,282.03
4900	00002	Check	4/15/2026	Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$0.86
4900	00003	Check	4/15/2026	pro rate motor vehicle	\$267.48
Sub Total					\$6,550.37
Customer Name		5 - Red Willow Co			
Batch No.	Receipt No.	Method	Date	Description	Amount
4896	00006	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Pro Rate Motor Vehicle	\$16,450.56
4897	00001	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Property Tax	\$162.76
4898	00001	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Property Tax	\$56.51
4896	00001	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Property Tax	\$221,805.68
4896	00002	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Public Power 5% Gross	\$294,937.03
4896	00003	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Motor Vehicle Taxes	\$78,507.09
4896	00004	Direct Deposit	4/15/2026	Police court fines	\$50.00
Sub Total					\$611,969.63

Mccook Public Schools

Revenues for Mar 2026 for Apr 2026 Board Meeting

[Fund] 01 - General Fund

Account Code	Description	Actual (Date)	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
01-1-01100-00-000-000	Local Property Taxes	(\$232,768.92)	(\$9,613,475.00)	(\$4,121,413.03)	(\$5,492,061.97)	42.87
01-1-01115-00-000-000	Carline Taxes	\$0.00	(\$4,000.00)	(\$414.67)	(\$3,585.33)	10.36
01-1-01120-00-000-000	Public Power Dist. Sales Tax	(\$294,937.03)	(\$295,000.00)	(\$299,471.73)	\$4,471.73	101.51
01-1-01125-00-000-000	Motor Vehicle Taxes	(\$79,848.08)	(\$780,000.00)	(\$639,691.31)	(\$140,308.69)	82.01
01-1-01323-00-000-000	Tuition - District - Sped	\$0.00	(\$13,000.00)	(\$3,250.00)	(\$9,750.00)	25.00
01-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$8,704.09)	(\$71,393.00)	(\$65,153.91)	(\$6,239.09)	91.26
01-1-01911-00-000-000	Local License Fees	(\$3,650.00)	(\$7,000.00)	(\$5,505.00)	(\$1,495.00)	78.64
01-1-01921-00-000-000	Police Court Fines	(\$50.00)	(\$7,000.00)	(\$1,200.00)	(\$5,800.00)	17.14
01-1-02110-00-000-000	County Fines & License Fees	\$0.00	(\$50,000.00)	(\$37,022.71)	(\$12,977.29)	74.04
01-1-03110-00-000-000	State Aid	(\$546,628.00)	(\$5,414,380.00)	(\$3,843,195.74)	(\$1,571,184.26)	70.98
01-1-03120-00-000-000	Sped School Age	(\$359,961.00)	(\$2,500,000.00)	(\$2,370,150.00)	(\$129,850.00)	94.80
01-1-03125-00-000-000	Sped Trans. Sch Age	\$0.00	(\$50,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$50,000.00)	0.00
01-1-03130-00-000-000	Homestead Exemption	(\$56,241.30)	(\$270,000.00)	(\$112,482.60)	(\$157,517.40)	41.66
01-1-03131-00-000-000	Property Tax Credit	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$1,597,426.33)	\$1,597,426.33	0.00
01-1-03180-00-000-000	Pro Rate Motor Vehicle	(\$16,718.04)	(\$30,000.00)	(\$26,497.81)	(\$3,502.19)	88.32
01-1-03400-00-000-000	State Apportionment	\$0.00	(\$380,000.00)	(\$421,876.68)	\$41,876.68	111.02
01-1-03512-00-000-000	Distance Educ. Incentive Payments	\$0.00	(\$1,700.00)	(\$2,000.00)	\$300.00	117.64
01-1-03535-00-000-000	High Ability Learner Payments	\$0.00	(\$12,000.00)	(\$9,080.00)	(\$2,920.00)	75.66
01-1-03990-00-000-000	Other State Receipts	\$0.00	(\$7,500.00)	\$0.00	(\$7,500.00)	0.00
01-1-04505-00-000-000	Title I Current Fiscal Year	(\$117,661.00)	(\$255,000.00)	(\$245,473.00)	(\$9,527.00)	96.26
01-1-04509-00-000-000	Title II, Part A Teacher Quality	\$0.00	(\$47,000.00)	(\$51,698.00)	\$4,698.00	109.99
01-1-04510-00-000-000	Title IV	\$0.00	(\$15,700.00)	\$0.00	(\$15,700.00)	0.00
01-1-04516-00-000-000	IDEA Base 3-5	\$0.00	(\$16,000.00)	(\$7,719.00)	(\$8,281.00)	48.24
01-1-04518-00-000-000	IDEA - BASE - EP	\$0.00	(\$366,000.00)	(\$189,960.00)	(\$176,040.00)	51.90
01-1-04521-00-000-000	IDEA Non-Public	\$0.00	(\$32,000.00)	(\$13,725.00)	(\$18,275.00)	42.89
01-1-04524-00-000-000	Other Federal Non-categorical	\$0.00	(\$7,500.00)	\$0.00	(\$7,500.00)	0.00
01-1-04525-00-000-000	Federal Carl Perkins	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$15,903.55)	\$15,903.55	0.00
01-1-04530-00-000-000	Categorical Grants	\$0.00	(\$3,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$3,000.00)	0.00
01-1-04708-00-000-000	Medicaid In Public Schools	\$0.00	(\$105,000.00)	(\$50,399.22)	(\$54,600.78)	47.99
01-1-04709-00-000-000	Medicaid Administrative Activity	\$0.00	(\$25,000.00)	(\$7,209.00)	(\$17,791.00)	28.83
01-1-04969-00-000-000	Title IV (new)	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$18,625.00)	\$18,625.00	0.00
01-1-05301-00-000-000	Insurance Adjustments	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$10,839.70)	\$10,839.70	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$1,717,167.46)	(\$20,378,648.00)	(\$14,167,382.99)	(\$6,211,265.01)	69.52%

[Fund] 02 - Depreciation Fund

02-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$1,629.08)	(\$1,500.00)	(\$15,210.02)	\$13,710.02	1,014.00
02-1-05200-00-000-000	Transfers From General Fund	\$0.00	(\$400,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$400,000.00)	0.00
02-1-05690-00-000-000	Non-revenue Receipts	(\$5,016.90)	\$0.00	(\$15,039.50)	\$15,039.50	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$6,645.98)	(\$401,500.00)	(\$30,249.52)	(\$371,250.48)	7.53%

[Fund] 03 - Employee Benefit

Account Code	Description	Actual (Date)	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
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03-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest - Unemployment	(\$202.10)	(\$250.00)	(\$1,634.14)	\$1,384.14	653.65
03-1-05200-00-000-000	Transfers From General Fund	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$5,000.00)	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$202.10)	(\$5,250.00)	(\$1,634.14)	(\$3,615.86)	31.13%
[Fund] 06 - School Nutrition Fund						
Account Code	Description	Actual (Date Range)	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
06-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$573.62)	(\$100.00)	(\$4,210.70)	\$4,110.70	4,210.70
06-1-01611-00-000-000	School Lunch Program	(\$30,530.54)	(\$310,000.00)	(\$252,394.39)	(\$57,605.61)	81.41
06-1-03150-00-000-000	State Reimbursement	\$0.00	(\$320,000.00)	\$0.00	(\$320,000.00)	0.00
06-1-04210-00-000-000	Federal Reimbursement	(\$34,309.52)	\$0.00	(\$255,914.97)	\$255,914.97	0.00
06-1-05690-00-000-000	Other Non-revenue Receipts	\$129.63	\$0.00	(\$113.55)	\$113.55	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$65,284.05)	(\$630,100.00)	(\$512,633.61)	(\$117,466.39)	81.36%
[Fund] 07 - Bond Fund						
Account Code	Description	Actual (Date Range)	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
07-1-01100-00-000-000	Local Property Taxes	(\$162.76)	\$0.00	(\$625.21)	\$625.21	0.00
07-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$626.55)	\$0.00	(\$5,745.58)	\$5,745.58	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$789.31)	\$0.00	(\$6,370.79)	\$6,370.79	
[Fund] 08 - Special Building Fund						
Account Code	Description	Actual (Date Range)	Budget (YTD)	Actual (YTD)	Available (YTD)	% of Budget
08-1-01100-00-000-000	Local Property Taxes	(\$56.51)	\$0.00	(\$1,929.46)	\$1,929.46	0.00
08-1-01510-00-000-000	Interest	(\$634.99)	\$0.00	(\$8,102.14)	\$8,102.14	0.00
Subtotal of Element: Revenue		(\$691.50)	\$0.00	(\$10,031.60)	\$10,031.60	
Grand Total		(\$1,790,780.40)	(\$21,415,498.00)	(\$14,728,302.65)	(\$6,687,195.35)	68.77%

McCook Public Schools

Expenditures for Mar 2026 for Apr 2026 Board Meeting

Function - General Fund	Actuals (Selected)	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
01100 - Regular Instruction	\$621,776.44	\$7,504,117.37	\$4,880,079.95	\$2,585,405.45	65.03
01150 - Limited English Proficiency Programs	\$13,208.11	\$83,441.86	\$102,986.44	(\$19,544.58)	123.42
01160 - Poverty Programs	\$134,137.70	\$1,628,562.12	\$1,067,851.61	\$560,710.51	65.57
01190 - Early Childhood Educational Programs	\$33.07	\$2,500.00	\$1,061.88	\$983.32	42.48
01200 - Special Education Instructional Programs -	\$266,651.20	\$2,833,139.99	\$2,081,569.07	\$738,947.94	73.47
01291 - Special Education Instructional Programs -	\$31.20	\$154,708.80	\$338.46	\$154,370.34	0.22
01295 - Special Education Instructional Programs -	\$99.17	\$2,188.66	\$839.57	\$1,349.09	38.36
01300 - Summer School	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$7,712.28	0.00
02110 - Attendance/Social Work	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	\$0.00	\$35,000.00	0.00
02120 - Guidance Services	\$16,766.76	\$238,664.24	\$138,984.68	\$99,461.46	58.23
02130 - Health Services	\$2,049.99	\$5,100.00	\$14,583.15	(\$13,046.03)	285.94
02131 - SPED Health Services	\$5,901.78	\$63,170.42	\$46,049.11	\$17,121.31	72.90
02141 - Psychological Services - SPED - School	\$17,527.47	\$158,567.07	\$121,444.08	\$20,770.89	76.59
02151 - Speech Pathology and Audiology Services -	\$23,374.00	\$217,463.09	\$171,559.84	\$31,088.71	78.89
02152 - Speech Pathology and Audiology Services -	\$0.00	\$2,950.00	\$472.51	\$2,268.73	16.02
02153 - Speech Pathology and Audiology Services -	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$94.50	\$905.50	9.45
02161 - Occupational Therapy-Related Services -	\$14,495.41	\$113,567.79	\$89,905.95	\$22,316.95	79.17
02171 - Physical Therapy-Related Services - SPED -	\$2,652.75		\$14,026.50	(\$14,026.50)	
02173 - Physical Therapy-Related Services - SPED -	\$0.00		\$101.25	(\$101.25)	
02181 - Visually Impaired-Vision Services - SPED -	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	\$0.00	\$7,500.00	0.00
02190 - Support Services - Student - Other	\$0.00	\$100,000.00	\$128,782.94	(\$28,782.94)	128.78
02213 - Instructional Staff Training	\$0.00	\$6,500.00	\$3,076.00	\$3,424.00	47.32
02220 - Library-Media Services	\$34,569.65	\$436,523.40	\$289,132.30	\$139,770.24	66.24
02230 - Instruction Related Technology	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	0.00
02310 - Board of Education	\$795.53	\$211,500.00	\$41,383.76	\$170,116.24	19.57
02320 - Executive Administration	\$22,705.66	\$296,405.65	\$198,177.41	\$98,228.24	66.86
02330 - District Legal Services	\$298.80	\$20,000.00	\$6,012.80	\$13,987.20	30.06
02410 - Office of the Principal	\$108,367.56	\$1,216,581.54	\$840,211.13	\$372,848.57	69.06
02490 - Activity Director	\$11,852.57	\$145,195.09	\$95,466.46	\$49,728.63	65.75
02510 - Fiscal Services	\$64,951.33	\$757,506.36	\$355,135.06	\$401,928.88	46.88
02530 - PRINTING, PUBLISHING, &	(\$190.66)		\$482.58	(\$482.58)	
02580 - Administrative Technology Service	\$31,560.88	\$460,735.53	\$282,297.24	\$144,971.29	61.27
02610 - Operation of Buildings	\$73,363.95	\$850,604.33	\$921,814.60	(\$71,802.74)	108.37
02620 - Maintenance of Buildings	\$73,061.55	\$912,211.84	\$608,394.84	\$303,204.81	66.69
02650 - Vehicle Operation and Maintenance (Other	\$586.82	\$21,500.00	\$6,079.09	\$15,420.91	28.27
02660 - Security	\$59,271.00	\$46,000.00	\$68,551.30	(\$22,551.30)	149.02
02670 - Safety	\$145.00		\$1,160.00	(\$1,740.00)	
02710 - Vehicle Operation - Regular Education	\$37,711.29	\$294,050.40	\$290,495.78	\$3,439.95	98.79
02712 - Vehicle Operation - School Age SPED	\$6,632.48	\$84,910.42	\$184,762.57	(\$99,852.15)	217.60
02713 - Vehicle Operation - Below Age 5 SPED	\$0.00	\$15,900.00	\$0.00	\$15,900.00	0.00
02730 - Vehicle Servicing and Maintenance -	\$2,143.03	\$95,578.77	\$64,374.01	\$31,204.76	67.35
03512 - Distance Education	\$7,480.17		\$139,952.55	(\$182,211.43)	
03535 - High Ability Learners	\$3,108.92	\$23,018.00	\$13,048.78	\$9,225.06	56.69
03599 - State Categorical Programs - Others	\$0.00	\$6,300.00	\$0.00	\$6,300.00	0.00

06200 - Federal Services - Title I Part A ESSA	\$19,467.89	\$240,122.24	\$156,597.80	\$83,524.44	65.22
06310 - Federal Services - Title II Part A ESSA	\$45.00	\$117,600.00	\$24,376.09	\$93,223.91	20.73
06406 - Federal Services - IDEA Preschool (619)	\$37.34	\$18,314.24	\$16,368.52	\$1,945.72	89.38
06408 - Part B 611 Base EP	\$30,974.14	\$354,907.85	\$247,097.42	\$107,810.43	69.62
06412 - Federal Services - IDEA Part B	\$2,750.24	\$33,246.93	\$22,001.95	\$11,244.98	66.18
06690 - Federal Services - Other Federal Non-	\$0.00	\$6,294.00	\$0.00	\$6,294.00	0.00
06700 - Federal Services - Federal Vocational and	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$15,903.55	(\$13,903.55)	795.18
06967 - FEDERAL SERVICES - TITLE IV, PART A	\$0.00	\$18,500.00	\$0.00	\$18,500.00	0.00
08000 - Transfers (Outgoing)	\$0.00	\$500,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$450,000.00	10.00
01 - General Fund	\$1,710,395.19	\$20,378,648.00	\$13,803,085.08	\$6,395,109.69	67.73%

Function - Depreciation Fund	Actuals (Selected	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
02900 - OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES	\$1,100.00	\$1,020,000.00	\$346,219.82	\$669,130.18	33.94
02 - Depreciation Fund	\$1,100.00	\$1,020,000.00	\$346,219.82	\$669,130.18	33.94%

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

Function - School Nutrition Fund	Actuals (Selected	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
02190 - Support Services - Student - Other	\$128,397.04	\$630,100.00	\$526,160.97	\$103,939.03	83.50
06 - School Nutrition Fund	\$128,397.04	\$630,100.00	\$526,160.97	\$103,939.03	83.50%

Function - Bond Fund	Actuals (Selected	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
05000 - Debt Service	\$0.00	\$70,210.00	\$70,410.00	(\$200.00)	100.28
07 - Bond Fund	\$0.00	\$70,210.00	\$70,410.00	(\$200.00)	100.28%

Function Special Building	Actuals (Selected	Adopted Budget	Actuals (YTD)	Available	% of Budget
02515 - Building and Sites	\$0.00	\$1,180,000.00	\$0.00	\$1,180,000.00	0.00
04300 - ARCHITECTURE & ENGINEERING	\$0.00		\$7,584.84	(\$7,584.84)	
04700 - Building Improvements	\$0.00		\$820,477.01	(\$820,477.01)	
05000 - Debt Service	\$3,007.54	\$55,000.00	\$24,060.32	\$18,909.52	43.75
08 - Special Building Fund	\$3,007.54	\$1,235,000.00	\$852,122.17	\$370,847.67	69.00%

Grand Total	\$1,842,899.77	\$23,339,208.00	\$15,597,998.04	\$7,544,076.57	67%
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McCook Public Schools

Cash Summary Report Apr 2026 for May 2026 Board Meeting

Fund	Description	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expenditure	Ending Balance
01	General Fund	\$5,534,792.01	\$1,258,188.11	(\$1,665,216.02)	\$5,127,764.10
02	Depreciation Fund	\$1,004,437.22	\$4,284.98	(\$20,210.00)	\$988,512.20
03	Employee Benefit Fund	\$122,728.43	\$215.20	\$0.00	\$122,943.63
05	Activity Fund	\$502,507.90	\$26,125.00	(\$65,573.54)	\$463,059.36
06	School Nutrition Fund	\$384,911.92	\$63,220.06	(\$859.89)	\$447,272.09
07	Bond Fund	\$407,274.65	\$792.26	\$0.00	\$408,066.91
08	Special Building Fund	\$395,177.67	\$692.80	(\$7,928.44)	\$387,942.03
Sub Total		\$8,351,829.80	\$1,353,518.41	(\$1,759,787.89)	\$7,945,560.32

Cash Summary Report Apr 2025 for May 2025 Board Meeting (Last year)

Fund	Description	Beginning Balance	Revenue	Expenditure	Ending Balance
01	General Fund	\$5,643,323.96	\$1,845,834.71	(\$1,834,360.33)	\$5,654,798.34
02	Depreciation Fund	\$973,865.05	\$2,302.42	(\$161,454.96)	\$814,712.51
03	Employee Benefit Fund	\$142,927.65	\$231.95	\$0.00	\$143,159.60
05	Activity Fund	\$400,723.56	\$27,394.81	\$59,900.63	\$362,353.74
06	School Nutrition Fund	\$378,277.25	\$61,997.47	(\$56,582.06)	\$383,692.66
07	Bond Fund	\$656,386.19	\$4,014.27	\$0.00	\$660,400.46
08	Special Building Fund	\$1,304,449.59	\$3,446.29	(\$40,931.71)	\$1,266,964.17
Sub Total		\$9,499,953.25	\$1,945,221.92	(\$2,033,428.43)	\$9,286,081.48

McCook Public Schools

Voucher by Vendor Report

US Bank April 2026

Voucher Number	Vendor	Amount						
2 APR 25/26	US Bank	\$3,525.37						
Invoice	Payment Vendor	PO Number	Invoice Date	Warrant	Item No.	Item Description	Account Code	Amount
MAGICSCHO	US Bank	26-2228	03/12/2026	58242	1	1 Year Subscription	01-2-01100-00-643-1-003-60	\$107.46
ST1sports	US Bank	26-2263	03/12/2026	58242	1	https://st1sports.com/product/starting-blanks-22-cal-crimped	01-2-01100-23-610-2-002-20	\$61.00
ST1sports	US Bank	26-2263	03/12/2026	58242	2	.22 cal starter https://st1sports.com/product/gill-competition-starting	01-2-01100-23-610-2-002-20	\$174.00
ST1sports	US Bank	26-2263	03/12/2026	58242	3	Shipping	01-2-01100-23-610-2-002-20	\$7.99
JOSeeds	US Bank	26-2229	03/11/2026	58242	1	Seeds for students to learn the difference of how to take care of vegetable plants vs flowers and the different nutrients/ care needed	01-2-01100-32-610-2-001-15	\$410.70
HOLINEXP MO	US Bank	26-2445	03/11/2026	58242	1	lodging for hiring fair at Holiday Inn Express MO for NorthWest Missouri State	01-2-02310-00-580-0-000-11	\$439.62
CROWPLAZ	US Bank	26-2444	03/20/2026	58242	1	Crowne Plaza lodging for NRCSA Spring Conference	01-2-02320-00-580-0-000-10	\$337.68
MARRIOTTGNS	US Bank	26-2443	03/06/2026	58242	1	Cornhusker Hotel lodging for Grant Norgaard NRCSA Legislative Forum	01-2-02320-00-580-0-000-10	\$192.50
CornhuskerNRCSA	US Bank	26-2442	02/26/2026	58242	1	Cornhusker Hotel lodging for Jeff Gross NRCSA Legislative Forum	01-2-02510-00-580-0-000-11	\$183.00
CROWPLAZ	US Bank	26-2444	03/20/2026	58242	1	Crowne Plaza lodging for NRCSA Spring Conference	01-2-02510-00-580-0-000-11	\$337.68
OWHMar26	US Bank	26-1244	02/25/2026	58242	1	Omaha World Harold Subscription	01-2-02510-00-610-0-000-11	\$29.99
MANHAT HOLINN	US Bank	159-25L	03/06/2026	58242	1	Lodging at Holiday Inn Manhattan MACE CONF 3/3/26	01-2-02580-00-580-1-000-85	\$384.96
SPRWARHOUSE	US Bank	26-2293	03/16/2026	58242	1	Sprinkler Warehouse (20) case of RPS75 and 14003	01-2-02620-00-610-0-000-12	\$858.79
Sub Total								\$3,525.37
Grand Total								\$3,525.37

Check Summary

Sorted by Check Number.
From 04/01/2026 to 04/30/2026.

Check Number	Site ID	Status	Check / Void Date	Vendor Name	PO Number	Invoice No.#	Description	Amount
	MPS	Void	04/30/2026	TreviPay	26-087017	5b061f92	water	0.00
36558	MPS	Cleared	04/01/2026	McCook Lettering	26-085101	47996	MJHS- NASAS SHIRTS	435.00
36559	MPS	Cleared	04/01/2026	Yanda's Music & Pro Audio	26-086841	ACCT#2601	Band supplies/repairs	171.17
36560	MPS	Cleared	04/01/2026	ESU 10	26-086948	27296	CAVSC Repair Parts	865.00
36561	MPS	Cleared	04/02/2026	Bartholomew, Don	26-244	DB04022026	Track	350.00
36562	MPS	Cleared	04/02/2026	Brodersen, Rich	26-245	RB04022026	Track	650.00
36563	MPS	Cleared	04/02/2026	Coca Cola	26-086845	11998132	Concession supplies	936.60
36564	MPS	Cleared	04/02/2026	McCook Lettering	26-086844	48054	Girls Track- Jackets	1,625.00
36565	MPS	Cleared	04/08/2026	Depreciation Fund	26-086949	DF040826	Mileage-March	5,016.90
36566	MPS	Cleared	04/08/2026	National FFA Organization	26-086842	MDE382910	FFA awards	358.50
36567	MPS	Void	04/09/2026	Nichols, Darin	26-086851	DN04082026	Reimbursement-Donuts	0.00
36568	MPS	Cleared	04/08/2026	Caleb Rogers	26-086951	CR04082026	Reimbursement-Honors Bio Trip	100.00
36569	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Wiemers, Matt	26-25	MW040926	Meal Allowance-Tennis	324.00
36570	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	US Bank	26-087399	240034160579 00016277889	Interview lunch-Citta Deli	5,417.01
36572	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Nick's Distribution Inc	26-086852	148966	Concession supplies	23.49
36573	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Davidson, Amanda	26-087003	AD040926	Reimbursement-parking	36.98
36574	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Medicine Valley Schools	26-74	Golf041626	Golf entry fee	50.00
36575	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Kearney High School	26-75	Golf040926	Golf entry fee	175.00
36576	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Chase County High School	26-76	Golf041426	Golf entry fee	50.00
36577	MPS	Printed	04/09/2026	Lexington High School	26-77	Golf04142026	Golf entry fee	100.00
36578	MPS	Printed	04/09/2026	Gothenburg High School	26-78	Golf042326	Golf entry fee	125.00
36579	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Scottsbluff High School	26-79	Golf042726	Golf entry fee	75.00
36580	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Holdrege High School	26-80	Golf042826	Golf entry fee	100.00
36581	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Hitchcock County Schools	26-81	Golf050526	Golf entry fee	100.00
36582	MPS	Cleared	04/09/2026	Southern Valley Schools	26-82	Golf050726	Golf entry fee	70.00
36583	MPS	Printed	04/09/2026	TIFFANY CORBETT	26-086851	TC04092026	Reimbursement-Donuts	53.26
36584	MPS	Cleared	04/10/2026	Hampton Inn	26-087007	1774903887	Guest Rooms-Speech	330.00
36585	MPS	Cleared	04/10/2026	Nick's Distribution Inc	26-086313	148976	Concession supplies	21.89
36586	MPS	Printed	04/10/2026	Ogallala High School	26-086899	03212026	SWC Music/Art	610.67
36587	MPS	Cleared	04/10/2026	Embassy Suites	26-087006	1774982324	Guest Rooms-FFA	10,015.20
36588	MPS	Cleared	04/10/2026	Jostens	26-086939	39419486	Diploma	39.71
36589	MPS	Cleared	04/10/2026	Sweet Magnolias	26-087012	23ATJ7MMRR E7W	Poore Funeral Plant	55.00
36590	MPS	Cleared	04/10/2026	Opaa! Food Management, Inc	26-087009	NE00071791	Circle of friends-March 2026	38.50
36591	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Henrichs, Robin	26-26	RH04142026	Meal Allowance-Quiz Bowl	84.00
36592	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Abby Fiske	26-246	AF04142026	SWC Speech	100.00
36593	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Opaa! Food Management, Inc	26-087011	NE00071790	SWC Speech Lunch	660.25
36594	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Vetrovsky, Joe	26-087241	JV04142026	Reimbursement-Football staff retreat	88.34
36595	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Opaa! Food	26-087008	NE00071793	Pre-K Milk-March	19.20

Check Summary

Sorted by Check Number.
From 04/01/2026 to 04/30/2026.

Check Number	Site ID	Status	Check / Void Date	Vendor Name	PO Number	Invoice No.#	Description	Amount
				Management, Inc				
36596	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Opaa! Food Management, Inc	26-087010	NE00071792	After School Snacks-March	672.00
36597	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Vetrovsky, Joe	26-087242	JV0041426	Reimbursement-Food/Gas	305.26
36598	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	McCook Lettering	26-084631	48057	cheer-quarter zips/tees	425.00
36599	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Harco Athletic Reconditioning, Inc	26-086856	32032	Football equipment	970.00
36600	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Instrumentalist Awards LLC	26-086935	Account/order # 69001M 2601	Sousa/conductors/Jazz combination	182.00
36601	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Misko Sports	26-086855	INV-5073	Football /Volleyball equipment	824.25
36602	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	Jostens	26-087013	797030	Honor Medallions	2,784.90
36603	MPS	Printed	04/14/2026	Degnan, Cory	206-26	CD04142026	Reimbursement-Meals	544.93
36604	MPS	Cleared	04/14/2026	OTC Brands, Inc	26-085662	74172052601	Foam Jumbo Parrots	29.99
36605	MPS	Cleared	04/15/2026	Nichols, Darin	287-26	DN04152026	Mileage-Tennis/Golf	294.35
36606	MPS	Cleared	04/15/2026	TreviPay	26-086846	61c17951	AD supplies	505.39
36607	MPS	Cleared	04/16/2026	Amazon Capital Services	26-087016	1M7C-64ML-93KC	Credit Memo:1M7C-64ML-93KC (Parrot Return)	1,046.88
36608	MPS	Cleared	04/17/2026	Henrichs, Robin	26-27	RH04172026	Meal Allowance-Quiz Bowl	84.00
36609	MPS	Cleared	04/21/2026	Jimmy Johns	26-087018	04212026	Board meeting lunch	240.63
36610	MPS	Cleared	04/24/2026	Jostens	26-087020	39582784	Graduation Outfit	1,173.70
36611	MPS	Printed	04/24/2026	Coca Cola	26-086871	12016982	Concession supplies	264.97
36612	MPS	Cleared	04/24/2026	Kim Reid	26-087005	#1	Per diem for Kim Darling Nac residency	355.00
36613	MPS	Printed	04/24/2026	McCook Lettering	26-086866	47846	FFA-Banquet awards	970.00
36614	MPS	Cleared	04/24/2026	Coppermill	26-086864	1112	FFA Banquet meal	5,280.00
36615	MPS	Printed	04/24/2026	Trisha Wagner	26-086865	011002	FFA Banquet-Balloons/Backdrop	400.00
36616	MPS	Cleared	04/24/2026	Mead Lumber Company	26-086903	133348561	vault boxes	73.54
36617	MPS	Cleared	04/24/2026	Hauxwell, Savannah	26-086863	03242026	Reimbursement-FFA meals	2,320.49
36618	MPS	Printed	04/24/2026	Friends Football Camps	26-087243	30	3 day coaches clinic	4,800.00
36619	MPS	Cleared	04/23/2026	Dugger, Christy	26-086862	04 24 26	Reimbursement-Donuts	52.76
36620	MPS	Cleared	04/24/2026	Lincoln Christian	26-86	0411 2026	MPS Tennis entry fee	100.00
36621	MPS	Cleared	04/24/2026	AllTeam Sportswear	26-086869	INV-010168	Football equipment	2,479.00
36622	MPS	Cleared	04/24/2026	Subway	26-086854	04202026	Math Club-Sandwich platter	239.75
36623	MPS	Void	04/24/2026	Vetrovsky, Ben	26-28	BV042426	Meal Allowance - Golf	0.00
36624	MPS	Printed	04/28/2026	Lanham, Mike	26-247	ML04282026	JH Track meet 04282026	275.00
36625	MPS	Printed	04/28/2026	Forney, Jon	26-248	JF04272026	JV track meet 04272026	275.00
36626	MPS	Printed	04/29/2026	Big Apple Fun Center	26-086874	04292026	Ultimate Fun Pass	1,500.00
36627	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	TreviPay	26-086859	198c8583	senior high supplies	1,048.38
36629	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Lexington Public Schools	26-89	04152026	MPS Tennis entry fee 04152026	100.00
36630	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Hastings High School	26-84	02062026/02132026	MPS Swim entry fee 020626/021326	235.00
36631	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Menards	26-086868	31940311	1/2'-4x8 Extruded R-3.0	159.84

Check Summary

Sorted by Check Number.
From 04/01/2026 to 04/30/2026.

Check Number	Site ID	Status	Check / Void Date	Vendor Name	PO Number	Invoice No.#	Description	Amount
36632	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Nebraska FFA Association	26-086878	4746	State FFA Registration / membership dues	1,828.00
36633	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Branding Iron Cafe	26-086880	041726	Desserts	275.00
36634	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Nick's Distribution Inc	26-086881	149163	Concession supplies	23.49
36635	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	McCook Lettering	26-085555	48081	Field Day shirts	1,565.00
36636	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Subway	26-085105	05012026	6th grade track day	75.87
36637	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Alliance High School	26-86	05122026	MPS Track entry fee 05/12/2026	100.00
36638	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Kearney Catholic	26-87	050726	MPS Tennis entry fee	90.00
36639	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Eustis-Farnam FFA	26-086879	04 30 26	MPS Registration & Bubble Cards	159.00
36640	MPS	Printed	04/30/2026	Southwest Anglers	26-086884	0 4 3 0 2 6	Concession payout	1,174.50
							Report Total:	65,573.54

Receipt History

Detail report. Sorted by Site, Receipt Number.

From 04/01/2026 to 04/30/2026.

Receipt Number	Receipt Date	Void Date	Deposit Number	Check Number	Received From	Receipt Description	Amount	Sales Tax	Amount
Activity ID	Activity Name		Fee Name & Student ID				Tax Amount		
Tax Name			Tax Activity		Tax Rate %				
MPS McCook Public Schools									
04302026	04/30/2026		0000004521		Bank Interest	Bank Interest			
947-9047	Bank Interest						818.83	0.00	818.83
							Total For 04302026:		818.83
7400	04/29/2026		0000004496		Industrial Art Fees	Industrial Art Fees			
224-2024	Industrial Arts						107.02	0.00	107.02
							Total For 7400:		107.02
7401	04/30/2026		0000004518		Industrial Art Fees	Industrial Art Fees			
224-2024	Industrial Arts						250.00	0.00	250.00
							Total For 7401:		250.00
7402	04/30/2026		0000004510		Concession-JH track meet	Concession-JH track meet			
223-2023	Senior High Concessions						1,174.50	0.00	1,174.50
							Total For 7402:		1,174.50
7875	04/23/2026		0000004494		Yearbook-Concessions	Yearbook-Concessions			
215-2015	High School Annual						623.16	0.00	623.16
							Total For 7875:		623.16
7876	04/23/2026		0000004487		Math Club-Brain Bowl	Math Club-Brain Bowl			
230-2030	Math Club						14.00	0.00	14.00
							Total For 7876:		14.00
7877	04/30/2026		0000004482		Yearbook-Concessions	Yearbook-Concessions			
215-2015	High School Annual						300.00	0.00	300.00
							Total For 7877:		300.00
7878	04/23/2026		0000004454		Industrial Art Fees	Industrial Art Fees			
224-2024	Industrial Arts						176.00	0.00	176.00
							Total For 7878:		176.00
7879	04/23/2026		0000004455		FFA-Labor Auction	FFA-Labor Auction			
210-2010	FFA						510.00	0.00	510.00
							Total For 7879:		510.00
7880	04/23/2026		0000004456		FFA-banquet meal	FFA-banquet meal			
210-2010	FFA						1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
							Total For 7880:		1,000.00
7881	04/23/2026		0000004486		NORE-Bake Sales/Hannah	NORE-Bake Sales/Hannah			
273-2073	NORE						50.00	0.00	50.00
							Total For 7881:		50.00
7882	04/23/2026		0000004481		NORE-Bake Sales/Hadley	NORE-Bake Sales/Hadley			
273-2073	NORE						30.00	0.00	30.00
							Total For 7882:		30.00
7883	04/23/2026		0000004483		NORE-Bake Sales/Hailey	NORE-Bake Sales/Hailey Smalley			
273-2073	NORE						18.00	0.00	18.00
							Total For 7883:		18.00
7884	04/23/2026		0000004485		NORE-Bake sales/Nathan	NORE-Bake sales/Nathan Barger			
273-2073	NORE						48.00	0.00	48.00

Receipt History

Detail report. Sorted by Site, Receipt Number.
From 04/01/2026 to 04/30/2026.

Receipt Number	Receipt Date	Void Date	Deposit Number	Check Number	Received From	Receipt Description	Amount	Sales Tax	Amount
Activity ID	Activity Name		Fee Name & Student ID				Amount	Tax Amount	Amount
Tax Name			Tax Activity		Tax Rate %		Tax Amount		
						Total For 7884:			48.00
7885	04/23/2026		0000004488		NORE-Bake Sales/Pavyn	NORE-Bake Sales/Pavyn Terry			
273-2073	NORE						55.00	0.00	55.00
						Total For 7885:			55.00
7886	04/23/2026		0000004480		NORE-Bake Sales/Mya	NORE-Bake Sales/Mya Meixner			
273-2073	NORE						54.00	0.00	54.00
						Total For 7886:			54.00
7887	04/23/2026		0000004489		NORE-Bake Sales/Wyatt	NORE-Bake Sales/Wyatt Benes			
273-2073	NORE						142.00	0.00	142.00
						Total For 7887:			142.00
7888	04/24/2026		0000004504		NORE-Bake Sales/Hannah	NORE-Bake Sales/Hannah			
273-2073	NORE						72.00	0.00	72.00
						Total For 7888:			72.00
7889	04/24/2026		0000004505		NORE-Bake sales/Bethany	NORE-Bake sales/Bethany			
273-2073	NORE						63.00	0.00	63.00
						Total For 7889:			63.00
7890	04/29/2026		0000004500		Youth Football Camp	Youth Football Camp			
195-8002	Football Fundraising						650.00	0.00	650.00
						Total For 7890:			650.00
7891	04/30/2026		0000004519		McCook Football Camp	McCook Football Camp			
195-8002	Football Fundraising						50.00	0.00	50.00
						Total For 7891:			50.00
7892	04/30/2026		0000004520		NORE-Bake Sales/Wyatt	NORE-Bake Sales/Wyatt Benes			
273-2073	NORE						52.00	0.00	52.00
						Total For 7892:			52.00
7893	04/29/2026		0000004499		Tech Fees	Tech Fees			
948-9048	Technology Account						25.00	0.00	25.00
						Total For 7893:			25.00
7895	04/30/2026		0000004517		FFA	FFA			
210-2010	FFA						20.00	0.00	20.00
						Total For 7895:			20.00
7896	04/29/2026		0000004503		FFA	FFA			
210-2010	FFA						200.00	0.00	200.00
						Total For 7896:			200.00
7897	04/30/2026		0000004516		Concession	Concession			
223-2023	Senior High Concessions						895.81	0.00	895.81
						Total For 7897:			895.81
7898	04/30/2026		0000004515		ESPORTS-concessions	ESPORTS-concessions			
211-2011	eSports						1,033.69	0.00	1,033.69
						Total For 7898:			1,033.69
7899	04/30/2026		0000004508		Class of 2026 Dues	Class of 2026 Dues			
388-3088	Class of 2026						25.00	0.00	25.00

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From 04/01/2026 to 04/30/2026.

Receipt Number	Receipt Date	Void Date	Deposit Number	Check Number	Received From	Receipt Description	Amount	Sales Tax	Amount
Activity ID	Activity Name		Fee Name & Student ID				Amount	Tax Amount	Amount
Tax Name			Tax Activity		Tax Rate %		Tax Amount		
						Total For 7899:			25.00
8002	04/30/2026		0000004513		Class of 2026 Dues	Class of 2026 Dues			
388-3088	Class of 2026						100.00	0.00	100.00
						Total For 8002:			100.00
8003	04/30/2026		0000004512		NORE-Bake Sales/Pavyn	NORE-Bake Sales/Pavyn Terry			
273-2073	NORE						54.00	0.00	54.00
						Total For 8003:			54.00
8004	04/30/2026		0000004507		Bass team	Bass team			
100-9014	Office Expenses						110.00	0.00	110.00
						Total For 8004:			110.00
8005	04/30/2026		0000004514		Corbett/Wilhelmson Bass	Corbett/Wilhelmson Bass Team			
100-9014	Office Expenses						110.00	0.00	110.00
						Total For 8005:			110.00
8008	04/30/2026		0000004511		Concession	Concession			
223-2023	Senior High Concessions						595.25	0.00	595.25
						Total For 8008:			595.25
8316	04/13/2026		0000004471		NORE-Candy Sales	NORE-Candy Sales			
273-2073	NORE						150.00	0.00	150.00
						Total For 8316:			150.00
8378	04/10/2026		0000004437		United Way Subbing	United Way Subbing			
938-9038	Revolving Account						565.17	0.00	565.17
						Total For 8378:			565.17
8379	04/10/2026		0000004439		Cheer-Disser	Cheer-Disser			
235-2035	Cheerleaders						300.00	0.00	300.00
						Total For 8379:			300.00
8380	04/13/2026		0000004475		Cheer	cheer			
235-2035	Cheerleaders						570.00	0.00	570.00
						Total For 8380:			570.00
8381	04/10/2026		0000004441		McCook Art	McCook Art			
252-2052	Art Lab Junior High						355.00	0.00	355.00
						Total For 8381:			355.00
8382	04/10/2026		0000004448		unprepared iron	unprepared iron			
938-9038	Revolving Account						315.60	0.00	315.60
						Total For 8382:			315.60
8383	04/10/2026		0000004445		8th grade science trip-	8th grade science trip-Educator			
544-5044	Junior High Activity						600.00	0.00	600.00
						Total For 8383:			600.00
8384	04/10/2026		0000004443		Industrial Art Fees	Industrial Art Fees			
224-2024	Industrial Arts						77.77	0.00	77.77
						Total For 8384:			77.77
8385	04/13/2026		0000004472		Industrial Art Fees	Industrial Art Fees			
224-2024	Industrial Arts						153.00	0.00	153.00

Receipt History

Detail report. Sorted by Site, Receipt Number.

From 04/01/2026 to 04/30/2026.

Receipt Number	Receipt Date	Void Date	Deposit Number	Check Number	Received From	Receipt Description	Amount	Sales Tax	Amount
Activity ID	Activity Name		Fee Name & Student ID				Tax Amount		
Tax Name			Tax Activity		Tax Rate %				
						Total For 8385:			153.00
8386	04/13/2026		0000004473			Honors Biology trip ticket			
531-5031	Senior High Activity						9.50	0.00	9.50
						Total For 8386:			9.50
8387	04/10/2026		0000004446			8th grade science trip			
544-5044	Junior High Activity						125.00	0.00	125.00
						Total For 8387:			125.00
8388	04/17/2026		0000004467			Coke Credit-product return			
223-2023	Senior High Concessions						309.32	0.00	309.32
						Total For 8388:			309.32
8389	04/17/2026		0000004468			Industrial Art Fees			
224-2024	Industrial Arts						49.95	0.00	49.95
						Total For 8389:			49.95
8390	04/17/2026		0000004469			John Kugler Memorial			
936-9036	Scholarships						2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
						Total For 8390:			2,000.00
8391	04/17/2026		0000004470			John Kugler Memorial			
936-9036	Scholarships						1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
						Total For 8391:			1,500.00
8392	04/17/2026		0000004462			Girls Golf Fundraising			
195-2003	Girls Golf Fundraising						300.00	0.00	300.00
						Total For 8392:			300.00
8393	04/23/2026		0000004450			Esports-donation			
211-2011	eSports						600.00	0.00	600.00
						Total For 8393:			600.00
8394	04/23/2026		0000004449			Industrial Art Fees			
224-2024	Industrial Arts						50.64	0.00	50.64
						Total For 8394:			50.64
8395	04/23/2026		0000004484			Industrial Art Fees			
224-2024	Industrial Arts						150.00	0.00	150.00
						Total For 8395:			150.00
8396	04/23/2026		0000004458			Reimbursement-Pallet of			
938-9038	Revolving Account					Reimbursement-Pallet of water	309.12	0.00	309.12
						Total For 8396:			309.12
8397	04/23/2026		0000004457			2026 Grant-Girls Tennis			
195-3001	Boys / Girls Tennis Fund raising					2026 Grant-Girls Tennis Program	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
						Total For 8397:			1,000.00
8398	04/29/2026		0000004502			Concession			
223-2023	Senior High Concessions						219.55	0.00	219.55
						Total For 8398:			219.55
8399	04/29/2026		0000004501			Box Tops for Education			
544-5044	Junior High Activity					Box Tops for Education	13.70	0.00	13.70

Receipt History

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From 04/01/2026 to 04/30/2026.

Receipt Number	Receipt Date	Void Date	Deposit Number	Check Number	Received From	Receipt Description	Amount	Sales Tax	Amount
Activity ID	Activity Name		Fee Name & Student ID				Amount	Tax Amount	Amount
Tax Name	Tax Activity			Tax Rate %			Tax Amount		
						Total For 8399:			13.70
8413	04/10/2026		0000004438		Golf Fundraising	Golf Fundraising			
195-2002	Boys Golf Fundraising						45.00	0.00	45.00
						Total For 8413:			45.00
8414	04/10/2026		0000004447		T-shirt fundraiser	T-shirt fundraiser			
195-8001	Boys Basketball Fundraising						460.00	0.00	460.00
						Total For 8414:			460.00
8415	04/23/2026		0000004451		Lost Lock	Lost Lock			
110-2000	Football Equipment						12.00	0.00	12.00
						Total For 8415:			12.00
8416	04/23/2026		0000004491		Lost Locks	Lost Locks			
110-2000	Football Equipment						22.00	0.00	22.00
						Total For 8416:			22.00
8417	04/23/2026		0000004453		AD	AD			
195-8001	Boys Basketball Fundraising						80.00	0.00	80.00
						Total For 8417:			80.00
8418	04/29/2026		0000004498		Central Elementary	Central Elementary			
939-9039	Facility Use						75.00	0.00	75.00
						Total For 8418:			75.00
8419	04/29/2026		0000004497		Football	Football			
195-8002	Football Fundraising						300.00	0.00	300.00
						Total For 8419:			300.00
8420	04/30/2026		0000004509		Lost Football pants	Lost Football pants			
110-2000	Football Equipment						42.00	0.00	42.00
						Total For 8420:			42.00
8421	04/30/2026		0000004506		Industrial Art Fees	Industrial Art Fees			
224-2024	Industrial Arts						35.00	0.00	35.00
						Total For 8421:			35.00
8425	04/02/2026		0000004436		NORE-Bake Sales/Clara	NORE-Bake Sales/Clara Schmick			
273-2073	NORE						80.00	0.00	80.00
						Total For 8425:			80.00
8426	04/02/2026		0000004435		NORE-Bake Sales/Hannah	NORE-Bake Sales/Hannah			
273-2073	NORE						32.00	0.00	32.00
						Total For 8426:			32.00
8427	04/02/2026		0000004433		NORE-Bake Sales/Hannah	NORE-Bake Sales/Hannah			
273-2073	NORE						40.00	0.00	40.00
						Total For 8427:			40.00
8428	04/02/2026		0000004434		NORE-Bake Sales/Alani	NORE-Bake Sales/Alani Neel			
273-2073	NORE						110.00	0.00	110.00
						Total For 8428:			110.00
8429	04/13/2026		0000004476		NORE-Bake sales/Bethany	NORE-Bake sales/Bethany			
273-2073	NORE						60.00	0.00	60.00

Receipt History

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Receipt Number	Receipt Date	Void Date	Deposit Number	Check Number	Received From	Receipt Description	Amount	Sales Tax	Amount
Activity ID	Activity Name		Fee Name & Student ID				Amount	Tax Amount	Amount
Tax Name			Tax Activity		Tax Rate %		Tax Amount		
						Total For 8429:			60.00
8430	04/13/2026		0000004478			NORE-Bake Sales/Hannah			
273-2073	NORE						60.00	0.00	60.00
						Total For 8430:			60.00
8431	04/13/2026		0000004477			NORE-Bake sales/Bethany			
273-2073	NORE						50.00	0.00	50.00
						Total For 8431:			50.00
8433	04/10/2026		0000004444			Brandon Mitchem fees			
388-3088	Class of 2026						10.75	0.00	10.75
948-9048	Technology Account						40.00	0.00	40.00
						Total For 8433:			50.75
8434	04/13/2026		0000004474			NORE-Bake sale/Mya			
273-2073	NORE						44.00	0.00	44.00
						Total For 8434:			44.00
8435	04/13/2026		0000004479			NORE-Bake sales/Embree			
273-2073	NORE						18.00	0.00	18.00
						Total For 8435:			18.00
8436	04/17/2026		0000004463			NORE-Bake Sales/Amelia			
273-2073	NORE						68.00	0.00	68.00
						Total For 8436:			68.00
8437	04/17/2026		0000004460			NORE-Bake Sales/Alani			
273-2073	NORE						106.00	0.00	106.00
						Total For 8437:			106.00
8438	04/17/2026		0000004459			NORE-Bake Sales/Pavyn			
273-2073	NORE						58.00	0.00	58.00
						Total For 8438:			58.00
8439	04/17/2026		0000004465			NORE-Bake Sales/Wyatt			
273-2073	NORE						24.00	0.00	24.00
						Total For 8439:			24.00
8440	04/17/2026		0000004466			NORE-Bake sales/Nathan			
273-2073	NORE						48.00	0.00	48.00
						Total For 8440:			48.00
8441	04/17/2026		0000004464			NORE-Candy Sales			
273-2073	NORE						151.00	0.00	151.00
						Total For 8441:			151.00
8442	04/17/2026		0000004461			Math Club-Brain Bowl			
230-2030	Math Club						223.00	0.00	223.00
						Total For 8442:			223.00
8443	04/23/2026		0000004490			Math Club-Brain Bowl			
230-2030	Math Club						45.00	0.00	45.00
						Total For 8443:			45.00
8444	04/23/2026		0000004452			Class of 2026 Dues			

Receipt History

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Receipt Number	Receipt Date	Void Date	Deposit Number	Check Number	Received From	Amount	Sales Tax	Amount
Activity ID	Activity Name		Fee Name & Student ID			Tax Amount		
Tax Name	Tax Activity			Tax Rate %				
388-3088	Class of 2026					50.00	0.00	50.00
						Total For 8444:		50.00
8445	04/23/2026		0000004492		NORE-Bake Sales/Max			NORE-Bake Sales/Max Stone
273-2073	NORE					36.00	0.00	36.00
						Total For 8445:		36.00
8446	04/23/2026		0000004493		NORE-Bake Sales/Mya			NORE-Bake Sales/Mya Meixner
273-2073	NORE					44.00	0.00	44.00
						Total For 8446:		44.00
8449	04/23/2026		0000004495		Concession			Concession
223-2023	Senior High Concessions					727.34	0.00	727.34
						Total For 8449:		727.34
8473	04/10/2026		0000004440		SWC Speech			SWC Speech
100-1080	Host Outside Events					2,681.00	0.00	2,681.00
						Total For 8473:		2,681.00
8474	04/10/2026		0000004442		AD			AD
151-1030	Boys Track Entry Fee Receipts					900.00	0.00	900.00
						Total For 8474:		900.00
ACH Deposit 4332222	04/01/2026		0000004430		McCook Junior High			McCook Junior High
280-2080	COCA COLA - Senior High School					41.65	0.00	41.65
						Total For ACH Deposit 4332222:		41.65
ACH Deposit 4332223	04/01/2026		0000004432		Central Elementary			Central Elementary
280-2080	COCA COLA - Senior High School					32.25	0.00	32.25
						Total For ACH Deposit 4332223:		32.25
ACH Deposit 4332224	04/01/2026		0000004431		McCook Elementary			McCook Elementary
280-2080	COCA COLA - Senior High School					37.23	0.00	37.23
						Total For ACH Deposit 4332224:		37.23
ACH Deposit 4332465	04/01/2026		0000004429		McCook High School			McCook High School
280-2080	COCA COLA - Senior High School					87.20	0.00	87.20
						Total For ACH Deposit 4332465:		87.20
						Site Total		26,125.00
						Report Total		26,125.00

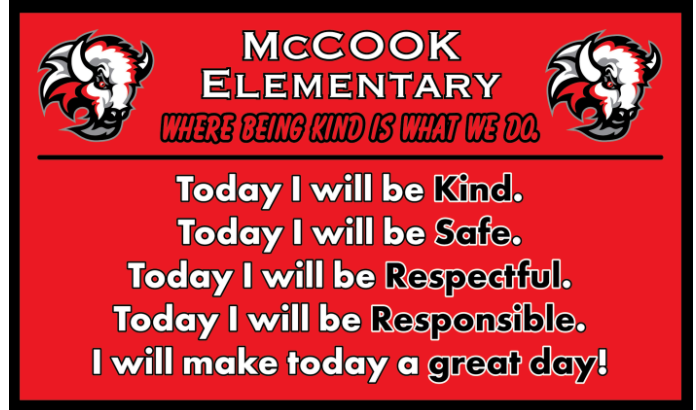
McCook School Board Report
May 11th, 2026
Special Education Dept., John Hanson, Director

- 1) Thank you to Mrs. Meagan Paul, Secondary Level Speech/Language Pathologist, and TJ's Family Fun Center for allowing school groups representing the Circle of Friends organization to have end of the school year bowling parties.
- 2) The Developmental Learning Center (DLC) students will have their Extended School Year (ESY) sessions during the weeks of June 15-18 and July 6-9, 2026. The purpose of ESY services is to prevent regression...not necessarily to improve skills, but to maintain skill levels so it doesn't take 3+ months to catch back up to where you were at in May at the end of the school year.
- 3) McCook Schools met special education fiscal maintenance of effort requirements for the 2024-25 school year. This is a state and federal rule that states districts cannot cut special education expenses lower than the previous year unless one of these three following exemptions are met:
 - a. A veteran special education teacher is replaced by a less experienced, expensive teacher.
 - b. A high priced student is no longer the responsibility of the school district.
 - c. A high priced item (sped bus, lot of computers just for sped use, etc...) is purchased one year, and then not needed the next year.
- 4) The MPS High School Life Skills Program, taught by Rachel Rydgren, will continue to contract with Dundy County Stratton Schools to allow a high school student to attend the program to gain valuable transition skills in the area of employment, education and independent living next year.
- 5) Thank you to local businesses for allowing some of our high school life skills students to gain valuable employment opportunities for school credit, not pay; including Samway's Furniture, McCook Christian Church, McCook Bus Barn, and the McCook Elementary library.

McCook Elementary Board Report May, 2026

1. Enrollment:

PreK 3-Year-Olds	17
Prek 4-Year-Olds	17
Kindergarten	94
1st Grade	77
2nd Grade	102
3rd Grade	99
Total	406



2. Curriculum/Instruction

- a. NSCAS Testing has been completed and we are well on the way to completing spring AimsWeb testing.
- b. Title I planning with St. Patrick's school was completed this past week.
- c.

3. General Announcements

- a. Congratulations to Mrs. Johnson for being awarded the McCook Area Educator of the Year award. We were fortunate to have 6 teachers receiving recommendations. Mrs. Tiller, Mrs. Overton, Mr. Berry, Mrs. Kennedy, & Mrs. Johnson of course.

4. PTO News

- a. The PTO provided amazing teacher appreciation snacks.
- b. Providing students the opportunity to play on an inflatable obstacle course.

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



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

MAY 2026 BOE REPORT

4th Grade Wax Museum

On May 1st, our 4th grade students hosted their annual Wax Museum. We had an outstanding turnout from families and community members. This project is a great example of authentic literacy in action as students research historical figures, write speeches, create visual displays, and present in front of large groups of people. It is always impressive to see the confidence and preparation our students demonstrate during this event.

5th Grade Architecture Trip

Our 5th grade students recently traveled to the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio to learn more about architecture and design. Experiences like these help connect classroom learning to the real world and expose students to new ideas and opportunities.

Upcoming Field Trips

Several additional field trips are coming up over the next few weeks. Our 4th grade students will be visiting the Hastings Museum while our 5th graders will participate in Outdoor Education activities at Red Willow Reservoir State Recreation Area. Outdoor Education is always a highlight for students, and it is especially fun watching many students experience fishing for the very first time.

Central Track Meet

Our annual track meet was held last Friday and was another great day for students and staff. Our track and surrounding areas look great and make it fun for kids.

Career on Wheels

Career on Wheels will take place this Wednesday at Central Elementary. We are grateful for the many community members and local businesses willing to participate and showcase their careers to students. This event helps students begin making connections between what they are learning in school today and possible future career opportunities.

External Visits 2026-2027

Looking ahead to the 2026-2027 school year, I will have the opportunity to participate in two Nebraska Continuous Improvement external visits. I will be leading the external visit process for Stapleton Public Schools and assisting with the external visit for Hayes Center Public Schools. These experiences continue to provide valuable collaboration opportunities and insight into

effective school improvement practices across the state. I typically only like to do 1 per year but Hays Center is very close and small.

May 11th, 2026

SH Board Report

Senior High, Craig Dickes, Principal

2025-2026 Enrollment numbers:

9th -122, 10th -115, 11th -106, 12th - 127. Total = 470

AVG Daily Attendance for April 2026 is 91.78%

- Activity 5024 periods
 - Excused 3670 periods
 - Illness 1571 periods
 - Waivered ILL 377 periods
 - Out of School Suspension 16 periods
 - Unexcused 486 periods
- Student Discipline for April 2026.
 - Attendance Violation 137 events by 55 students
 - Bullying/Harassment 0 events by 0 students
 - Disorderly conduct 7 events by 7 students
 - Violation of School Rules 16 events by 13 students
 - Alcohol/Tobacco 0 events by 0 student
 - Drug Possession/Use 0 event by 0 student
 - Fighting 0 events by 0 students
 - Insubordination 1 events by 1 students
 - Weapons 0 events by 0 students
 - Theft 0 event by 0 student
 - Vandalism 0 event by 0 student

The Nursing Pathway kickoff luncheon went very well. It was great to have officials from UNMC here to see our school in person. They also took a tour of the ROOTS building and were very impressed with what McCook is doing to support students.

Prom was well attended and the dance and promenade went off very smoothly. Thanks you to Tracey Fisher, Meghan Giorgione, Tyler Jedlicki, and Sarah Hoyt for all of their planning to make the night a positive experience.

Graduation is ready to go, thank you to Joel Arterburn, Jordan Lewis and Shannon McCorkle for all of their work on planning the event throughout the school year.

The Master Schedule for 2026-2027 is ready to go, pending a few last minute staffing decisions.

McCook High School Clubs and Organizations Activity Report

McCook High School Clubs and Organizations Activity Report

Art

April

- Paint In Art Show at the Wrightstone Art Gallery (March 30th-April 10th)
 - Sending roughly a dozen kids to the Paint In Mural Event at the Graff Event Center April 10th

May

- Inactive in may

Band

April

- Joint Concert with UNK Jazz/Rock Ensemble - Auditorium - April 7 @ 2:45
- Kristin Simpson from NPCC working with District Music Contest soloists - Apr. 9
- Dr. Brian Alber from UNK working with District Music Concert Band - Apr. 17
- Spring Concert - Gymnasium - April 20 - 7:00 PM
- District Music Contest - Chase County - April 24

May

- Marching Band Drumline Auditions - 5/5, 5/7
- Marching Band Drum Major Auditions - 5/6

Bison eSports

April

-

May

-

Choir

April

- North Platte MPCC Music Director Kristin Simpson came
- District Music Contest on April 24th in Imperial
 - Several soloists and one duet (4 got superiors)
 - Superior for Mixed Choir
 - Superior for Treble Choir
- Final Concert on April 30th

May

- Final Music Video Project
- Sign up for All-State Choir
- Singing at graduation

Class of 2026

- Graduation is here! This week is full of putting final touches on everything in preparation for Friday! Congratulations to the Class of 2026!

Class of 2027

-

Class of 2028

-

Class of 2029

- No activities

Club America

April

- We have voted and elected officers for the 25-26 school year.
- The officers are discussing the possibility of a Washington D.C. trip in the future.
- We have decided that having a booth at this summer's Freedom Fest may be a good idea and we are currently planning to make that happen.

May

- We were able to run a bake sale to raise money at the choir concert.

Destination Imagination

April

- Cleaned up our rooms & organized/put away all of our materials for next year.

May

- Set up a booth for Club/activity fair to recruit new members for the following year.

FBLA

April

- 04/09 Meeting
- 04/25 Second highway clean up of the school year
- 04/30 end of school year potluck

May

- No activities

FFA

April

- Officer Interviews April 13th
- McCook FFA Chapter Banquet (April 17th) 6:30pm McCook Christian Church

May

- None

Interact

April

-

May

-

JAG

April

- UNMC Backstage pass Health careers in Kearney
- Coast Guard- classroom visit
- Army recruiter- Classroom visit
- JAG celebration-pizza party
- Tentative MCCC tour

May

- Guest speaker- Steve Batty
- Beauty salon visit- The Fix
- JAG Advisory council meeting- Jon and Ronda Graff- Working with me on a survey to send to local employees about skills that are needed in the work force.
- Celebrating seniors!

Math Club

April

- Had our April meeting the 9th.
- Spring Brain Bowl concluded along with Super Brain Bowl.
- New members for next year have been selected.

May

- Blood Drive.

McCook Bison.TV

April (Live Streaming)

- April 20th- Band Concert
- April 30th- Senior High Choir Concert

May (Live Streaming)

- May 5th- Junior High Choir Concert
- May 8th- Senior High Graduation

Mock Trial

April

- Nothing

May

- Nothing

National Honor Society

April

-

May

-

Newspaper

April

- Continue creating and distributing bi-weekly newsletter *The Potty Talk*.
- Brainstorming/pre-writing ideas and topics for our March monthly articles.
- Researching & writing articles for The Stampede's mid-March deadline.
- Looking for News Trends (Analyzing & Verifying Found information by cross-referencing different articles & publishing companies)
- Distributing and learning about newsroom organization and flow.

May

- Continue creating and distributing weekly newsletter *The Potty Talk*.
- Brainstorming/pre-writing ideas and topics for our May monthly articles.
- Researching & writing articles for The Stampede's May 5th deadline. (day before seniors leave)
- Holding draft to digital workshops (developing researching & editorializing skills)
- Journalism staff focused on elevating editorial standards through a series of technical writing workshops and collaborative leadership exercises designed to streamline our newsroom workflow toward the end of the year.

NORE

April

- Brain Bowl Concessions
- Start getting Felling Field ready for summer concessions
- Start promoting our Headstone cleaning

May

-

One-Act (Play Production):

April

-

May

-

Quiz Bowl

April

-

May

-

Special Olympics

April

-

May

-

Speech Team:

April

- Night of Speech/ Awards

May

-



Student Council:

April

- 3rd Grade Math Egg Hunt
- Leadership Awards
 - Seniors - April 13

- Juniors - April 17
- Sophomores - April 20
- Freshmen - April 24
- 2026-2027 Petitions are due April 20 with elections April 23

May

-

Thespians:

April

-

May

- *School of Rock the Musical: Young Actors Edition* was a hit! We had 42 students participate on Cast/Crew.
 - Thank you to Miss Sides for being Musical Director and Jessica Pochop who was our Choreographer!
 - We had around 150-200 people at each performance
 - Kids are asking to do another musical

Unified Bowling

April

-

May

-

Yearbook.

April

- We sold concessions at the track meet on April 2 to help pay for the cost of the yearbook.
- Our second deadline is April 28 and the editors and staff are working diligently to finish these pages.

May

- 21 seniors did not submit their senior photos for the yearbook, so we worked to contact each of them
- Staff from the *McCook Gazette* contacted us for senior photos to be used in their graduation insert

- Spring pages are nearing completion to meet our June publication deadline

Junior High Board Report
April 30, 2026
Chad Lyons, Principal

1. Our 8th-grade students completed the NSCAS Science assessment. Students have completed the NSCAS ELA and Math assessments.
2. Sixth-grade intramural football started/concluded, and intramural volleyball concluded. The boys' basketball intramurals have started.
3. Quarter 4 progress grade sheets were prepared and mailed to parents.
4. Advanced Science students experienced a night at the Cosmosphere Museum in Hutchinson, KS.
5. The Central to Junior High student transition meeting was conducted.
6. The Central to Junior High student transition meeting was conducted.
7. Contracted services evaluated the reheating coils above the ceiling tiles in the east classrooms.
8. Our track student-athletes started competing.
9. The 2026 6th-grade track day DRAFT was conducted.
10. Our 8GLT attended the JH to SH transition meeting.
11. Five 6th-grade students competed at the regional Civics Bees competition in Kearney.
12. Junior high band students performed their spring concert.
13. Students have started to complete the spring AIMSWeb assessments.
14. Enrollment = 6th-84, 7th-112, 8th-88 Total= 284

2026-2027

McCook Public Schools McCook Elementary & Central Elementary



OUR MISSION

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

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(Items highlighted in yellow have been added to the handbook, but has not been approved by the Board of Education)

McCook Public Schools

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Central Elementary, 604 West 1st Street, 344-4400, Option 3

McCook Elementary, 1500 West 3rd Street, 344-4400, Option 4

Web Address: www.mccookbison.org

bit.ly/mpshandbook to review the electronic version of the handbook.

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Principal: Mr. Greg Borland

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McCook, NE 69001
Phone: 308-344-4550
Principal: Mr. Joel Bednar

Welcome

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to the beginning of a new and exciting school year! The faculty and staff join us in saying we're happy to have you as part of the McCook and Central Elementary family. We hope that this will be a successful and satisfying year for you.

The pages of this McCook and Central Elementary Handbook have been prepared in order to provide you with easy reference to important information. Please review the contents with your child(ren) and sign and return the acknowledgment page at the back of the book. If you have any questions that remain unanswered, please call the school office. We all feel that open and clear communication between school and home is important to the success of the education program.

When it comes to student learning and achievement, our most valuable partners are our parents. We welcome your participation and support throughout the school year. Parents and teachers working together provide the best opportunity for student success. We value you and all you have invested educationally in your student(s). Together as a TEAM we can make this year GREAT!

Sincerely,



Mr. Greg Borland
McCook Elementary, Principal

Mrs. Molly Sharp
Central Elementary, Principal

School Improvement

a. Reading Goal Approved

i. District Improvement Goal

Over the next five years, the district will increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level reading proficiency by strengthening literacy skill development and improving the quality and consistency of reading instruction across all grade levels.

b. Math Goal Approved

i. District Improvement Goal

Over the next five years, the district will improve student mathematics achievement by strengthening pre-algebraic skills, with a specific emphasis on one-step problem solving across grade levels.

MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WELCOME to McCook Public Schools! The Board of Education has provided excellent facilities and an excellent staff. Guidance counselors, teachers and administrators will provide all the assistance possible, but the individual student must provide the effort and the determination for success.

An education from McCook Public Schools will provide a balanced academic foundation for post-secondary endeavors. Students from McCook Public Schools consistently rank above average when compared to the Nebraska and national norm. A variety of extracurricular activities are available. McCook Public Schools students compete very successfully with other Nebraska students in all activities and athletics.

It is the mission of the McCook Public Schools' community to equip all students to succeed in a complex global society. This mission is based on the following beliefs about how students learn and what they must know to be responsible and contributing citizens in a global society:

- Students, school, home and community share the responsibility for education.
- All students can learn at a high level.
- Learning is a lifelong process.
- High expectations promote success and challenge all students.
- Everyone is entitled to a safe and caring school environment.
- Learning opportunities exist beyond the classroom environment.
- Learning is promoted by the respect of self and others.

Student Expectations

- Act in a responsible manner following all rules and regulations of McCook Public Schools.
- Respect each person's individuality and his/her right to an education.
- Act appropriately and work cooperatively with everyone.
- Attend all classes, coming to each class with required materials, including completed assignments.
- Never verbally or physically abuse or harass anyone.
- Treat others with respect and use appropriate language and good manners in all personal dealings.
- Communicate with teachers, staff and other students.
- Respect the property of others.
- Constantly work to improve.

We hope the 2024-2025 school year is an enjoyable, rewarding and educational experience.

MPS APPROPRIATE USE AGREEMENT FOR TECHNOLOGY

The use of technology and the Internet at school is a privilege, not a right. In addition, students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The network is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time. Student devices are available upon request in the case of emergencies or unforeseen remote learning circumstances.

Technology privileges may temporarily be revoked at any time for inappropriate behavior, conduct or vandalism. Repeated misuse may result in permanent loss of technology privileges. All users are expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of school policy and network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Students may use technology and the internet for appropriate educational purposes; the primary function of such use is to further educational goals and objectives. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individual, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
- Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational use.
- Students shall not use electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging or other forms of direct electronic communications on school devices without the direct permission of the building administrator and/or their designee.
- Students are expected to maintain high integrity when using the Internet, applications, devices and other technology tools provided by the district.

These items are in direct correlation with Board Policy 6800; Internet Safety and Acceptable Use and address the following Federal Act CIPA and COPPA.

Care of Equipment

- Classroom or Lab devices, including but not limited to iPads, Computer Towers, Keyboards, Mice, and Chromebooks, should be handled gently and with care. Students will follow established classroom/building procedures for checking out and checking in equipment used at school.
- Accidental damages shall be reported immediately to supervising teachers or the main office of the building.
- Students may be held financially responsible for damage to school devices up to the cost of replacement as determined by the school administrator and/or their designee.

Google: Workspace (13 and Under) - McCook Elementary

Google Workspace is a set of education productivity tools used by tens of millions of students and teachers around the world. McCook Public Schools provides a Google account for all students grades K-12. At McCook Elementary School, students will use their Google accounts to sign into Chromebooks, to complete assignments and to learn 21st century digital citizenship skills. Using their Google accounts, students may access the following services:

Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Google Drive and Gmail.

When a student uses Google services, Google collects information based on the use of those services. This information includes device information, log information, location information, and search histories. Google uses this information to provide, maintain and protect the services. Google may also use this information to offer tailored content, such as more relevant search results. Google does not serve ads in the Core Services or use personal information collected in the Core Services for advertising purposes. The complete Google Workspace Notice to Parents and Guardians is available upon request.

Students at McCook Elementary will **ONLY** be able to communicate and share documents with individuals inside our organization. Outside emails and other content are filtered and will not reach the students. The district also utilizes web filtering systems to further protect web searches and detect inappropriate or potentially harmful situations. McCook Public Schools works to maintain COPPA and FERPA compliance. Protecting student safety and their information is a district priority.

By signing the signature page at the back of this handbook, I agree to the terms and conditions of this Appropriate Use Agreement and give permission for McCook Public Schools to create and maintain a Google Workspace account for my child.

MCCOOK ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK

MPS: STUDENT HEALTH

HEALTH SERVICES

McCook Public Schools employs a full time nurse. Students participate in health screenings at the beginning of the year, per Nebraska State requirements. Students in the specified grades are screened in vision, hearing, height, weight and dental.

IMMUNIZATION/ ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

STATE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nebraska law (79-214) requires that all students entering kindergarten, 7th grade, or transferring in from out of state, have a physical exam by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant within 6 (six) months prior to entry into the system. Prior to enrollment, parents or guardians shall present written verification of a physical examination, or sign a written statement that he/she does not wish their child to have a physical exam.
2. Nebraska law (79-214) requires a school vision evaluation for all children within six (6) months prior to entering Nebraska schools for the first time (beginner grades including kindergartners, transferees and other students new to Nebraska). The vision evaluation may be performed by a physician, optometrist, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. Prior to enrollment, the parent or guardian shall present written verification of a vision evaluation, or sign a written statement that he/she does not wish their child to have a vision evaluation.
3. Nebraska law (79-0444-01) requires all students to be appropriately immunized for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, hepatitis B and varicella (chicken pox), according to grade level and for students transferring into the district from out of state. Prior to enrollment, parents/guardians shall present written verification of immunizations, signed by a parent or guardian; or, if applicable, a signed waiver of immunization. **Waiver information may be obtained from the school nurse or school office.**

Nebraska State law requires students meet the following requirements **BEFORE the first day of school:**

Pre -school:

- Immunizations- Nebraska immunization requirements.

Kindergarten:

- Immunizations- Nebraska Kindergarten requirements.
- Health Physical
- Vision Exam

7th grade:

- Tdap immunization- Nebraska 7th grade requirements
- Physical exam

Sports: 7th- 12th grade:

- Sports Physical required each year to play sports, must be dated after May 1st, no waiver options.

NEW Student, transferring in from out of state:

- Immunizations- Nebraska requirements.
- Health Physical
- Vision Exam

For all Immunization requirements visit the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website.

HEALTH RECORDS

Privacy of student records is protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Only school personnel with a legitimate educational need to know will have access to records. **Staff members who have a need to know specific health information for the safety of the student will be informed of necessary adaptations.** Signed release of information will be obtained from parents before information is shared or requested by any outside agency. Health records are considered to be education records. The Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) will only apply when records are requested from a covered entity.

emer

INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS (IHP)

Students that require an IHP for a medical condition in which they need accommodations at school, please contact the school nurse. IHP's are developed by the school nurse and parents and shared with staff/administration on a need to know basis only, with the sole purpose to keep your student safe while at school.

EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

Students that have a medical condition (asthma, seizures, diabetes, etc.) in which they need an emergency action plan in place at school, will need to have all paperwork and documentation to the school at the beginning of the school year. All action plans for emergency procedures and medications must be signed by the student's physician. **No medications will be given or action plans put in place without a physician signature/authorization.** If a student has a new condition and needs an action plan in place, please contact the school nurse.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Students with food allergies must have a doctor's note. Severe food allergies require an action plan. See the school nurse.

STUDENT HEALTH

The school's goal is to keep students in school where they will benefit from their attendance, while not putting themselves or other students at risk. Students feeling unwell, to the extent that the student is unable to accomplish normal activities, should not be in school. Contagious or infectious diseases transmitted by airborne particles or droplets may require exclusion from school until uncontrolled coughing subsides.

Students with health concerns should be evaluated individually to determine if school attendance is appropriate. The Nebraska State Health Guidelines will be used:

1. Students with a temperature of 99.9 degrees or more may not be in school. Students may not return until they have been without a fever (less than 99.9 degrees) for 24 hours.
2. Students with serious communicable/infectious diseases must have a doctor's permission slip to return to school and be in accordance with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services 173 NAC 3, Attachment 1--Contagious and Infectious Diseases/Conditions. Diseases would include but not limited to:
Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Meningitis, Pertussis (Whooping cough), Polio, Tuberculosis.
3. Students with the following contagious and infectious diseases/conditions cannot return to school until the following conditions are met:
 - a. Chicken pox: Exclude until all lesions are crusted. Is fever free and the school has received documentation from a physician that the student can return to school.
 - b. Conjunctivitis (pink eye): Exclude symptomatic cases. May return when the eye is normal in appearance or with documentation from the physician that child is no longer infectious.
 - c. Enterobiasis (pinworm, threadworm, seatworm): Excluded until treated as documented by physician.
 - d. Fifth Disease: Exclude until fever and malaise are gone. May return with rash; no longer contagious once rash appears.
 - e. Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease: Exclude during acute phase and until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 - f. Impetigo: Exclude until brought under treatment and acute symptoms resolved, at least 24 hours.
 - g. Influenza: Exclude for duration of illness and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - h. Measles: Exclude for duration of illness and for no less than four (4) days after onset of rash.
 - i. MRSA (staph bacterial infection): Exclusion as directed by physician. Must keep lesions covered.
 - j. Mumps: Exclude five (5) days from onset of swelling in the neck. Return with documentation from a physician.
 - k. Pediculosis (infestation with head or body lice): Students with live lice will be sent home and parents notified. The child must be treated prior to return to school. Students will be evaluated individually by the school nurse regarding head lice. It is recommended that all nits (eggs) be removed, as the removal of nits provides parents and school personnel with a baseline for re-examination to determine possible reinfestation during the weeks following treatment.

If live lice are detected or if an untreated student is infested with nits (eggs), a parent/guardian will be notified of the need to check all household members. Complete nit removal will be emphasized as effective management of head lice.

A student who has been sent home from school due to head lice must come accompanied by a parent/guardian to the health office the following morning before school for inspection. If live lice are detected, the student will be sent home with the parent/guardian. If minimal nits are detected that do not appear to be viable, the student will be allowed to return to class and rechecked in 7-10 days.

In the event that a student has TWO cases of live lice in one semester, he or she will be sent home until free of both live lice and all nits.
 - l. Ringworm (tinea infections): Exclude until treatment is started, at least 24 hours. Areas must be covered while at school until the lesions are dried.
 - m. Rubella (German measles): Exclude for duration of illness and for no less than four (4) days after onset of rash.
 - n. Scabies: Exclude until 24 hours after treatment is started and documentation from a physician is received.
 - o. Shingles/Herpes Zoster: Exclude children with shingles/zoster if the vesicles cannot be covered until after the vesicles have dried.

p. Streptococcal infection (scarlet fever, scarlatina, strep throat): Exclude until fever free and under treatment for 24 hours.

4. Students with an unidentified rash **may require immediate exclusion and proof of medical evaluation.** When a rash is observed, school personnel must be notified of the rash.
5. Students will be sent home if they are vomiting or have diarrhea, regardless of whether or not they have a fever. They may not return until 24 hours after their last episode.
6. Bed Bugs: In the case that a student is identified with a case of bed bugs at home, either by confirmation from parents or by bringing bed bugs to school; parents will be contacted, the student will be evaluated and a plan will be put in place for the student at school.

Policy No. 5601 Asthma and Allergic Reaction Protocol: The District will adopt and implement the Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis Protocol as required by the Nebraska Department of Education.

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

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

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

PANDEMIC RESPONSE/PROCEDURES: ie. COVID - 19

Students will be excluded from school for a longer period of time when local COVID-19 conditions are elevated. During elevated conditions (orange on the COVID-19 risk dial) students with the following symptoms may not return until symptoms have improved and they have no fever (99.9 or higher) for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

One of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Or two of the following symptoms:

- Chills or repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Students with the above symptoms may require a physician note to return back to school. Students may be required to wear a mask when returning to school.

Return to school policies and procedures for students excluded for presumed or diagnosed with COVID-19.

1. Non test-based strategy:
 - a. 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - b. No fever for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

- c. Other symptoms have improved such as cough and shortness of breath.
2. Test based strategy- if available :
 - a. Results of two negative tests in a row, spaced 24 hours apart.
 - b. No fever for 72 hours, without the use of fever reducing medications.
 - c. Other symptoms have improved such as cough and shortness of breath.

MEDICATION

School/trained personnel cannot give medication unless there is a signed medication authorization form from the parent/guardian. Prescription medication must be labeled by the pharmacy and remain in the original container. Medication must be labeled with the current prescription. Any changes to the dosage of a daily prescription will require written authorization from the physician. Over-the-counter medication can only be given with a signed medication authorization form from the parent/guardian. Medication must be in the original container and clearly marked with the student's name. Medication authorization must follow label instructions unless a physician's order is received. All medication is to be kept in the school office. An adult is responsible for transporting medicine to and from school. Medication must be picked up by a parent by the last day of school, or it will be disposed of by the nurse.

The school will provide acetaminophen (all schools) and cough drops (elementary and central only) to students as needed, and at the nurse's discretion. A medication authorization must be signed and returned to school from the parent/guardian.

The student may carry asthma inhalers, auto-injectable epinephrine, diabetic medications or other emergency medication if all the following conditions are met: (Please see the school nurse.)

- A. A signed request from the parent/guardian for the student to self-manage.
- B. Authorization of the student's physician or, for asthma and anaphylaxis, a health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment of the student's condition.
- C. A written and signed management plan for the condition has been filed with the school nurse, including procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of the medication.
- D. A signed "no-liability" statement from the parent/guardian and physician.
- E. A form to record student-required reports of self-administration.

Breathing emergency medication will be available to be given, in accordance with state policy, if necessary. The Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (anaphylaxis) Protocol will be implemented in a school building if there is a breathing emergency while school is in session. Please refer to Rule 59, 79-305 and 79-318, Appendix A.

If the protocol is used, 911 will be called. The student must then be transported for medical evaluation.

Any questions or concerns regarding the use of this protocol should be directed to the school nurse at the start of each school year. EpiPens and albuterol provided by the school in compliance with the Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions protocol do not leave the school building and **are not intended to replace a child's own prescribed medication** for asthma or allergies. Only individually prescribed medications will accompany students on field trips or events outside the school building.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are available in all McCook Public Schools for use in emergency situations. Each site has staff trained to use the AED. Each site has staff trained in CPR.

For a student either to be excused from physical education or readmitted to physical education activity from any injury and/or illness for more than three (3) consecutive days, a doctor's note will be **required**.

In case of an accident which causes injury to a student, the building administrator, and/or a designee, in consultation with the school nurse, should notify the parent guardian and/or designated responsible person immediately. If the parent and/or designated person cannot be reached, the building administrator, consulting with the school nurse, shall be responsible for determining the course of action. EMS must be utilized if a student:

- is unconscious.
- is in a situation deemed emergent by the school nurse and building administrator, in the event a parent cannot be reached
- has severe bleeding
- is not breathing or having respiratory distress.
- has possible neck or spinal injury.

- has a possible compound fracture.

Law enforcement may be contacted to help locate parents.

ENROLLMENT PROCEDURES

Basic requirement for student enrollment:

1. Official birth certificate
2. Copy of health/immunization card
3. Copy of records request for transfer students.

A registration packet for a student enrolling will contain:

1. Personal data sheet (Name, Address, Phone Number, Date of Birth)
2. Copy of Student/Parent Handbook
3. Student insurance information
4. Free/Reduced lunch application form
5. Emergency information form.

EMERGENCY CARD

In cases of emergency, the parent/guardian or a responsible person you have designated on the **EMERGENCY INFORMATION CARD** will be notified. Therefore, it is most important that you complete the information card and return it to school as soon as possible.

It is important that the school office be notified immediately of a change of address, home or office telephone number, family name, or of a change in emergency information during the academic school year.

ATTENDANCE

79-201. Compulsory education; attendance required; exceptions.

Except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, every person residing in a school district within the State of Nebraska who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age or is enrolled in a public school shall cause such child to enroll in, if such child is not enrolled, ***and attend regularly*** a public, private, denominational, or parochial day school which meets the requirements for legal operation prescribed in Chapter 79, or a school which elects pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet accreditation or approval requirements, ***each day that such school is open and in session***, except when excused by school authorities or when illness or severe weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable (<http://nebraskalegislature.gov/laws/statutes.php?statute=79-201>).

Effective Date: July 19, 2012

- Parents/guardians need to notify the school office by 8:30 a.m. when a child will be absent. If a student is not in school as expected, the principal's office will attempt to contact the parent or guardian. If the parent or guardian cannot be contacted, the office will contact the proper law enforcement authorities to investigate the absence. For parent convenience, an answering machine will take calls prior to 8:00 a.m.
- Absences are not categorized as excused or unexcused; absent is absent.
- When possible, assignments should be completed before an absence.
- Two school days are allowed for make-up for every day absent.
- Absences due to long-term illnesses will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- Tardiness is defined as when a student is late to any class. It is not categorized as excused or unexcused; tardy is tardy.

An individual student absent 5 days or more per quarter, or tardy 15 times or more per quarter, will be reviewed by administration and a parent/guardian meeting may occur.

Student Leaving Early During School Hours:

It will be our process that if a child is to leave the school during school hours that they must be signed out at the main office when being picked up. We will call the student to the office once the adult has arrived at the school. This allows record keeping to remain up to date throughout the day.

Student Absence Exceeding 30 Days of School:

Students that exceed 30 days of absence in a school year may be forbidden to participate in non-classroom activities. Activities such as, but not limited to, field trips, programs, athletic events, & presentations. This decision will be made by the administration or his/her designee.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL

The McCook Public School District hereby finds and declares: Parental involvement is a key factor in the education of child; that parents need to be informed of educational practices affecting their children; and that the school district should foster and facilitate, to the extent appropriate, parental information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Along these lines:

1. Textbooks, tests and other curriculum materials used in this school district are, and shall be available for review by parents at school upon request. Since textbooks, tests and other curriculum materials constantly change, and may be discarded when no longer needed by the school district, parents wishing to review such items must govern their requests accordingly.
2. Parents/guardians are encouraged to visit school. Please check with your child's teacher regarding the best time to visit. We request that parents not plan visits during the first two weeks or the last two weeks of school and during specific assessment periods. It is also requested that visits be limited to a reasonable amount of time to refrain from becoming a distraction to the learning environment. All parents and visitors must enter and exit the building through the main doors during school hours. Before visiting a classroom visitors will need to check in at the office and obtain a visitor's badge.

Children not attending the school may not visit unless accompanied by an adult and prior arrangements are made with the classroom teacher. For the least amount of disruption we encourage visits to be no longer than one hour in length.

Parents, grandparents, etc. are welcome to eat school lunch with their child, but are asked to inform office personnel prior to 8:30 a.m. Persons wishing to post bulletins, announcements, or distribute information in the school building must receive permission from the building principal.

3. The school district will excuse students from testing, classroom instruction, and other school experiences, upon parental request, only under circumstances required by law. Parental requests must be in writing and submitted to the proper teacher and administrator a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction, or other school experience, and must be accompanied by written proof, acceptable to the school district, that the action is required by law. A plan for an acceptable alternative shall be approved by the proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as part of the granting of any parent request.

Also see Title 1 Family Engagement Policy on page 40.

PROMOTION-RETENTION

When promotion or retention of a student is considered, the teacher shall contact the principal regarding the matter. In addition to the building administrator and involved teachers, the RTI team may include the Executive Director of Student Services, counselor, speech language pathologist, nurse, psychologist, etc., depending on staff directly involved with the student. Parents will be notified of a child's involvement in the RTI process. The RTI team will meet no later than the last day of January to discuss retention or promotion of students. The meeting will be for the purpose of identifying the characteristics which may contribute to the causes for possible retention of the student. Characteristics that may be considered include, but are not limited to:

- younger/older chronologically than peer group
- delayed physical development
- inadequate performance
- delayed emotional and social development
- ineffective work habits
- poor attendance
- inadequate motivation
- previous retention
- family trauma
- chronic illness or disabling injury

The child's performance and efforts will be reviewed. From the discussion, a student intervention plan will be designed with objectives to assist the student in improving his/her performance and parent support for the objectives will be sought. If the primary contributor to the difficulty seems to be poor attendance, the Attendance Policy (503.04) will be administered consistent with policy and the home-school liaison will become involved. If it is determined that the student has not reached an acceptable level of performance in relation to his/her capabilities and expected grade level achievement, RTI team recommendations will be implemented with parental input.

The decision for retaining a student will be based upon data identified in the RTI document and will include information such as observation of performance, records of student's achievement, standardized test data, attendance data and the views of personnel involved in the child's review. If a student is promoted on the basis that he/she may not likely improve the skills as a result of retention, such determination shall be noted in the RTI document in the student record. Meetings or attempted meetings with parents will be held or documented. The final decision shall be made by the building principal and reported to the Superintendent. Parents may appeal the decision to the Superintendent of Schools.

Although retention most likely will occur in the early grades, it may occur at any grade level. Grade placement at the secondary level is based on credits earned. The student's assigned counselor can answer specific questions at the secondary level. The RTI team will continue to follow identified students. Throughout the RTI process students may be provided special assistance through intervention and/or special education programs when requirements for entry to such programs have been met. Students enrolling after the beginning of the school year shall be considered for promotion, acceleration, or retention on an individual basis when the established time sequence cannot be applied.

Criteria for Determining Student Retention:

1. Students who have missed 21 or more days of school shall be considered for retention.
2. Students who have missed 21 or more days during the school year and who have received failing grades at the end of the first semester in two of the basic skills areas mathematics and language arts (reading, writing, speaking, and listening), and are failing in these basic skill areas at the end of the year, will be retained.
3. Students who have received failing grades for the first semester in language arts and mathematics, and/or are failing in both areas at the end of the year, may be considered for retention.

4. Students who approach the cutoff levels referenced in item three, and who have failed first semester language arts and math and are failing in one of the two areas at the end of the year, will be considered for promotion with continued involvement of the RTI team. The RTI team will reconvene and make a recommendation within the first six weeks of school.
5. The Principal may approve exceptions to these regulations after discussion with the Superintendent of Schools.
6. Decisions relative to retention for special education students will be based on recommendations of the multidisciplinary/I.E.P.team serving that student. The final decision will rest with the Executive Director of Student Services.

CHILD FIND

It is law in Nebraska that Special Education Services (SPED) must be provided for children who have a verified disability which has an adverse affect on their education. Special Education services may be made available from birth or date of diagnosis through the student's 21st birthday, or as long as the student is deemed eligible while attending a school district program. McCook Public Schools provides many services and programs for special needs students at all grade levels from Preschool through Senior High School. Diagnostic services are available to determine if a child is eligible for SPED services under Federal and State verification guidelines. For children who have a verified disability, continued eligibility will be reviewed every three years.

SCHOOL HOURS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

School hours are from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. with every Wednesday being a 2:00 p.m. dismissal. Students may enter the building beginning at 7:30 a.m. Children should NOT arrive earlier than 7:30 a.m. or remain on the school grounds later than 3:40 p.m. unless they are participating in a supervised activity (breakfast, Bison Kids Club, etc.). Supervision WILL NOT be provided for students who arrive before 7:30 a.m. or remain later than 3:40 p.m. The above procedures are designed for the safety and well-being of your children. Breakfast is offered at both locations. Please contact your school for more details regarding breakfast.

SCHOOL BUSES

Bus schedules are made through the business manager's office and questions or concerns should be directed to the Business Manager, 344-4400, Ext. 5.

STUDENT INSURANCE

All students have the opportunity to purchase an accident insurance policy. The school district will act as a processing agent for a commercial company.

ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

We encourage electronic communication devices to remain at home. If you feel that your child needs one of these devices during the day it will be required to remain in the bookbag/locker and powered off during the day to eliminate the possibility of it becoming a distraction to the learning environment.

ANIMALS AND TOYS AT SCHOOL

Children and parents must be given permission from their teachers before bringing animals to school.

Personal items are the student's responsibility. The school is not responsible for damage to, or the theft of, items brought to school. Children are not to bring any items which might be potentially dangerous to themselves or others. This might include such things as matches, knives, toy guns and any type of toy which can be readily converted to expel any projectile, etc.

INVITATIONS TO STUDENTS FOR PERSONAL PARTIES

Invitations to selected friends for personal parties will **not be handed out in school**. It is not the responsibility of the school to manage social events not directly related to school.

BIRTHDAY/CLASSROOM SNACKS/TREATS

The safety of our children is of utmost importance. We have students with a wide range of food allergies that may become severe or life-threatening. Therefore, food brought into the classroom for celebrations must be store purchased so ingredient lists may be checked. Parents are also encouraged to make healthy snack choices for your children when purchasing items for them to bring to school. Birthday treats will be left to the discretion of the classroom teacher and building administrator.

HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

Parents who wish not to have their child participate in holiday celebrations/room parties should inform the classroom teacher and we will make other arrangements for the child during that time.

STUDENT APPEARANCE AND CLOTHING

Students will be expected to keep themselves well-groomed and neatly dressed at all times. Clothing and hair that tends to distract the student and his/her classmates from their school work, will not be allowed. Clothing which depicts illegal drug use or advertisements of tobacco or alcohol, obscene gestures or language is specifically prohibited.

Please, see that your child is adequately dressed in warm clothing during cold weather. This includes a heavy winter coat or a snowsuit, cap, mittens or gloves, and snow boots. During playground times in winter when snow is on the ground, students not wearing snow boots are asked to stay in areas with no snow. (Hard surfaced areas if snow is removed.) School personnel have the discretion to not allow a student outside if not properly protected with a coat, gloves, etc.

Boots, coats, mittens, stocking caps and other personal belongings should be clearly marked with the owner's full name. Unmarked items that are found will be placed in the lost and found box/area. Clothing that is not claimed at the end of the year will be given to charity. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged items.

During cold winter weather students will not be taken outside for playground breaks if either the wind chill index or temperature is below 10 degrees F. On physical education days, parents should see that students are wearing comfortable clothing and shoes that will enable them to perform all the P.E. activities. This should include clothing that is not too tight and tennis shoes rather than flip-flops, sandals or hard-soled shoes.

SCHOOL BUS EXPECTATIONS

- Be Safe by keeping your hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
- Be Respectful with your words and how you talk to others.
- Be Respectful by listening and following directions of the bus driver.

- Be Safe and Respectful by keeping your volume at a level one (1).
- Be Safe by staying in your seat the entire ride.
- Be Responsible by being on time for pick up.
- Be Respectful by keeping food and drinks in your bag/lunchbox.

McCook Public Schools reserves the right to suspend the bus privileges of any student.

Parents/guardians who wish their children dropped off at another student's home (on the regular bus route) MUST submit this request in writing to the route driver. (24 hour notice MUST be given.)

Any McCook Public Schools' student who wishes to ride the bus to a regular route student's home MUST first have the written permission of his/her parents and the route driver. (24 hours notice MUST be given.)

SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

Clearly defined rules are necessary for an orderly and successful school. Teachers spend the first few days of the school year teaching the students the rules of their classrooms, playground, and lunchroom.

Parents are asked to read the rules and to review them with your child(ren). It is also important that parents model the rules, such as walking on the sidewalk rather than on the lawn and removing hats when in the building.

As circumstances warrant, the principal may deviate from procedures on rules found within this handbook and may establish additional procedures and rules to fit circumstances not included in this handbook.

PBIS AND CENTRAL PRIDE EXPECTATIONS

McCook Elementary and Central have high behavioral expectations. To help with success, McCook Elementary has implemented Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) as a tool to help set expectations for various locations throughout the school. Parental support is vital for success with this process. Areas that schoolwide expectations are created include hallways, playground, restrooms, lunchrooms, bus, assemblies, and classrooms. A schoolwide matrix with each area's expectations will be sent home at the beginning of each school year to parents. <https://www.pbisworld.com/>

Central Elementary (4-5) has implemented PBiS fundamentals into their Central Pride Program. Central continues to utilize the framework provided by PBiS with behavior expectations in the classroom, hallways, playground, restrooms, gym, and lunchroom. School wide goals will be communicated to all students for good behavior. Central Pride identifies 5-6 boys and girls in both grades to build leadership qualities by meeting with these students monthly. These students are identified by teacher recommendation and data garnered through the Central Pride system.

STUDENT CONDUCT/CLASSROOM DISCIPLINE

Classroom discipline is the responsibility of the teacher. Both McCook Elementary and Central Elementary utilize Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. Students will be expected to conform to reasonable standards of speech and conduct in a respectful, courteous manner. Students will refrain from violating or impairing the rights of others and not engage in conduct that deprives other students of an orderly atmosphere for learning. Parents may be notified in the event of behavioral or attitudinal problems. If problems persist, a conference will be requested.

Classroom disciplinary procedures are determined by the classroom teacher in accordance with PBiS. Disciplinary procedures address the inappropriate behavior and are to be reasonable, related and respectful. On occasion, a misbehaving student will be required to stay after school. If a parent of the child cannot be contacted that day, the students will be given one day's notice to make arrangements with his/her parents to stay after school.

SCHOOL CONCERNS

There is a chain of command when dealing with problems/concerns. Should there be a concern about something that may have happened or is happening, please follow these steps:

1. Contact the child's teacher first. If it cannot be resolved on this level, then . . .
2. Contact the principal for a conference. If you do not feel the situation has been given proper consideration or resolved after this step, then you may seek further recourse by contacting the Superintendent of school.

DISCIPLINE

The purpose of discipline is to change the undesired behavior, not to punish the student. The common goal of students, parents, faculty, and administration of McCook Public Schools is to maintain a school atmosphere that is conducive to learning. In order to achieve this, McCook Public Schools will continue to review and distribute a set of reasonable and fair rules and policies. Violation of the McCook Public School's rules and policies will result in disciplinary action. The building administrator has the right to modify expectations and consequences based upon unknown situations that may arise.

McCook Public Schools follows the Nebraska School Discipline ACT [LINK](#)

Conduct on School Grounds, or at an Educational Function or Event, or in a Vehicle Being Used for School Purposes

Prohibited Conduct. The following shall constitute Prohibited Conduct if the conduct occurs on school grounds or, at an educational function or event, or in a vehicle being used for school purposes:

- (1) 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;
- (2) Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude;
- (3) Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including any school employee, to a 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.
- (4) 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 of school operations;
- (5) 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;
- (6) Engaging in selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance, or inhalants, or being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia; or engaging in 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 an alcoholic beverage, a narcotic, a drug, an imitation controlled substance, or an inhalant. 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;

(7) Public indecency or sexual conduct;

(8) 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;

(9) Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person regardless of the time or location of the assault or attempted assault if a prosecutor has filed a complaint in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging such conduct;

(10) Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes. 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;

(11) A repeated violation of any rules and standards if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes;

(12) Use or possession of vulgar or obscene literature, technology, or use of obscene language;

(13) Gross disrespect to teachers, school officials, other school employees, or volunteers;

(14) Behavior which seriously interferes with class work or other school activities;

(15) Being out of the building without permission, loitering on school property before or after assigned classes, or any unauthorized presence at the building or in any part of the building;

(16) Causing a false fire alarm;

(17) Use or possession of any form of tobacco;

(18) Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of the student dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use;

(19) Harassment of any student or school district employee on the basis of the individual's race, national origin, sex, disability, age, religious beliefs, personal appearance, real or perceived personal characteristics or identities, or marital status, as defined in the Definition Section of this policy;

(20) Insubordination: Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.

(21) Bus rules: Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding the school buses or school vehicles.

Disciplinary Action. If a student engages in Prohibited Conduct, the Student will be disciplined by expulsion, long-term suspension, mandatory reassignment, short-term suspension, or other disciplinary action. After taking into account the nature and circumstances of the Prohibited Conduct, it is the intent of the District to discipline students to the fullest extent allowed by law.

Procedural Requirements. Short-term suspension or other disciplinary action for Prohibited Conduct may be imposed only after the principal or designee has made an investigation of the alleged Prohibited Conduct. Before such disciplinary action shall take effect, the student shall be given oral or written notice of the alleged Prohibited

Conduct and an explanation of the evidence the principal or designee has to support the allegations and the student shall be given an opportunity to present his or her version. The principal or designee shall send a written statement to the student and to the student's parents or guardian describing the Prohibited Conduct and the reasons for such disciplinary action. The principal or designee shall make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parents or guardian before or at the time a student returns to school after a short-term suspension.

Any long-term suspension, expulsion, and mandatory reassignment for Prohibited Conduct shall be subject to the procedural requirements set forth in the Student Discipline Act of the Nebraska statutes, as such sections now provide and as may be subsequently amended from time to time.

"Discipline" shall mean all forms of corrective action taken by school personnel, other than suspension and expulsion. The following methods are among those forms considered as "discipline": conferences, detention and acts such as the withholding of privileges or the assignment of tasks. For students with verified disabilities served in special education – all applicable federal and state regulations and rules will be followed.

DUE PROCESS FOR DISCIPLINE

Any student, parent or guardian who is aggrieved by any disciplinary action shall have the right to an informal conference with the appropriate school authority. At such a conference, the student, parent or guardian shall respond to questions by school personnel and shall be entitled to question them in return. Any student, parent or guardian seeking further considerations after this conference shall, upon two school days prior notice, have the right to make a formal protest, either in writing or in person, to the Board of Education at its next regular meeting. Such protests shall be heard in an open meeting unless a closed session is specifically requested by the student and/or his/her parent/guardian. The Board of Education shall notify the student and/or his/her parent/guardian in writing of the decision within ten school days.

SCHOOL OFFENSES DEFINED

Students at school-sponsored, off-campus events shall be governed by school district policy and regulations and are subject to the direction of school district authorities. Failure to obey the rules and regulations and/or failure to obey the lawful instructions of school district authorities shall result in appropriate disciplinary action. Principals have the discretion of adding, subtracting and/or deleting to the listing of school offenses as needed. The following acts are among those that violate McCook School District Policies or individual school rules and regulations.

SMOKING OR POSSESSION OF TOBACCO – Smoking or possession of tobacco, E-Cigs, Vapor Cigs, etc. by students is not permitted on school property or at school-sponsored activities. This does include all forms of tobacco – smoking or chewing.

INAPPROPRIATE DRESS AND APPEARANCE – Dress and appearance must not present health or safety problems or cause disruption. (see dress code)

NON-ATTENDANCE – Daily attendance of all who are enrolled in the McCook Public Schools is required in accordance with state law and district policy.

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT – Conduct that interferes with the educational process is prohibited.

FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH SCHOOL PERSONNEL – Students must obey reasonable instructions of school district personnel.

REFUSAL TO IDENTIFY SELF – All persons must, upon request, identify themselves to proper school authorities in the school building, on grounds or at school-sponsored events.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE – Differences of opinion that result in the student using bodily force to assert their desire to control a situation.

TERRORISTIC THREATS – Verbal harassment, intimidation and threats upon students and/or staff.

BULLYING – Any repeated pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse with an imbalance of power between individuals.

HABITUAL ACTS OF NON- COMPLIANCE – Habitual or repeated violations of school regulations.

EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL - SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION

Nebraska Law provides that students may be excluded from school by means of:

1. Short-term suspension of not more than five (5) days.
2. Long-term suspension of not more than twenty (20) days.
3. Expulsion for the remainder of the school semester.
4. Emergency, immediate suspension if the student has a dangerous disease or presents a threat to the physical safety of the school community or is disruptive to the school program.

The statute provides the conditions and applicable procedures for each type of exclusion:

- a. The Principal or Designee must make an investigation.
- b. The Principal or Designee may suspend after he/she determines it is to help the student, or to prevent interference with the school purposes.
- c. Students must be given oral or written notices of charges, an explanation of the evidence against him/her, and an opportunity to present his/her version.
- d. Within 24 hours (or such time as is reasonably necessary) following suspension, the principal must:
 - Give reason for the action.
 - Make a reasonable effort to confer with the parent before or at time the student returns to school.

Procedure for Emergency Exclusion:

- a. Exclusions may not last longer than necessary to avoid the threats of the emergency.
- b. If longer than five (5) days, there must be substantial compliance with the procedures provided for long-term exclusion (listed below).

Long-Term Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment: The following behavior constitutes grounds for these types of exclusions:

- a. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, substantial interference with school purposes.
- b. Damage to property (private or school) of substantial value.
- c. Physical injury to any student or school employee.
- d. Threat to obtain money or anything of value.
- e. Knowingly possessing or handling a weapon.
- f. Possession of controlled substance or alcoholic liquor.
- g. Bullying.
- h. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law or school policy.
- i. Repeated violation of rules and regulations.

Penalties for disruptive conduct may include:

1st offense – 1 day in-school suspension

2nd offense – 5 days out-of-school suspension

3rd offense – additional suspension or recommendation of expulsion

Penalties may vary depending on the severity and frequency of the offenses. The penalties listed above are suggested maximum guidelines.

BULLYING

Bullying will not be tolerated. Students who are bullied or witness bullying need to report a complaint of bullying or cyberbullying, orally or in writing, to a staff member. If a parent initiates the complaint, the appropriate staff member will follow-up with the student. After the information has been gathered, the building principal shall be

notified of the complaints. The building principal will determine the need the further investigation or the appropriate intervention, which may result in administrative discipline to ensure that the conduct ceases.

Bullying Definition (stopbullying.gov): a repeated behavior towards another that creates an imbalance of power.

Students who engage in bullying of any type are subject to administrative discipline. The form of discipline deemed appropriate by the school administrator may include, but is not limited to, loss of privileges, short term suspension, long term suspension and /or expulsion. A school administrator may also find it necessary to require the perpetrator to undergo counseling or some other form of bullying prevention training. Authorities may be contacted based upon the administrators discretion. The parents/guardians of any student who engages in bullying will be notified orally or in writing concerning the bullying incident and the disciplinary action taken.

The goal of any disciplinary action is to change the inappropriate behavior. The consistency, scope and degree of bullying employed by the perpetrator will have bearing on an administrator's disciplinary decision.

WEAPONS IN SCHOOL POLICY

On June 1, 1995, the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 658 relating to gun free schools. The gun free schools provision refers to the federal requirement that districts expel a student for one calendar year if they possess or transmit a firearm on school grounds. Superintendents may modify this requirement on a case by case basis. No weapons are to be brought to school.

Students are forbidden to knowingly and voluntarily possess, handle, transmit or use any instrument in school, on school grounds or at a school function that is a weapon, looks like a weapon, or is determined to be illegal or dangerous.

Items which have no school-related purpose should not be brought to school or onto school grounds. Students who are in possession of the aforementioned articles will be subject to suspension or expulsion procedures.

Laws that are covered in this policy:

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended (4/31/94) to include the Gun-Free School Act
- Nebraska Student Disciplinary Code as amended by LB 1250 (1994)
- Nebraska Criminal and Juvenile Codes as amended by LB 988 (1994)
- Administrative Procedures for Weapons in School: This procedure shall cover any objects or items which could be used to injure another person or whose clear intent is to resemble an item which could cause injury and which has no school related reason for being in school or on school grounds. Such items will be considered "weapons" for the purpose of this policy.

Lack of student awareness or student intent will not be considered a defense in the McCook School's Weapons in School Policy.

I Guns

Any student who knowingly and voluntarily possesses, handles or transmits a gun in school, on school grounds, or at a school function will be excluded from school for a period of not less than one calendar year. Due process procedures will be followed.

For the purpose of this action, guns shall mean:

1. Any weapon which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosion
2. The frame or receiver of any such weapon

3. A firearm muffler or silencer
4. Starter pistol
5. B-B gun, pellet or air gun
6. Any destructive device:
 - a. Any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket with a propellant charge of more than four ounces, mine or similar device
 - b. Any combination of parts designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device or from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

II Dangerous Weapons

Any student who knowingly and voluntarily possesses, handles or transmits a dangerous weapon (other than Section I above) shall be excluded from school for a period of not less than one whole semester. If any portion of a semester remains, the exclusion will include that portion plus one complete semester. Due process procedures will be followed.

Other than Section I above, dangerous weapons shall include:

1. knives - any dagger, dirk or stiletto with a blade of over two and one half inches
2. knuckles - any instrument that consists of finger rings or guards made of hard substances that is designed, made or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles
3. lead pipes
4. chuck-sticks
5. throwing stars
6. darts
7. blackjacks

III Potentially Dangerous and Look Alike Weapons

Any student who knowingly and voluntarily possesses, handles or transmits any potentially dangerous weapons not addressed in Sections I and II above, or a look alike weapon, shall be subject to a short-term exclusion of five days or less during which time a review panel will be convened to review the incident and determine possible continuance of exclusion. The review panel will consist of 1) the administrator of the school of attendance; 2) an administrator from another district facility; and 3) Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. The panel shall review the facts of the case including the article in question, circumstances of discovery, use of article and intent. Upon completion of the review, the panel may choose to continue the exclusion for a period of up to the remainder of the semester, unless ten or less days remain in the semester, in which case the exclusion will include the following semester.

Items in this category may include but not be limited to:

1. Knives with blades of less than two and one half inches
2. Chains
3. Fireworks
4. Matches and cigarette lighters
5. Chemicals
6. Unauthorized tools
7. Any articles that can be realistically mistaken for weapons
8. Other items not covered in Section I and II above
9. Laser pointers

IV Confiscation

Administrators or other delegated school officials shall confiscate any article previously described in Sections I or II. Articles identified in Section I will be submitted to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Articles identified in Section II may be turned over to law enforcement officials as appropriate.

V Additional Considerations

1. Students with disabilities may be subject to the same disciplinary procedures if it is determined that the act was not related to the disability. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) requires that educational services must continue, however, services may be provided in another setting. If the act is related to the disability, the student may be subject to short-term suspension but may not be expelled. The district may seek a court order to remove the student or the placement may be changed.
2. Principals have the discretion of adding, subtracting and/or deleting to the listing of these and all other procedures as needed.

SCHOOL CANCELLATIONS

In the event of inclement weather, the district will initiate the **automated phone system**. School cancellations will also be broadcast on TV stations KOLN/KGIN, KSNK and NTV, as well as radio stations KICX 96.1 FM, KBRL 1300 am, KSWN 93.9 FM and KIOD 105.3 FM.

SCHOOL SAFETY

To better assure the safety of your child all McCook Public Elementary schools will require the following:

1. Entry to the buildings after 8:05 a.m. shall be at the front entrances. All other exits will be secured. You will be buzzed in after the front doors are locked at 8:05 a.m.
2. NO student will be excused from the building until the parent/guardian enters the building and personally presents themselves at the office and signs a sign-out sheet. At this time the student will be called to the office.
3. ALL visitors MUST report and sign in at the main office during the school day.
4. **The McCook Public School District has authorized the use of video cameras in the school district's buildings and on school property. The video cameras will be used to monitor student behavior in order to maintain a safe, secure, and healthy environment for students and staff. Students and parents are hereby notified that the content of the video recordings may be used in a student disciplinary proceeding. The content of the video recordings may be a confidential student record and, if so, will be retained with other student records. Video recordings will only be retained if necessary for the use in a student disciplinary proceeding or other matters as determined necessary by the administration. Parents may request to view recordings of their children in the event the recordings are used in disciplinary proceedings involving their children. Any such request shall be processed by the school district in accordance with applicable law.**

FIRE DRILLS/TORNADO DRILLS/EVACUATION DRILLS

Every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of your child during normal school hours. Periodic fire, tornado and evacuation drills are executed to make certain students learn proper safety procedures and adhere to all safety guidelines.

COUNSELING SERVICES

Our school counselors offer a wide range of services including classroom visits as well as individual sessions. Referrals may be made by classroom teachers, the principal, and/or parents/guardians. The school counselor, resource officer, nurse or psychologist may visit with your child from time to time.

CIVIL RIGHTS - SCHOOL FOODS AUTHORITY

Nondiscrimination Statement In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions

participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH

McCook Public Schools offer breakfast and lunch through the OPAA Food Service. No lunch tickets are needed. **Student names are scanned as they exit the food serving area by an adult for account processing.**

Each student will have an account with the McCook Public School Cafeteria Fund. Deposits should be made periodically for each student. Purchases made by the student will be deducted from this account. Payments should be made in advance for meals. All families wishing to participate in the meal program are requested to pay online through Infinite Campus or send checks to McCook Public School Cafeteria Fund, 700 West 7th, McCook, NE 69001. Please indicate one student name and number on each check. If you have more than one child in McCook Public Schools, please be aware that you must indicate each individual student's account when depositing funds, an envelope can be picked up from your building principals office. The school secretary will accept checks and apply them to student accounts. Detailed printouts of student accounts will be sent upon request or can be viewed on Infinite Campus.

Please note: once an account reaches a negative balance of (-\$20) that account will be shut off and students will not be allowed to charge a breakfast or lunch until it is paid off. If a payment plan needs to be set up, please contact the school office.

In accordance with Federal Law and United States Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination, write: USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Applications for free and reduced meals may be obtained from any building principal's office or the superintendent's office. Keep in mind you are still responsible for any charges incurred on your account prior to any free or reduced application approval. A new free and reduced form is required every year.

SEARCHES OF STUDENT PROPERTY

In accordance with school board policy, state law and recent Supreme Court decisions, an administrator may search a student's property (including, but not limited to the contents of the student's desk and lockers) when there is reasonable cause to believe that a search will disclose evidence of violation of a statute, board policy or school rule.

Reasonable Searches Permitted

1. Searches of non-District property are to be conducted at such times and places as are reasonable under the circumstances. The scope of the search shall likewise be reasonable.
2. Searches can be made under this Rule at any place on District property, at a District event, or at a place under District control or sponsorship.

Person, Clothing, Automobiles, Personal Possessions, and Field trips

1. A search of a students' person, clothing, automobile, personal property or possessions will only be made if there is reasonable cause to believe that the student has possessions or control of an illegal object or substance that is illegal under federal or state law, or in violation of District Policy or Rule.
2. A search of the person, clothing, automobile, personal property or possessions shall be made, whenever practicable, by two certificated staff members. When the search is made of the students person, the search shall be conducted only by staff members of the same sex as the student being searched.
3. Students may be subject to searches of bags, purses or other containers prior to field trips or off campus events.

GIFTS

Gifts delivered to the school for students will be kept in the office area until dismissal time. We strongly encourage parents to deliver flowers, gifts, etc to home.

BICYCLES, ETC.

Students who ride bikes to school need to be sure they are placed in the bike racks and locked during the school day. Helmets are strongly encouraged. Skateboards, in-line skates and scooters are discouraged. There is not enough storage space to assure safe keeping during the school day. Students are not allowed to ride bikes, skateboards, skates or scooters on school grounds. Shoes with skates built in are not allowed in school.

TELEPHONE

Phone calls need to be relative to school needs and extensions of school functions. Cell phones are devices that are not necessary to be used during the educational hours of school. Direct contact with students can be made through the office. Such electronic communication devices will remain in the students locker, powered off, and only used either before or after the school hours. Devices that repeatedly cause a distraction to the learning environment will be kept in the office and will need to be picked up by the parent or guardian.

FUNDRAISING

Students in grades K-5 will not be involved in direct solicitation. Student names and addresses will not be released for any type of fund raising activities. We do allow non-profit organizations to come into the building and distribute take-home materials to our students. Examples include: Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, Optimist Track Meet/Punt Pass & Kick, YMCA, Shrine Circus, Ronald McDonald Education Programs, Midget League Baseball, McCook Art Guild.

TEXTBOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

The school district provides needed textbooks and library books without charge. This program necessitates that all students assume full responsibility for the books issued to them. If the books are abused, fines will be assessed to compensate for the damage. Allowances will be made for depreciation, but assessments of no less than one-half the cost of the book will be made for the replacement if the books are lost or severely damaged. Books issued by the teacher shall be covered at the request of the teacher. We need to add the option to opt in for notifications in this section.

FEES AND CHARGES

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

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

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs and services. Such student and parent contributions have included: 1—students coming to school with the basic clothing and personal supplies necessary to be successful in the classroom (clothing, shoes, pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, calculators and the like); 2—students bringing their own or paying the reasonable cost of specialized equipment or supplies for the personal preference or personal retained benefit of students (for example, band equipment, locker deposit or rental fees, shop class materials where the student keeps the product, and college tuition or fees for college credit for advanced placement courses or correspondence courses); 3—students providing their own specialized clothing and equipment to be prepared for the extracurricular activities in which they choose to participate (sporting apparel, including shoes, undergarments and the like); 4—assisting with special programs, such as field trips, summer school, school dances and plays. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and to require, to the extent permitted by law, such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the district.

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

1. **Guidelines for clothing required for specified courses and activities**

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

The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of

instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicles, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school building. Teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instruction and use the devices as instructed.

2. Personal or consumable items

Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participating in the courses and activities provided by the District. This includes the responsibility to furnish minor personal or consumable items including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Equipment or supplies of a specialized nature for certain courses (for example, protractors and math calculators) may be available to students by the District, but students may also be encouraged to purchase their own such equipment or supplies for their own use after school hours or for use during the school day due to the limited number of District items available to the students. A specific class supply list will be published annually in a Board-approved student handbook or supplement or other notice. This list may include refundable damage or loss deposit required for usage of certain District property.

While the District will provide students with the use of facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books, the students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property, which is placed in the care of and lost by the student. Where students are provided school property of a significant value, which may easily be unintentionally damaged, the instructor should give the parent advance notice of the student being given responsibility for the item and the parent may then direct the student not be given the item.

3. Materials required for course projects

Students have the responsibility to furnish or pay the reasonable cost of any materials required for course projects where, upon completion, the project becomes the property of the student. Such materials are subject to the District's fee waiver policy (Section 12). Students must furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extra curricular activities. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy (Section 12); however, the District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

4. Extracurricular activities—specialized equipment or attire

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

The district will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted for the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such as dance, squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the students (braces, mouth pieces, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant.

Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extracurricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost of such equipment or attire.

For music courses that are extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost of such equipment or attire.

5. Extracurricular activities—fees for participation

The District may charge fees for participation in extracurricular activities. Admission fees are charged for extra curricular activities and events.

6. Post secondary education costs

Direct questions to the high school guidance counselor.

7. Transportation

Costs: Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as, and to the extent, permitted by federal and state laws and regulations. Students who are placed into foster care will be covered by all FERPA, State, ESSERS, and ESSA laws and statutes.

8. Copies of student files or records

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

9. Participation in before- & after-school or pre-kindergarten services

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

10. Participation in summer school or night school

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

11. Breakfast and lunch programs

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

Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a "school store," a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

12. Waiver policy

The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches under United

States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) admission fees and transportation charges for student spectators attending extracurricular activities (3) materials for course projects, and (4) use of a musical instrument in optional musical courses that are not extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials. Materials for course projects to be provided to free or reduced-price lunch eligible students shall be approved by the administration in advance; and shall be comparable in quality and sufficient in quantity to allow the student to demonstrate the required skills.

13. Distribution of policy

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

14. Student fee fund

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

Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

PHOTOGRAPHS/PRESS RELEASES

The media (print and internet) in local and regional publications may periodically photograph students and their names may be released to the media to accompany these photographs unless parents request in writing to the building principal that their student should *not* be included.

Title I Parent Notification

To: All Parents or Guardians

From: McCook Public Schools, McCook Elementary, Central Elementary

Date: 8/1/2025

Subject: **Notification to Parents of Teacher/Paraprofessional Qualifications**

In accordance with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)/ PARENTS' RIGHT-TO-KNOW, this is a notification from McCook Public Schools to every parent of a student in a Title I school that you have the right to request and receive in a timely manner: a) information regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers and/or paraprofessionals.

The information regarding the professional qualifications of your student's classroom teachers/paraprofessional shall include the following:

- I. If the teacher has met state certification/qualification criteria for the grade level and subject areas taught:
- II. If the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state certification/qualification criteria are waived;

- III. The teacher is assigned in the field of discipline of the certification;
- IV. Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications [ESSA 1112(e)(1)(A)(i)-(ii)]

In addition to the above information, you will be notified if your student has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the applicable state certification requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned. [ESSA 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii)]

Teachers may meet this requirement if the district is implementing its approved District Innovation teacher certification policy or if the teacher meets the State Certification endorsement rules.

If you would like to receive any additional information about any of the above issues, please contact Mr. Borland or Mr. Bednar at their respective schools.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

FERPA is a federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

FERPA gives parents certain rights with respect to their children's education records. These rights transfer to the student when he or she reaches the age of 18 or attends a school beyond the high school level. Students to whom the rights have transferred are "eligible students."

Parents or eligible students have the right to inspect and review the student's education records maintained by the school. Schools are not required to provide copies of records unless for reasons such as great distance, it is impossible for parents or eligible students to review the records. Schools may charge a fee for copies.

Parents or eligible students have the right to request that the school correct records, which they believe to be inaccurate or misleading. If the school decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student then has the right to a formal hearing. After the hearing, if the school still decides not to amend the record, the parent or eligible student has the right to place a statement with the record setting forth his or her view about the contested information.

Generally, schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions:

- School officials with legitimate educational interest;
- Other schools to which a student is transferring;
- Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes;
- Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school;
- Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student;
- To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena;
- Accrediting organizations;
- State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant of specific state law; and
- Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies.

NON-DISCRIMINATION & TITLE IX POLICY

Discriminatory behaviors are those actions that negatively affect another individual because of their race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, pregnancy, conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth, or genetic background. It shall be the policy of the McCook Public Schools to provide an environment free of discrimination. Any behavior of a discriminatory nature that offends anyone under the auspice of the school district shall be subject to the enforcement of this policy.

If a complaint is made regarding discrimination whether by a student, an employee or anyone else on the school premises, the person being discriminated against should immediately inform the principal. The complaint should be placed in writing and presented to the principal. Witnesses will also be asked to make written statements. The principal or his/her designee will begin an investigation. If the principal finds that the complaints are true and accurate, then immediate and appropriate actions or consequences will take place. If the individual making the complaint isn't satisfied with the outcome of the investigation, then he/she should contact the superintendent of schools.

Once a written complaint is received, the district Title IX coordinator will be contacted by the building administrator. McCook Public School coordinator is Mr. Craig Dickes and can be contacted by calling 308-344-4400 or cdickes@mccookbison.org.

Food Service Discrimination

United States Department of Agriculture
USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

SNAP and FDPIR State or local agencies, and their subrecipients, must post the following Nondiscrimination Statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, religious creed, disability, age, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: How to File a Complaint, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

ARTICLE 5 MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS WELLNESS POLICY

AR 508.13

The McCook Public School (MPS) District is committed to providing school environments that promote and protect children's health, well-being, and ability to learn by supporting healthy eating and physical activity. Therefore, it is the policy of the McCook Public School District that:

- The school district will engage students, parents, teachers, food service professionals, health professionals and other interested community members in developing, implementing, monitoring and reviewing district-wide nutrition and physical activity policies.
- All students will have opportunities, support and encouragement to be physically active on a regular basis.
- Foods and beverages sold or served at school will meet the nutrition recommendations of the U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans.
- Qualified child nutrition professionals will provide students with access to a variety of affordable, nutritious and appealing foods that meet the health and nutrition needs of students; and will provide clean, safe and pleasant settings and adequate time for students to eat.
- To the extent practicable, our district will participate in available federal school meal programs.
- The district will provide nutrition education and physical education to foster lifelong habits of healthy eating and physical activity, and will establish linkages between health education and school meal programs, and with related community services.

TO ACHIEVE THESE POLICY GOALS:

I. Wellness Team: The school district will create, strengthen, or work within the existing wellness team to develop, implement, monitor, review and, as necessary, revise school nutrition and physical activity policies. The team will also serve as resources for implementing these policies. (The wellness team consists of a group of individuals representing the school and community. It should include parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, members of the school board, school administrators, teachers, health professionals and members of the public.)

II. Nutrition Guidelines: The established nutrition guidelines for foods available in each school building during the school day are as follows: (1) school breakfast and lunch programs will be offered which meet or exceed the requirements of federal and state law and regulatory authorities and (2) no foods in competition with the school lunch or breakfast program shall be sold or otherwise made available to students anywhere on school premises during the period of one-half prior to the serving period for breakfast and lunch and lasting until one-half hour after the serving of breakfast and lunch. The administration establishes the following additional nutrition guidelines and actions to meet the guidelines:

1. Conditions for School Meals:

- a. Free and reduced-priced meals: MPS will make every effort to eliminate any social stigma attached to, and prevent the overt identification of students who are eligible for free and reduced-price school meals.
- b. Scheduling meals: Lunch periods will be scheduled at times when students are in need of nutrition (e.g., in the middle of their school day). Students will be provided adequate time to eat. In general students will upon arrival in the cafeteria, have at least 10 minutes to eat breakfast and 15 minutes to eat lunch.
- c. Conditions for meals: Efforts shall be made to establish comfortable and relaxed eating conditions. The factors to promote these conditions will be a clean, orderly environment, pleasant staff, adequate seating, enforcement of student conduct rules and adequate supervision.

2. Selection of School Meals:

- a. School Meals: School meals shall at a minimum meet nutrition requirements established by state and federal law. Emphasis is on good menu planning principles that offer healthy food choices including lean meats, a variety of fruits and other fried vegetables daily, whole grains once a week and a low-fat or nonfat milk daily. Locate these choices where they are readily accessible to students. Limit portion sizes of desserts and fried foods.
- b. Ala carte selections: Elementary students are to be offered balanced meals. PK-5 elementary students are not to be sold individual food or beverage selections except for limited portions of low-fat foods, low-fat milk, fruits, and non-fried vegetables. Junior high and high school students may be sold foods and beverages ala carte provided the ala carte items include fruits, non-fried vegetables and healthy beverages (waters and 100% fruit juices).

3. Student's Meals from Home: Students will be discouraged from sharing food and be prohibited from sharing foods brought from home. Parents will be encouraged via health promotional materials to make healthy choices for student lunches.

4. Closed Campus: To encourage students to eat a nutritious lunch, students will not be permitted to leave school during the school day for the purpose of lunch. Exceptions: Students may leave at lunchtime if they will be eating lunch at home, with parent permission.

5. Vending Machines:

- a. Vending machines will not be available for student use at any school for the period of one-half hour before and one-half hour after breakfast and lunch periods.
- b. Elementary school students: Vending machines are not available to elementary students during the school day.
- c. Junior high students: Vending machines will be available to use by middle school students for the period of one-half hour before and one-half hour after breakfast and lunch periods. Vending machine items will meet the Smart Snacks Standards.
- d. High school students: Vending machines will be available to use by middle school students for the period of one-half hour before and one-half hour after breakfast and lunch periods. Vending machine items will meet the Smart Snacks Standards.
- e. Promotion of Healthy Choices: If on-site vending is available, then Smart Snacks Standards will be offered in at least one vending machine in the school building.

6. Foods available during the school day:

- a. Water: Students will be allowed access to water during the school day. Water fountains are available. Educators may in their discretion allow students to bring water bottles to classes.
- b. Food rewards: Smart Snacks will be encouraged for rewards and to be used by school staff for instructional purposes (e.g., cultural programs, FCS classes, and foods given in accordance with a special education student's IEP are exempt).
- c. Classroom Celebrations:
 - 1. Staff is encouraged to offer Smart Snacks for classroom celebrations.
 - 2. Parents are encouraged to bring healthy foods for classroom celebrations.

7. Fund-raising:

- a. School clubs are not to sell food for the period of one-half hour before and one-half hour after breakfast and lunch periods.
- b. Student clubs are encouraged to include a healthy alternative or Smart Snacks as part of fund-raising efforts.

8. School activities/events:

- a. Athletes: Student athletes serve as role models. Coaches are to encourage healthy eating habits by student athletes.
- b. Concessions: Concession stands are encouraged to include healthy food choices. Efforts will be made to offer Smart Snacks.

9. Definition of Smart Snacks in School: For purposes of this policy, The Smart Snacks in School Standards stipulate that all snack foods sold in school must be "whole grain rich," meaning they contain 50% whole grains or have whole grains as the first ingredient, or have as the first ingredient a fruit, a vegetable, a dairy product or a protein-rich food. Combination foods that contain at least one-fourth cup fruit and/or vegetable or naturally contain 10% of the daily value (DV) of calcium, potassium, vitamin D or dietary fiber will also be accepted. Smart Snacks in School Fact Sheet: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/allfoods_flyer.pdf 3

10. Definition of Healthy Foods: For purposes of this policy, “healthy foods” means foods that are low in fats, sodium and sugars, and high per serving in the nutrients which are needed to meet Nutrition Standards for Foods: http://www.fns.usda.gov/sites/default/files/allfoods_flyer.pdf

III. Nutrition Education Activities to Promote Student Wellness: The base goal is to implement a curriculum that meets or exceeds the health and nutrition education objectives established by the Nebraska Department of Education. The administration establishes the following additional goals and actions to achieve such goals:

1. **Curriculum:** Nutrition education should be integrated into other subjects to complement, but not replace the health and nutrition education curriculum that is provided in accordance with NDE Rule 10. Educators are to incorporate the promotion of healthy eating nutrition lifestyles in all subject areas as appropriate.

2. **Display Nutrition Education Materials:** The cafeteria shall display posters or other communications suitable to the ages of students served that promote healthy nutrition choices (e.g., display food pyramid). MyPlate Educators are encouraged to incorporate such communications in their classrooms as well.

3. **Nutrition Health Events:** Educators are encouraged to search for and take advantage of events that promote nutrition education. Activities may include but are not limited to:

- a. Health fairs
- b. Traveling health exhibits
- c. Field trips to farm or food production facilities
- d. Health speakers (school assemblies or class speakers on nutrition)

4. **Family:**

- a. Parents are to be welcomed to join their children at school lunch as appropriate.
- b. School communications to parents should include information about healthy nutrition, such as information about healthy snacks for children.
- c. If a lunch is sent to school, parents are encouraged to pack healthy lunches and snacks.

5. **Staff:** Our employees are encouraged to be healthy role models for students. It is important for students to receive consistent messages. Staff is discouraged from eating foods or drinking beverages of minimal nutritional value during the school day in the presence of students.

IV. Physical Activities to Promote Student Wellness: The established goal is to implement a curriculum that meets or exceeds the health and physical education objectives established by the Nebraska Department of Education. The administration established the following additional goals and actions to achieve such goals:

1. **Curriculum:** Health and physical education should be integrated into other subjects to complement, but not replace, the health and physical education curriculum provided in accordance with NDE Rule 10. Educators are to incorporate physical activity promotion and non-sedentary lifestyles in all subject areas as appropriate.

2. **Physical Activity During the School Day:**

1. Recess: Elementary students will have the opportunity for daily recess. Weather and other conditions permitting, recess will be outdoors. Students who are idle during recess are to be encouraged by supervising staff to engage in physical activity. Daily minimums are the requirements of the Department of Education standards.
2. Middle school and high school students will have the opportunity for physical activity during their lunch period. The gym or outside facilities will be open to use during lunch when possible.
 - a. Class Time: Physical activity within class periods (e.g. stretching breaks when students are at task for more than 50 minutes) will be encouraged.

3. **Physical Activity To/From School:**

- a. To encourage biking or walking to school, the administration will work with law enforcement and as appropriate volunteer parent safety monitors to provide safe routes to school. Bike racks will be established commensurate with need.
- b. In establishing bus pick up/drop off sites, the fact that students will have to walk farther from a particular site will not necessarily be considered as a negative factor.

4. As Punishment: Physical activity (recess, etc.) will not be used as punishment and will not be withheld as punishment. This guideline shall not apply to extracurricular activities. Educators may use appropriate professional discretion to make exceptions to this guideline. In no event, however, will physical activity be used as a form of corporal punishment.

5. Display Physical Activity Educational Materials: The cafeteria, gym and health classrooms are encouraged to display posters or other communications suitable to the ages of students served that promote physical activity and non-sedentary lifestyles (e.g., display sports posters, walking fitness posters). Educators are encouraged to incorporate such communications in their classrooms as well.

6. Physical Activity Health Events: Educators are encouraged to search for and take advantage of events that promote physical activity education. Activities may include but are not limited to:

- a. Health fairs
- b. Traveling health exhibits
- c. Field trips to physical activity centers
- d. Physical activity speakers (school assemblies or class speakers representing sports figures, medical people)

7. Family:

- a. External school property is available for use by families/public for physical activity after school hours (playgrounds, etc.)
- b. School communications to parents will include information that promotes physical activity. Such communications may include information about the benefits of physical activity to children and the distribution of information about youth sports programs.

8. Staff Wellness: McCook Public School District highly values the health and well-being of every staff member and will plan and implement activities and policies that support personal efforts by staff to maintain a healthy lifestyle. This wellness team will develop, promote and oversee a multifaceted plan to promote staff health and wellness. The plan should be based on input solicited from school staff and should outline ways to encourage healthy eating, physical activity and other elements of a healthy lifestyle among school staff. MPS staff members are encouraged to serve as healthy role models for students. School employees serve as positive role models by adhering to vending guidelines adopted for students.

V. Other School Activities to Promote Student Wellness: The established goal is to offer other suitable opportunities to students to engage in health-promoting activities. The administration establishes the following additional goals and actions to achieve such goals:

1. Extracurricular Programs: The District will offer athletic and other activity programs subject to and in compliance with the bylaws of the Nebraska School Activities Association.

2. Advertising: The administration will monitor advertising that occurs in school and endeavor to promote Smart Snacks Standard choices.

3. Staff Development:

- a. Training opportunities, when available, will be offered to staff members responsible for supervising recess and lunch. The focus of the training may include nutrition information, physical activity and appropriate equipment use.

b. The District will, in conjunction with their food services team, support ongoing training and development for food service staff related to nutritional and wellness goals and activities.

4. **Community Resources:** The Wellness Committee may coordinate the school wellness program efforts with those available from medical and other community organizations.

VI. Monitoring/Review: The Wellness Committee will review the wellness policy annually and will make revisions as necessary. The Wellness Committee will report to the superintendent to ensure compliance with district-wide nutrition and physical activity wellness policies. School food service staff will ensure compliance with nutrition policies within school food service areas and will report to the Wellness Committee and superintendent.

Approved: June, 2019

Reviewed: _____

Revised: _____

Central and McCook Elementary Schools Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Central and McCook Elementary intends to follow the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy guidelines in accordance with federal law, *Section 1116(a -f) ESSA, (Every Student Succeeds Act) of 2015.*

In General

Each school served under this part shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent, practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. The policy shall be made available to the local community and updated to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

- Schools shall provide opportunities for the participation of parents and family members including those with migratory children, limited English proficiency, or have disabilities. Parent shall be notified of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable provided in a language the parents can understand.**

At Central and McCook Elementary schools, we believe that parent involvement is a key factor in student success. When families are engaged, students are more motivated, achieve higher academically, and develop a lifelong love of learning. Whether through volunteering, attending school events, or supporting learning at home, parents play a vital role in building a strong school community. Together, we create a positive, supportive environment where every child can thrive! Activities include but are not limited to:

Preview Night, Back to School Night, 3rd Grade Authors, Kindergarten GingerBread House, Carnival Night, Science Night, Careers on Wheels, Fall Festival,

- Convene an annual parent meeting scheduled at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.**

Each year, Central and McCook Elementary host an Annual Title I Parent Meeting to share important information about our school's participation in the Title I federal program. During this meeting, parents receive an overview of Title I requirements, including how federal funds support student learning and achievement. We emphasize the critical role of parent involvement and inform families of their right to be actively engaged in the development and review of our school's Title I plan, policies, and family engagement strategies. This meeting provides a valuable opportunity for parents to ask questions, share feedback, and collaborate with school staff to ensure every child receives the support they need to succeed. Parent meetings are general held in the spring of each school year in preparation for the next school year.

- Involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school Parent and Family Engagement Policy.**

Each year, our elementary schools host a parent meeting to discuss important information related to Title I funding, its utilization within our district, and the objectives behind it. This meeting also serves as an opportunity to gather input from parents on how we can enhance our school. Additionally, each fall, we conduct a climate survey for both parents and students.

- Provide opportunities for parents and family members to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children. The school shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities.**

Central and McCook Elementary are committed to partnering with parents to make informed decisions about their child's education. We believe that active family engagement leads to stronger academic outcomes and a more personalized learning experience for each student. To ensure parents are involved in key educational decisions, we provide multiple opportunities for collaboration and communication, including:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences – A dedicated time to discuss student progress, strengths, and areas for growth.
- Teacher Meetings – Additional opportunities for parents to meet with educators to address concerns, ask questions, and develop academic support strategies.
- RTI (Response to Intervention) Meetings – A structured process where parents collaborate with teachers and support staff to review interventions and discuss next steps for student learning.
- Norm-Referenced Test Reports – Families receive detailed assessment reports, such as AimsWeb+ and NWEA MAP Growth results, to help them understand their child's academic performance and progress.

By providing these opportunities, we ensure that parents have a voice in their child's education, fostering a strong home-school partnership that supports student success.

- Provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under this part, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. The school will provide assistance, opportunities, and/or materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement in a format, and when feasible, in a language the parents and family members can understand.**

Students receiving additional support in reading and math will receive regular updates on their progress throughout the semester. Progress monitoring is conducted at a minimum of every other week using the AimsWeb+ assessment tool to track student growth and adjust interventions as needed.

Individualized goals are established based on each student's initial assessment scores and their expected grade-level benchmarks for the semester. To reinforce skills at home, students will receive practice materials, including books and problem sets tailored to their instructional needs.

Our Title I program specifically implements the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) reading program, which includes daily take-home practice books to be read each night following teacher-led instruction.

Additionally, with our grade-level teams' established essential outcomes, student progress will be communicated through progress monitoring reports, shared during parent-teacher conferences or at the end of each quarter. This structured approach ensures consistent communication with families and a collaborative effort toward student success.

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

Central and McCook Elementary are dedicated to fostering meaningful collaboration between teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders with parents to enhance student success. We recognize the valuable contributions of parents and actively work to educate staff on the importance of parent engagement in the educational process.

Through professional development and collaborative initiatives, we provide educators with strategies to: Effectively communicate with parents and foster open, two-way dialogue.

Recognize and appreciate the essential role parents play in their child's academic growth.

Engage parents as equal partners in decision-making and educational planning.

Create inclusive opportunities for parents to contribute to school initiatives and student learning.

With the support and insights of parents, we strengthen our school community and create a shared commitment to student achievement, ensuring that every child receives the support and encouragement they need to thrive.

- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, including preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.**

Central and McCook Elementary are committed to coordinating and integrating parental involvement programs with various Federal, State, and local initiatives, ensuring that families have meaningful opportunities to engage in their child's education. By aligning our efforts with preschool programs and extracurricular activities, we create a supportive network that encourages parents to take an active role in their child's academic and personal growth. We offer a variety of programs and activities designed to support student learning while fostering strong family connections, including:

- Summer Extended Learning Opportunities – Providing academic enrichment to maintain and strengthen skills over the summer.
- Bison Kids Club Extended Day Program – Offering after-school care with structured activities that promote learning and social development.
- McCook Chess Club – Encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving through strategic gameplay.

- Destination Imagination – Engaging students in creative problem-solving challenges that enhance teamwork and innovation.
- Central Starz Music Performers – Supporting students in exploring their musical talents and building confidence through performances.
- Cracker Jacks – Providing additional enrichment opportunities that foster engagement and student growth.

- By integrating these parent-focused and student-centered programs, we strengthen the home-school connection, empower families, and ensure that parents have the tools and opportunities to actively participate in their child's educational journey.

Parent Notification of Assessment Policy

At the beginning of each school year, our district notifies parents of students attending schools that receive Title I funds of their right to request information regarding any State or District policies related to student participation in assessments. Upon request, the district will provide this information in a timely manner. If you have any questions or would like to request this information, please contact the building administrator or designee.

Receipt of standards of Conduct

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

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____ **Date:** _____ **Please go to bit.ly/mpshandbook to review the handbook.**

Check the appropriate box for each category below. Sign where indicated.

STUDENT PARENT HANDBOOK

In accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-4, 176 paragraph (3) which states in part: "Rules and Standards which form the basis for discipline shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment....".

- I have reviewed a copy of the current School/Parent Handbook

TECHNOLOGY (Computer Network & Internet Acceptable Use Policy)

- I specifically understand guidelines/consequences of technology expectations as outlined in the above handbook.
- I give permission for MPS to provide and manage a protected Google for Education account for my child.
- Please sign me up for [Securly Home](#) (Monitor online activity of your child and set filtering rules for your home internet when the student takes home a device.)
- Please sign me up for Destiny Library notifications (Notifies parents and guardians of library activity.)

PERMISSION TO DISPLAY STUDENT WORK AND MEDIA RELEASE

McCook Public Schools considers student names, photos, and awards as "directory information." This allows us to celebrate your child's success in school publications, social media, and local news. We take great pride in sharing our students' academic and creative work with the community.

- I/We do **NOT** authorize McCook Public Schools to display this student's work & release information to media as described above.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING FIELD TRIPS & ESSENTIAL EMERGENCY CARE

- I/We give consent for participation in activities that are part of the normal school day including field trips and for any emergency care which would be required during such events as specified on my student's health & emergency form.
- I/We do **NOT** give consent for participation in activities that are part of the normal school day including field trips.

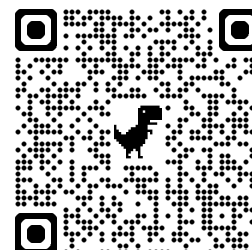
PRIMARY LANGUAGE IDENTIFIER (CHECK IF APPLICABLE)

- English is **NOT** the primary language of this child and/or the guardian. You will be contacted for additional information. (El inglés NO es el idioma principal de este niño y/o del tutor. Se le contactará para obtener información adicional.)

SIGNATURE

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Electronic Version



2026-2027

McCook Public Schools

Junior High & High School



OUR MISSION

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

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McCOOK SCHOOLS

Administration Office, 700 West 7th, 344-4529

McCook Senior High School, 600 West 7th, 344-4416

McCook Junior High School, 800 West 7th, 344-4528

Special Education Office, 1500 West 3rd Street, 344-4466

Central Elementary, 604 West 1st Street, 344-4461

McCook Elementary, 1500 West 3rd Street, 344-4448

LIFT, 404 West 7th, 344-4564

Food Service Office, 800 West 7th Street, 344-4403

Web Address: www.mccookbison.org

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INTRODUCTION TO MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Welcome to McCook Public Schools. The Board of Education has provided excellent facilities and an excellent staff. Guidance counselors, teachers, and administrators will provide all the assistance possible, but the individual student must provide the effort and the determination for success.

An education from McCook Public School will provide a balanced academic foundation for post-secondary endeavors. Students from McCook Public Schools consistently rank above the average when compared to the Nebraska and national norm. A variety of extracurricular activities are available. McCook Public Schools students compete very successfully with other Nebraska students in all activities and athletics.

It is the mission of McCook Public Schools' community to equip all students to succeed in a complex global society. This mission is based on the following beliefs about how students learn and what they must know to be responsible and contributing citizens in a global society.

We believe all students can learn and it is the responsibility of educators to ensure all students meet or exceed state and national standards.

We believe educators are responsible for providing all students with the opportunity to learn in a mutually respectful, safe, orderly, and caring learning environment.

We believe educators are responsible for establishing high expectations to promote success and challenge all students.

We believe educators are responsible for developing a partnership based on two-way communication between the school, community, and home.

We believe educators are responsible for ensuring students develop critical thinking, creative thinking, problem solving, and technological skills to prepare them for the 21st century workplace.

We believe parent and community involvement is an important factor in student success.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

- Act in a responsible manner following all rules and regulations of McCook Public Schools.
- Respect each person's individuality and his/her right to an education.
- Act appropriately and work cooperatively with everyone in the building.
- Attend all classes, coming to each class with required materials, including completed assignments.
- Never verbally or physically abuse or harass anyone.
- Use appropriate language and good manners in all personal dealings.
- Communicate with teachers, staff and other students.
- Respect the property of others.
- Constantly work to improve.

We hope that this school year will be an enjoyable, rewarding, educational experience.

JUNIOR HIGH - SENIOR HIGH ACADEMIC INFORMATION

A. REGISTRATION

The counseling department will pre-register all students for the upcoming year. From this pre-registration, the schedule will be built for the next school year. Seniors will enroll in five (5-7) classes, freshmen, sophomores and juniors will enroll in seven (7) classes.

Students are encouraged to take college classes during their high school careers. Those classes will be counted as dual credit **ONLY** if the college instructor is a high school certified teacher in the state of Nebraska. All college class fees are the responsibility of the student and/or parent/guardian. For classes that are available and information about said classes, please contact the guidance office.

B. SCHEDULE CHANGES

Any schedule change requests must be on the recommendation of the teacher of the class in which the student is enrolled and be approved by the principal/assistant principal and a counselor. **ALL** parents are to be notified of **ALL** schedule changes. Except in special situations, classes may be added or dropped only during the first five school days of the first semester or first three school days of the second semester. Classes and instructors are assigned by the administration. Due to a variety of reasons, requests for a specific instructor or class period may not be honored. If a student chooses to drop a class after the five-day limit, but before the end of the nine weeks of the semester, they will receive either a **WP** for withdrawn passing or **WF** for withdrawn failing.

Any student that withdraws (except for the reasons listed below) from a class after the ninth week of a semester will receive an F (failing) for the semester on their permanent transcript regardless of their actual percentage. This F (failing) will be utilized in computing the student's grade point average (GPA). If a student has had to withdraw from a class due to illness or injury, placement

in a residential treatment program, homebound program, transferred to another school, or made prior arrangements with the teacher, counselor, and administration, he or she may receive a WP or WF.

C. TEACHER AIDES - SENIOR HIGH

1. Sophomores will NOT be appointed to an aide position in Senior high.
2. Juniors will not be appointed an aide position for over one period per day.
3. Seniors will not be appointed over one aide position per day unless they are in five other classes, or receive administrative approval.
4. No class will have more than one aide per period, unless special permission is given by the principal/assistant principal.
5. No student aide will be assigned without meeting the above-mentioned criteria and an aide will **NOT** be assigned without the approval of the teacher involved.
6. Student Aides assigned off of the junior high or senior high campus must have a Parent Permission form completed for travel.

D. GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Senior High Graduation

Senior High graduation requires two hundred thirty (230) credit hours accumulated from the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades. Credits from college classes can be accepted if the college instructor holds a Nebraska high school certification. College credits will be added to the high school transcript when an official transcript from the college is received at the end of the term. Contact the guidance office for more information.

2. Specific Graduation Requirements

Total Credits of 230.

Forty (40) credit hours of English

Thirty (30) credit hours of Mathematics

Thirty (30) credit hours of Social Studies

Thirty (30) credit hours of Science

Ten (10) credit hours of Physical Education/Health

Five (5) credit hours of Speech

Five (5) credit hours of Personal Finance

Five (5) credit hours of Computer Science beginning with the class of 2028.

Total Credits of 230.

An advanced Diploma may be awarded to students who obtain at least 160 total credits in specified courses of Math, English, Science and Social Studies.

- A. 40 - English: English 9, Advanced English 9, English 10, Advanced English 10, English 11, Advanced English 11, English 12, AP English/College English.
- B. 40 - Math: Algebra 1, Algebra II, Advanced Algebra II, Geometry, Pre Calculus, Senior Math, Statistic/Calculus, College Algebra and College Math courses above College Algebra.
- C. 40 - Science: Physical Science, Advanced Physical Science, Biology, Honors Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Chemistry, Honors Chemistry, Physics and College Science Classes.
- D. 40 - Social Studies: 9th Civics/Geography, World History, Honors World History, American History, Honors American History, Government & Law, Economics and College Social Studies classes.

3. Graduation

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

4. Transfer Students/Foreign Exchange Students

Transfer students from other schools are eligible for graduation upon completing the McCook Senior High School requirements or an equivalent academic offering. **Transfer credits must come from a state accredited school in order to be applied to McCook High School graduation requirements.** Foreign Exchange Students who cannot satisfy these requirements in the time they are at McCook Senior High School may participate in graduation ceremonies and receive a certificate of attendance. Evaluation of classes transferred into McCook Senior-Junior High School, will be made by the counselor, assistant principal, and the principal.

5. Mid-Year Graduation/Early Graduation:

- a) Students may graduate after one semester of their senior year provided they have satisfactorily completed all requirements for early graduation.
- b) Students who plan to graduate at the end of the first semester must submit an application in writing by the end of the ninth week of school stating their desire to graduate at mid-year.
- c) An applicant must be a senior in good standing and has met the minimum requirements for graduation.
- d) Applicants must meet all graduation requirements unless they are special hardship cases as determined by a committee consisting of the principal, counselor, and student(s).
- e) Seniors who graduate at the end of the first semester will be excluded from all school activities and organizations and will relinquish all privileges extended to McCook Senior High School students during the second semester, except for participation in junior-senior prom, and graduation (commencement) exercises. Participation in any school activity is subject to the satisfying of all normal obligations as applied to the regular full-year student.
- f) Mid-year graduates will be considered for scholarships if basic qualifications are met.

6. Alternative Education Program

One of the missions of the alternative education program is to provide students an alternative method of meeting graduation requirements. Flexibility in awarding credit may be used by the senior high principal in granting such credit.

Students enrolling in McCook High School for the first time will not initially be placed in the LIFT program. Parents and students may ask to be admitted to the alternative education program by asking for and filling out the LIFT application. Once the application has been received a meeting consisting of a member of the high school administrative team, a parent or guardian of the student, the student and a high school counselor will take place to determine if the student will be admitted to the alternative education program. Items that may be taken under consideration at the meeting will include: the students ability to be successful in the traditional setting, the student's ability to be successful in the alternative setting, the student's need for credit recovery, and capacity of the program.

The basic standard shall be as follows: Students earn credit by successfully completing approved coursework in Math, English, Social Studies, and Science. Elective credit may be awarded for successful work experience. All credits earned in the alternative program, grades 9-12, shall count toward meeting graduation requirements.

7. IEP Coursework

Students successfully completing IEP's in special education will be eligible to graduate and granted a diploma upon determination by the IEP Team that the student has completed his/her senior year of high school.

8. Commencement

Only those students who have met graduation requirements may participate in commencement exercises.

Graduation Ceremony Attire Guidelines

At the graduation ceremony, students are expected to wear the school-provided cap, tassel, gown, and McCook High School stole. Military stoles will be permitted, provided the student has formally signed with the corresponding branch.

Students may also wear a school provided National Honor Society collar and an Honor Medallion.

Additionally graduates may wear up to three honor cords from the pre-approved list below:

Approved Honor Cords:

- FFA
- JAG
- Mid-Plains
- Red Cross
- Teens in the Driver's Seat
- Yearbook

Any alterations to, or additions to, the standard graduation attire must be approved at least three weeks prior to the ceremony. Approval will be determined by a panel consisting of the high school principal, assistant principal, and a member of the counseling department.

E. GRADE CLASSIFICATION

Students grade classification will be based on their cohort year. No mid-year classification changes will occur.

At the McCook Junior High student may be promoted or retained based on their academic performance or lack thereof. The administration will make the decision after all grades have been submitted at the end of the school year.

F. GRADING SYSTEM/GPA CALCULATION

The McCook Junior-Senior High Schools will use the following grading scale:

A	94%-100%	4.0
B	87-93%	3.0
C	78%-86%	2.0
D	70%-77%	1.0
F	Below 70% (Failing)	0

Selected AP, Advanced and Honors classes at the senior high will use the college scale. All regular and dual credit courses completed at McCook High School will count when computing a student's GPA. If a student fails a course and then retakes the course or earns credit through credit recovery both grades will be used to calculate the students GPA.

A	90%-100%	4.0
B	80-89%	3.0
C	70%-79%	2.0
D	60%-69%	1.0
F	Below 59% (Failing)	0

McCook High School uses the 4.0 grading system to compute class rank. Students with a 4.0 GPA's will be considered number one in their class. Those with less than 4.0 will be rank ordered. Class rank issued after four complete semesters.

G. HONOR ROLL/MERIT ROLL

All subjects in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades will count toward the Honor Roll and GPA. To qualify for Merit/Honor Roll in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12, students must carry five solid subjects (these include college level classes, receive five credit hours per semester). Pass/Fail grades are not eligible to be considered for Honor/Merit Roll. An academic letter is awarded to all students earning merit roll each semester.

JUNIOR HIGH & SENIOR HIGH MERIT ROLL requires an average of 3.5 or higher, with no grade lower than a C.

JUNIOR HIGH & SENIOR HIGH HONOR ROLL requires an average of 3.0 or greater, but less than a 3.499, with no grade less than a C.

H. SEMESTER EXAMS

All courses may conclude with a semester exam. The exam may count up to ten percent of the semester grade.

I. REPORTING STUDENT PROGRESS

The following are the three primary ways in which the school attempts to report the evaluation of the student's progress and achievement in school to the parents:

1. Report cards - The report card indicates the teacher's appraisal of the student's accomplishments. They will be issued within two weeks after the end of each semester at the high school, and end of quarter at the junior high.

2. Progress reports -- When a student is doing unsatisfactory work in school, i.e., failing or doing work below his/her ability in a given subject, the teacher will send home in the middle of

each nine-week marking period a progress report indicating why this situation exists, at the junior high. Progress reports at the high school will be available twice during each semester. This allows the student a chance to improve before report cards are issued as well as informing the parents of what is happening. If student academic progress drops significantly any point after progress reports, the student's parents will be notified.

3. Conferences - The third method of reporting the student's progress is Parent-Teacher Conferences. All parents are urged to attend these conferences. Individual conferences may be set up at any time during the year at the request of the parent. Parent/Teacher conferences for individual students will be arranged at anytime if requested by a parent or teacher.

The junior high school mails out report cards and progress reports to parent/guardians. The senior high sends an electronic notification that grades have been posted. Grades are available district wide on Infinite Campus. To set up a parent portal in Infinite Campus, parents will need to contact the high school registrar for a username and password. The link for Infinite Campus is available on the McCook Bison website (mccookbison.org), under menu choose Infinite Campus and put in your username and password. Parents may also download the Infinite Campus App on their smartphones. Parents use "Campus Parent" and students use "Campus Student".

K. STUDENT PERMANENT RECORDS

Student permanent records contain the following information:

1. Personal Data
 - a) family information
 - b) health record
 - c) scholastic record
 - d) extra-curricular activities record
 - e) vocational interests and preferences
 - f) standardized test scores
 - g) attendance record
 - h) graduation data

A.BELL SCHEDULES: GENERAL INFORMATION

SENIOR HIGH		JUNIOR HIGH	
1st period	8:00 - 8:52 A.M.	1st period	8:00 – 8:51 A.M.
2nd period	8:56 - 9:48 A.M.	2nd period	8:57 - 9:48 A.M.
3rd period	9:52 - 10:44 A.M.	3rd period	9:52 - 10:43 A.M.
		In/En Time	10:43-11:05 AM
4th period	10:48 - 11:40 A.M.	4th period	11:09 - 12:00 P.M.
5th period/WIN	11:44 – 1:00 P.M.	5th LUNCH	12:00 – 12:34 P.M.

6th LUNCH	1:00 - 1:30 P.M.	6th period	12:38 - 1:30 P.M.
7th period	1:34 - 2:30 P.M.	7th period	1:34 - 2:30 P.M.
8th period	2:34 - 3:30 P.M.	8th period	2:34 - 3:30 P.M.

For the benefit of the student, teachers will be available at 7:45 a.m. and until 3:45 p.m. to assist students. Students are urged to take advantage of this opportunity to improve their educational skills. Other special schedules will be announced as needed throughout the year.

B. HEALTH SERVICES

MPS: STUDENT HEALTH

McCook Public Schools employs a full time nurse. Students participate in health screenings at the beginning of the year, per Nebraska State requirements. Students in the specified grades are screened in vision, hearing, height, weight and dental.

IMMUNIZATION/ ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS

STATE REQUIREMENTS

1. Nebraska law (79-214) requires that all students entering kindergarten, 7th grade, or transferring in from out of state, have a physical exam by a physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant within 6 (six) months prior to entry into the system. Prior to enrollment, parent or guardian shall present written verification of a physical examination, or sign a written statement that he/she does not wish their child to have a physical exam.
2. Nebraska law (79-214) requires a school vision evaluation for all children within six (6) months prior to entering Nebraska schools for the first time (includes beginner grades including kindergartners, transferees and other students new to Nebraska). The vision evaluation may be performed by a physician, optometrist, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. Prior to enrollment, the parent or guardian shall present written verification of a vision evaluation, or sign a written statement that he/she does not wish their child to have a vision evaluation.
3. Nebraska law (79-0444-01) requires all students to be appropriately immunized for diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, hepatitis B and varicella (chicken pox), according to grade level and for students transferring into the district from out of state. Prior to enrollment, parents/guardians shall present written verification of immunizations, signed by a parent or guardian; or, if applicable, a signed waiver of immunization. **Waiver information may be obtained from the school nurse or school office.**

Nebraska State law requires students meet the following requirements **BEFORE the first day of school:**

Pre -school:

- Immunizations- Nebraska immunization requirements.
Birth certificate

Kindergarten:

- Immunizations- Nebraska Kindergarten requirements.
- Birth certificate
- Health Physical
- Vision Exam

7th grade:

- Tdap immunizations- Nebraska 7th grade requirements
- Physical exam

Sports: 7th- 12th grade:

- Sports Physical required each year to play sports, must be dated after May 1st, no waiver options.

NEW Student, transferring in:

- Immunizations- Nebraska requirements.
- Health Physical
- Vision Exam
- Birth certificate

For all Immunization requirements visit the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services website.

HEALTH RECORDS

Privacy of student records is protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Only school personnel with a legitimate educational need to know will have access to records. **Staff members who have a need to know specific health information for the safety of the student will be informed of necessary adaptations.** Signed release of information will be obtained from parents before information is shared or requested by any outside agency. Health records are considered to be education records. The Privacy Rule of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) will only apply when records are requested from a covered entity.

INDIVIDUAL HEALTHCARE PLANS (IHP)

Students that require an IHP for a medical condition in which they need accommodations at school, please contact the school nurse. IHP's are developed by the school nurse and parents and shared with staff/administration on a need to know basis only, with the sole purpose to keep your student safe while at school.

EMERGENCY ACTION PLANS

Students that have a medical condition (asthma, seizures, diabetes, etc.) in which they need an emergency action plan in place at school, will need to have all paperwork and documentation to the school at the beginning of the school year. All action plans for emergency procedures and medications must be signed by the students physician. **No medications will be given or action plans put in place without a physician signature/authorization.** If a student has a new condition and needs an action plan in place, please contact the school nurse.

Policy No. 5601 Asthma and Allergic Reaction Protocol: The District will adopt and implement the Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis Protocol as required by the Nebraska Department of Education.

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

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

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

PANDEMIC RESPONSE/PROCEDURES: ie. COVID - 19

Students will be excluded from school for a longer period of time when local COVID-19 conditions are elevated. During elevated conditions (orange on the COVID-19 risk dial) students with the following symptoms may not return until symptoms have improved and they have no fever (99.9 or higher) for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

One of the following symptoms:

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

Or two of the following symptoms:

- Chills or repeated shaking with chills
- Muscle pain
- Headache
- Sore throat
- New loss of taste or smell

Students with the above symptoms may require a physician note to return back to school. Students may be required to wear a mask when returning to school.

Return to school policies and procedures for students excluded for presumed or diagnosed with COVID-19.

1. Non test-based strategy:
 - a. 14 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.
 - b. No fever for 72 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.
 - c. Other symptoms have improved such as cough and shortness of breath.
2. Test based strategy- if available :

- a. Results of two negative tests in a row, spaced 24 hours apart.
- b. No fever for 72 hours, without the use of fever reducing medications.
- c. Other symptoms have improved such as cough and shortness of breath.

FOOD ALLERGIES

Students with food allergies must have a doctors note. Severe food allergies require an action plan. See the school nurse.

STUDENT HEALTH

The school's goal is to keep students in school where they will benefit from their attendance, while not putting themselves or other students at risk. Students feeling unwell, to the extent that the student is unable to accomplish normal activities, should not be in school. Contagious or infectious diseases transmitted by airborne particles or droplets may require exclusion from school until uncontrolled coughing subsides.

Students with health concerns should be evaluated individually to determine if school attendance is appropriate. The Nebraska State Health Guidelines will be used:

1. Students with a temperature of 100 degrees or more may not be in school. Students may not return until they have been without a fever (less than 100 degrees) for 24 hours **without the use of fever-reducing medication.**
2. Students with serious communicable/infectious diseases must have a doctor's permission slip to return to school and be in accordance with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services 173 NAC 3, Attachment 1--Contagious and Infectious Diseases/Conditions. Diseases would include but not limited to:
Diphtheria, Hepatitis A, Meningitis, Pertussis (Whooping cough), Polio, Tuberculosis.
3. Students with the following contagious and infectious diseases/conditions cannot return to school until the following conditions are met:
 - a. Chicken pox: Exclude until all lesions are crusted.
 - b. Conjunctivitis (pink eye): Exclude symptomatic cases. May return when eye is normal in appearance or with documentation from physician that child is no longer infectious.
 - c. Enterobiasis (pinworm, threadworm, seatworm): Exclude until treated as documented by physician.
 - d. Fifth Disease: Exclude until fever and malaise are gone. May return with rash; no longer contagious once rash appears.
 - e. Hand, Foot and Mouth Disease: Exclude during acute phase and until fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.
 - f. Impetigo: Exclude until brought under treatment and acute symptoms resolved, at least 24 hours.
 - g. Influenza: Exclude for duration of illness and fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.
 - h. Measles: Exclude for duration of illness and for no less than four (4) days after onset of rash.
 - i. MRSA (staph bacterial infection): Exclusion unnecessary unless directed by

physician.

- j. Mumps: Exclude five (5) days from onset of swelling in the neck. Return with documentation from physician.
- k. Pediculosis (infestation with head or body lice): Students with live lice will be sent home and parents notified. The child must be treated prior to return to school. Students will be evaluated individually by the school nurse regarding head lice. It is recommended that all nits (eggs) be removed, as the removal of nits provides parents and school personnel with a baseline for re-examination to determine possible reinfestation during the weeks following treatment.

If live lice are detected or if an untreated student is infested with nits (eggs), a parent/guardian will be notified of the need to check all household members. Complete nit removal will be emphasized as effective management of head lice.

A student who has been sent home from school due to head lice must come accompanied by a parent/guardian to the health office the following morning before school for inspection. If live lice are detected, the student will be sent home with the parent/guardian. If minimal nits are detected that do not appear to be viable, the student will be allowed to return to class and rechecked in 7-10 days.

In the event that a student has TWO cases of live lice in one semester, he or she will be sent home until free of both live lice and all nits.

- l. Ringworm (tinea infections): Exclude until treatment is started, at least 24 hours. Areas must be covered while at school until the lesions are dried.
- m. Rubella (German measles): Exclude for duration of illness and for no less than four (4) days after onset of rash.
- n. Scabies: Exclude until 24 hours after treatment is started.
- o. Shingles/Herpes Zoster: Exclude children with shingles/zoster if the vesicles cannot be covered until after the vesicles have dried.
- p. Streptococcal infection (scarlet fever, scarlatina, strep throat): Exclude until fever free and under treatment for 24 hours.

4. Students with an unidentified rash **may require immediate exclusion and proof of medical evaluation.** When a rash is observed, school personnel must be notified of the rash.

5. Students will be sent home if they are vomiting or have diarrhea, regardless of whether or not they have a fever. They may not return until 24 hours after their last episode.

MEDICATION

School/trained personnel cannot give medication unless there is a signed medication authorization form from the parent/guardian. Only medications prescribed by a licensed healthcare provider will be administered at school. Recommended or non-prescription supplements and medications will not be allowed to be taken in school or administered by school personnel. Prescription medication must be labeled by the pharmacy and remain in the original container. Medication must be labeled with the current prescription. Any changes to the dosage

of a daily prescription will require written authorization from the physician. Over-the-counter medication can only be given with a signed medication authorization form from the parent/guardian. Medication must be in the original container and clearly marked with the student's name. Medication authorization must follow label instructions unless a physician's order is received. All medication is to be kept in the school office. An adult is responsible for transporting medicine to and from school. Medication must be picked up by a parent by the last day of school, or it will be disposed of by the nurse.

The school will provide acetaminophen to students as needed, and at the nurse's discretion. A medication authorization must be signed and returned to school from the parent/guardian.

The student may carry asthma inhalers, auto-injectable epinephrine, diabetic medications or other emergency medication if all the following conditions are met: (Please see the school nurse.)

- A. A signed request from the parent/guardian for the student to self-manage.
- B. Authorization of the student's physician or, for asthma and anaphylaxis, a health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment of the student's condition.
- C. A written and signed management plan for the condition has been filed with the school nurse, including procedures for storage and access to backup supplies of the medication.
- D. A signed "no-liability" statement from the parent/guardian.
- E. A form to record student-required reports of self-administration.

Breathing emergency medication will be available to be given, in accordance with state policy, if necessary. The Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (anaphylaxis) Protocol will be implemented in a school building if there is a breathing emergency while school is in session. Please refer to Rule 59, 79-305 and 79-318, Appendix A. If the protocol is used, 911 will be called. The student must then be transported for medical evaluation.

Any questions or concerns regarding the use of this protocol should be directed to the school nurse at the start of each school year. EpiPens and albuterol provided by the school in compliance with the Emergency Response to Life Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions protocol do not leave the school building and **are not intended to replace a child's own prescribed medication** for asthma or allergies. Only individually prescribed medications will accompany students on field trips or events outside the school building.

Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are available in all McCook Public Schools for use in emergency situations. Each site has staff trained to use the AED. Each site has staff trained in CPR.

For a student either to be excused from physical education or readmitted to physical education activity from any injury and/or illness for more than three (3) consecutive days, a doctor's note

will be **required**.

In case of an accident which causes injury to a student, the building administrator, and/or a designee, in consultation with the school nurse, should notify the parent guardian and/or designated responsible person immediately. If the parent and/or designated person cannot be reached, the building administrator, consulting with the school nurse, shall be responsible for determining the course of action. EMS must be utilized if a student:

- is unconscious.
- is in a situation deemed emergent by the school nurse and building administrator, in the event a parent cannot be reached
- has severe bleeding
- is not breathing or having respiratory distress.
- has possible neck or spinal injury.
- has a possible compound fracture.

Law enforcement may be contacted to help locate parents.

REVISED NEBRASKA STATUTES 71-6902-04, 09

Nebraska Revised Statute 71-6909 requires that on or before October 1 of each school year, each school district shall provide written information to all students explaining the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-6902 with regard to the requirements for parental notification as a condition for obtaining an abortion and the provisions of Neb. Rev. Stat. 71-6903 and 71-6904 with regard to seeking a judicial waiver of notification.

If a woman under the age of 18 who is not self-supporting or married becomes pregnant and decides to have an abortion in Nebraska, certain laws apply to her.

NOTICE FROM DOCTOR TO PARENT OR GUARDIAN

Nebraska law requires that one parent (chosen by the pregnant woman) or a legal guardian must be told by her doctor that an abortion is scheduled. The doctor must personally deliver or mail the notice. The parent or guardian does not have to give permission; the parent or guardian simply has to be told. The doctor must wait at least 48 hours after written notice has been delivered to the parent or guardian before the abortion can be performed.

WAIVER OF NOTICE

If the pregnant woman doesn't want her doctor to notify one of her parents or legal guardian, she must request that a judge authorize the abortion without written notice to a parent or guardian. This process is referred to as a judicial waiver of notification.

JUDICIAL WAIVER OF NOTIFICATION

FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS

The pregnant woman must fill out a special form to ask for a waiver. The Waiver of Notification form can be found at any courthouse in Nebraska in a place where anyone can pick it up without asking. The form has instructions on how to fill it out and where and how to turn it in.

LEGAL HELP

The pregnant woman can get free legal help. If she asks, the court will provide her with an attorney at no cost to her.

MEETING WITH THE JUDGE

The judge will meet privately with the pregnant woman, her attorney, and any other person she wants to be present.

JUDGE GRANTS OR DENIES THE WAIVER

The judge will authorize the abortion without notifying a parent or guardian if the judge determines that the pregnant woman is mature and capable of giving informed consent to the abortion or that the abortion would be in her best interest. If the judge does not grant the waiver, then the doctor must notify the pregnant woman's parent or guardian of the pending abortion.

APPEAL TO THE NEBRASKA SUPREME COURT

If the judge does not authorize the abortion without notifying a parent or guardian, the pregnant woman may appeal to the Nebraska Supreme Court to authorize the abortion without notification to her parent or guardian.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

All records, forms, and court proceedings regarding the waiver or an appeal are private, confidential, and will not be made public without the pregnant woman's permission. For additional information regarding the law dealing with parental notification of an abortion, refer to Nebraska Revised Statutes 71-6901 to 71-6909

PREGNANT OR PARENTING STUDENTS

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

Attendance and Leave of Absences

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

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

Pregnant or parenting students will be provided with assignments, classwork and any additional support needed to help the student keep up with class requirements due to absences related to pregnancy or parenting.

Alternative means to complete course work

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

Lactation

The District will provide reasonable time and space to accommodate lactating students to express breast milk or breastfeed during the school day. Such accommodations will be in a location, other than a bathroom or closet, that is private, clean, has an electrical outlet, a chair and is reasonably accessible. Students shall also be provided a food-safe refrigerator to store breast milk.

Child Care

If in-school child care is not provided, a list of qualified licensed child care providers will be provided when requested by pregnant or parenting students. The list will be updated annually and include providers that participate in the quality rating and improvement system and meet all of the quality rating criteria for at least a step three rating in keeping with the Step Up to Quality

Child Care Act. Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or limit any referral for a student or a student's child to an early Head Start program or any other available community resources.

Privacy and Confidentiality

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

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

Other Accommodations

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

Bullying and Harassment

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

C. INSURANCE

The school district does not carry insurance on students in school or at school activities. However, for your convenience, the school district does offer you a reliable insurance company that will insure your student. An application will be sent home with your student. If you want coverage, complete the application and return it to school with the premium. No cash will be accepted, please pay by either a check or money order. Forms must be returned to the principal's office as soon as possible.

D. GUIDANCE SERVICES

The Guidance Counselors will be available to assist students in scheduling, testing, vocational and college choices. The counselors are available to assist in planning and preparation of all types of goals and can be very helpful to students with personal as well as academic problems. If you wish to talk to the counselor, stop by the office and arrange a conference. A school counselor, school nurse, or school psychologist may have contact with your child sometime throughout the year. Special Education Services conforms with child find requirements and NDE Rule 51.

E. TESTING

Grades three through eleven (3-11) will be given a standardized achievement test during the school year. Information concerning registration for various tests, will be provided by the counselors.

F. PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is required of all students in the appropriately scheduled grade levels. A note from a parent presented to the office can temporarily excuse a student from physical exercise for reasons of injury or illness. At the junior high, if a student is medically removed from Physical Education they cannot participate in noon recreation, sports, intramurals, and 6th grade track day. Grade 6-12 each student is responsible for providing his/her own physical education clothes. Recommended clothing are: tennis shoes (should not have black soles), sweat socks, gray shorts, gray t-shirt, towel and undergarments. It is recommended that student's P.E. clothes and towels be marked with his/her name in permanent ink. Lockers are provided for street clothes and can be locked. Students need to provide their own locks. Students need to take P.E. clothes and towels home each weekend for laundering. Students are not permitted to borrow P.E. clothes or towels from another student. It is expected that each student will have his/her own clothes and towels each day that class is in session -- failure to bring these items is the same as failure to bring books, paper or pencils to other classes. Students are not permitted to attend other classes in P.E. clothes. At the junior high, the PE shirt can be purchased at the Sports Shoppe or McCook Lettering.

G. FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS

We welcome the foreign students we have each year in our school. They are entitled to and are given the rights and responsibilities of all students.

H. LOCKERS

The school district provides hall lockers in which pupils may store personal belongings. The school also furnishes lockers in the gym for the purpose of giving students a place to put their street clothes when changing for gym classes. Locks are furnished for hall lockers. Although the school supplies a place for students to store their belongings, it cannot take the responsibility of these belongings. The student is responsible for his/her own property and therefore, should make sure that his/her locker is kept locked at all times, that he/she does not share his/her locker, and that he/she does not let anyone else know the combination to his/her lock or loan his/her keys to another student. Designated areas will be assigned for each grade level and students are asked to place their belongings in the lockers that have been assigned to their grade level. All students will be assigned lockers by the principal. All lockers are property of the school and may be inspected at any time.

I. PERSONAL PROPERTY

The principal's office does maintain a lost and found department. Lost items should be reported to the teacher and/or office immediately once its absence is discovered. Any item that is found by a student must be turned into the teacher where it was found or to the office. Lost and found

items not claimed at the end of the school term will be discarded. The school does not accept responsibility for any lost or stolen personal property. At the junior high, personal fidgets may not be a distraction or disruption to the learning environment. No liquid filled fidgets.

J. FIRE /TORNADO DRILL PROCEDURES

Every precaution is taken to ensure the safety of your child during normal school hours. Periodic fire and tornado drills are executed to make certain students learn proper safety procedures and adhere to all safety guidelines.

K. DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Junior high announcements are made in the first and sixth period classes. Students should pay close attention so they know what is going on. Senior high announcements will be made at the beginning of WIN period.

L. DAILY AND WEEKLY BULLETINS

Written bulletins will be sent to the teachers as needed. Much of the information on these bulletins will be for the teachers, however, some of the more important student announcements will be on these, also. Teachers will read these announcements to the students from time to time.

M. BREAKFAST/LUNCH

McCook Public Schools offers breakfast and lunch through food services. Each student will have a four digit number he/she can memorize to purchase food. Each school has a computer with a key pad for the students to enter their number before making a purchase.

At the junior high, food service offers breakfast to students before class starts each day. Students do have a second chance opportunity for breakfast during the second period passing time to be eaten in their classroom. Students may bring sack breakfasts, but they must be eaten in the cafeteria before school or the 2nd period classroom. Those bringing sack breakfast may purchase milk from food services. Breakfast is not served on late start days.

The junior high operates on a closed campus. This means that the student must be in an assigned area over the lunch period. The lunch schedule is changed each week so that all students have the opportunity to eat first. Parents wanting students dismissed for lunch need to physically come to the office and sign students out over the lunch period. Parents are encouraged to deposit money in their lunch account on a monthly basis. Students may bring sack lunches, but they are to be eaten in the cafeteria. Those bringing sack lunches may purchase items such as milk, potato chips and ice cream from the ala carte' line. Students are not to bring candy or pop to school unless it is to be eaten with the sack lunch. Food and/or beverages are not to be brought in the halls, classes or stored in lockers. Students are allowed to store water bottles in their locker and take them to class provided the bottle has a clear viewing area to review the contents, water only is the content, and not a distraction or disruption. No glass water bottles.

An activities program is offered for students during the junior high lunch break. This is a supervised program. It does offer students an opportunity to participate in some team activities during the lunch break. Tennis shoes are required for participation on the gym floor. They must not have black soles. When a student is excused from participating in PE, they are also restricted from participating in noon rec.

Senior high students can go home for lunch, to the junior high cafeteria or downtown. If you eat lunch in the Senior High School building, you must eat in the Commons Area. If a teacher has called a lunch meeting and the teacher is present, you may eat in a classroom with the supervising teachers (sponsors) permission. During the lunch break at Senior High School, all students are to be in the lower halls. When leaving the school area in cars and returning, it is important that everyone practices safe driving procedures.

CIVIL RIGHTS - SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITIES

1. School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, After School Snack Program or Special Milk Program must include the nondiscrimination statement in their student handbook in the section that addresses access to or information about the school meals program. It must also be included on the school's web site if school meal information is available

Nondiscrimination Statement In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

If the material is too small to permit the full statement to be included, the material will at a minimum include this statement, in print no smaller than the text: “This institution is an equal opportunity provider.”

2. The USDA “And Justice for All” poster must be displayed at each feeding site in a location that is visible to students during meal service.

3. Provide appropriate translations of materials concerning the availability and nutritional benefits of the school meals program, as needed. This requirement can be met through the use of bilingual staff members, volunteers and/or informational materials in appropriate languages.

4. Follow this procedure for Accepting and Filing Complaints of Discrimination in the School Meals Program

- **RIGHT TO FILE A COMPLAINT:** Any person alleging discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability has a right to file a complaint within 180 days of the alleged discriminatory action.
- **ACCEPTANCE:** All complaints, written or verbal, shall be accepted by the School Food Authority(SFA) and forwarded to the Administrator of the Nebraska Department of Education - Nutrition Services within five days. It is necessary that the information be sufficient to determine the identity of the agency or individual toward which the complaint is directed, and to indicate the possibility of a violation. Anonymous complaints shall be handled as any other complaint.
- **VERBAL COMPLAINTS:** In the event that a complainant makes the allegation verbally or through a telephone conversation and refuses or is not inclined to place such allegations in writing, the person to whom the allegations are made shall write up the elements of the complaint for the complainant. Every effort should be made to have the complainant provide the following information:
 - 1) Name, address and telephone number or other means of contacting the complainant.
 - 2) The specific location and name of the entity delivering the program service or benefit.
 - 3) The nature of the incident(s) or action(s) that led the complainant to feel discrimination was a factor
 - 4) The basis on which the complainant feels discrimination exists (race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability).
 - 5) The names, titles and addresses of persons who may have knowledge of the discriminatory action(s).
 - 6) The date(s) during which the alleged discriminatory action occurred, or if continuing, the duration of such actions.

Train staff on civil rights annually. Specific subject areas to include:

- **COLLECTING AND USING DATA:** Data is collected on ethnicity and race. Parent self-declares. If they do not report, SFA staff will code based on perception. All program materials must be stored in an area of restricted access and retained for three years.
- **EFFECTIVE PUBLIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS:** Display the “And Justice for All” poster, include the nondiscrimination statement on program materials, provide information

in other languages and alternative formats as needed and convey equal opportunity in all photos and other graphics on websites, publications, etc.

- **COMPLAINT PROCEDURES:** Procedures must be established to accept complaints or grievances based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. Participants must be advised of their right to file a complaint, how to file a complaint, and the complaint procedures. If there is a complaint, the SFA must contact the Nebraska Department of Education – Nutrition Services.
- **COMPLIANCE REVIEW TECHNIQUES:** Ensure civil rights requirements are being followed during review process.
- **RESOLUTION OF NON-COMPLIANCE:** Inappropriate actions must cease. A corrective action plan is required and appropriate procedures must be implemented.
- **REQUIREMENTS FOR REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES:** Entrances and exits must exist to accommodate the disabled. Braille signage and alternative arrangements for service must be available, when needed.
- **REQUIREMENTS FOR LANGUAGE ASSISTANT:** Bilingual personnel and materials must be provided depending on need, resources available and cost.
- **CONFLICT RESOLUTION:** Use alternative dispute resolution techniques when necessary. Treat others with respect.
- **CUSTOMER SERVICE:** “Treat others the way they want to be treated (or at least be aware of what that is).”

6. Attach documentation of annual training, including date and attendance roster.

MAINTAINING STUDENT LUNCH ACCOUNT FUND ACCOUNTS

McCook Public Schools offers both a breakfast and a lunch program in conjunction with Opaal Food Management Inc. The school district uses an electronic accounting system to assist us in keeping accurate records. The school lunch program is supported by Federal and State Funding and is operated as revenue neutral. This means the School shall not operate the program to make a profit, but the cost of the meals should pay for the expense of operating the program.

Each student will be issued an account with the McCook Public Schools Lunch Program. Parents/Guardians should make deposits to their students lunch account and are responsible to maintain a positive student lunch fund account balance. Cafeteria account balances may be viewed on Infinite Campus. The School will notify students and parents/guardians when an individual student’s account needs deposits to maintain the account in a positive balance.

Deposits to your lunch account must be delivered to the school office no later than 9 AM in the morning to be credited to your account that day. The cafeteria does not cash checks nor will change be given when a check is presented.

All students will be notified verbally and a written note will be sent home to inform parents/guardians that additional deposits need to be made to the student’s account.

Once a student's lunch account has a negative balance that student will continue to be able to purchase a Type A regular school lunch until the account reaches a -\$20 balance. Negative lunch accounts will NOT be allowed to purchase ala carte or "C" items.

After five days that an individual student's account is in a negative balance, the office of the school that the student attends will contact the parents/guardians either by phone or in writing and let them know that a deposit will need to be made immediately.

If an individual Junior or Senior High student's lunch account remains in a negative balance for 10 days or when it reaches the maximum of -\$20, then the student will be refused lunch service until the student's lunch account has a positive balance.

When an individual student's lunch account remains in a negative balance for more than 15 days, the District Office will contact the parents/guardians to resolve the student's account balance.

Applications for free and reduced meals may be obtained from any building principal's office or the superintendent's office. Keep in mind you are still responsible for any charges incurred on your account prior to any free or reduced application approval. A new free and reduced form is required every year. Also, any students on free or reduced lunches are charged FULL PRICE for any second breakfast or lunch they take and you are responsible for that payment.

N. Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

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O. CHECK CASHING POLICY

Checks for the correct amount will be accepted for school-related purchases. (lunch account, activity tickets, fees, etc.).

P. STUDENTS AND FUND-DRIVE SOLICITATIONS

Students in grades 6 shall not participate in school-related fund drives or in any other form of solicitation, collection, or selling through the school or school-related activities. Students in grades 7-12 may participate in school-related fund drives or forms of solicitation, collecting or selling for school-related purposes, provided prior approval for such participation has been given by the superintendent upon the recommendation of the building principal. (Forms are available in the principal's office for fund-raising activities). No student shall be permitted to engage in such activities during regular school hours and while classes are in session.

Q. TELEPHONE

School telephones are considered business phones, with limited use by students. The telephone on the counter of the junior high office is for student use before or after school only. Student calls during the day will be on an emergency basis only. Students will not be called out of class for a telephone call except in case of extreme emergency and only at the request of parent or guardian. The office staff will take and deliver messages to students at the end of a class period. We do ask your cooperation in receiving messages during the school day. Use of cell phones, smart watches, headphones, earbuds and other similar electronic devices is prohibited during class periods. No camera use in the locker room, bathroom, or clothes changing areas is allowed.

Junior High: Use of cell phones and other electronic devices are prohibited at McCook Junior High during school hours, including detention time and must be kept in lockers. The consequence for a confiscated phone or electronic device is the parent picks it up from the Junior High office.

Senior High: McCook Senior High Cell Phone and Personal Technology Plan

1. Students are allowed to carry cell phones throughout the school day, but the phone must be kept in a signal blocking enclosure. If the cell phone is not in the signal blocking enclosure, or if the enclosure has been compromised students will be considered not in compliance with this policy.
2. Students are allowed to use cell phones before the start of the school day, during lunch, and after school is dismissed for the day.
 - a. If a student is seen using their cell phone during prohibited times they will be instructed to hand their cell phone to the teacher. The teacher will turn it into the office.

- i. Student will be given a day of In-School Suspension.
 - ii. Parents will be notified to pick up the personal technology from the office.
 - d. 5th and any additional offenses
 - i. A meeting will be set up between the parent, student and administration to determine a new plan for the students personal technology possession in school. The personal technology will remain in the possession of the school until the meeting takes place.
 - e. If the student refuses to comply with handing their personal technology in, it may be grounds for a short or long term suspension.
- 7. Students with special needs may be exempted from this policy but need to have a specific plan in place prior to any acts of noncompliance.

R. CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Any student who has had a change of address, telephone number, legal name, or any other pertinent information needed for accurate school records, should inform the office immediately. It is necessary to keep our mailing lists and records up-to-date in order to keep parents/guardians informed of school happenings.

S. ACTIVITY TICKETS

Activity tickets for junior and senior high school students will be available in the principal's offices. All students grades 7-12 participating in an activity governed by the NSAA will be required to purchase an activity ticket with the exception of Junior High Band and Choir. NSAA activities include journalism, band, music, speech, drama, cheerleading, dance, and all sports. An activity ticket will allow a student into all McCook Public School athletic events, excluding conference, district and state events, and can also be used as an identification card when attending events out of town.

T. VISITORS

All visitors to the McCook Public School buildings are asked to report to the office. Solicitors and friends will not be permitted to visit students or teachers during school time. Students who wish to bring guests must seek approval from the principal/assistant principal twenty-four hours before doing so. Parents are welcome and encouraged to come visit school at any time.

U. SCHEDULING OF EVENTS

Students are reminded that any activity of any organization needs to be cleared by the sponsor, approved by the principal and the activities director, then placed on the school calendar in the office. These matters need to be taken care of at least a week (five school days) in advance of the event. Building use Forms are available in the Activity Director's office. If this procedure is not followed, school time and/or facilities will not be used.

V. PURCHASE ORDERS

Supplies for school organizations are not to be obtained without a purchase order, which has been approved by the sponsor and the principal.

W. USE OF THE PHOTO COPIER

No copies will be made for students without a note from the teacher. Personal copies will be 25 cents per copy (school-related material only).

X. TEXTBOOKS

The school district provides needed textbooks without charge. This program necessitates that all students assume full responsibility for the books issued to them. If the books are abused, fines will be assessed to compensate for the damage. Allowances will be made for depreciation, but assessments of no less than one-half the cost of the book will be made for the replacement if the books are lost or severely damaged. Books issued by the teacher shall be covered at the request of the teacher.

Y. PHOTOGRAPHS & PRESS RELEASES/VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

The media of print (including internet) in local and regional publications may periodically photograph students and their names may be released to the media to accompany these photographs unless parents request in writing to the building principal that their students should not be included. The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies. No cameras will be used in restrooms and/or locker rooms.

Z. FEES AND CHARGES

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

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students. The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. Such student and parent contributions have included: students coming to school with the basic clothing and personal supplies to be successful in the classroom (clothing, shoes, pencils, pens, paper, notebooks, calculators, and the like), students bringing their own or paying the reasonable

cost of specialized equipment or supplies for the personal preference or personal retained benefit of students (for example, band equipment, locker deposit or rental fees, shop class materials where the student keeps the product, and college tuition or fees for college credit for advanced placement courses or correspondence courses), students providing their own specialized clothing and equipment to be prepared for the extracurricular activities in which they choose to participate (sporting apparel, including shoes, undergarments, and the like), and assisting with special programs, such as field trips, summer school, school dances and plays. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and to require, to the extent permitted by law, such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth guidelines and policies: which may be subject to interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

(1) Guidelines for clothing required for specified courses and activities.

Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire is specified in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity. The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicles, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instruction and use the devices as instructed.

(2) Personal or consumable items.

Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participating in the courses and activities provided by the District. This includes the responsibility to furnish minor personal or consumable items including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, and notebooks. Equipment or supplies of a specialized nature for certain courses (for example, protractors and calculators) may be available to students by the District, but students may also be encouraged to purchase their own such equipment or supplies for their own use after school hours or for use during the school day due to the limited number of District items available to the students.

While the District will provide students with the use of facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books, the students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property, which is placed in the care of and lost by the student. Where students are provided school property of a significant value, which may easily be unintentionally damaged, the instructor should give the parent advance notice of the student being given responsibility for the item and the parent may then direct the student not be given the item.

(3) Materials required for course projects.

Students have the responsibility to furnish or pay the reasonable cost of any materials required for course projects where, upon completion, the project becomes the property of the student. Such materials are subject to the District's fee waiver policy (Section 12). Students must furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses that are not extra-curricular activities. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy (Section 12); however, the District is not required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

(4) Extracurricular Activities-Specialized equipment or attire.

Extra curricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participating is not otherwise required by the District. The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted for the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such as dance squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or band members), will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use (braces, mouth piece, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant. Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extracurricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost of such equipment or attire. For music courses that are extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost of such equipment or attire.

(5) Extracurricular Activities-Fees for participation.

The District may charge fees for participation in extracurricular activities. Admission fees are charged for extra curricular activities and events.

(6) Postsecondary education costs.

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

(7) Transportation.

Costs: Students are responsible for fees established for transportation services provided by the District as, and to the extent, permitted by federal and state laws and regulations. Students who are placed into foster care will be provided all the rights covered by FERPA, State, ESSERS, and ESSA laws and statutes.

(8) Copies of student files or records.

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

(9) Participation in before-and after-school services.

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

(10) Participation in summer school or night school.

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

(11) Breakfast and lunch programs.

Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District’s breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a “school store,” a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

(12) Waiver Policy

The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities; (2) materials for course projects, and (3) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extra curricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials. Materials for course projects to be provided to free or reduced-priced lunch eligible students shall be approved by the administration in advance and shall be comparable in quality and sufficient in quantity to allow the student to demonstrate the required skills.

(13) Distribution of Policy

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

(14) Student Fee Fund

The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

AA. Disclosure of Student Recruiting Information

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires McCook Public Schools to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that McCook Public Schools not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing to military recruiters or institutions of higher education without prior written parental consent.) McCook Public Schools will comply with any such request.

AB. Staff Qualifications

The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teacher:

- (1) Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- (2) Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.

(3) The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. You may also get information about the graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

We will also, upon request, tell parents whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional.

The request for information should be made to an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided in a timely manner. Finally, McCook Public Schools will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the Act.

AC. Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

Notification of Rights Under FERPA

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

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the school district to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the district decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the district will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the district as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the district has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist, or a company contracted to provide assessment analysis for the District, including but not limited to The Riverside Publishing Company; Dynamic Measurement Group, Inc.; Wireless Generation; Edformation, Inc.; OAMS, LLC.; or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to

fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the district discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the district to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is: Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-4605.

NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The district may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the district has designated as directory information are as follows: student's name, address, telephone listing, electronic mail address, photograph, date of and place of birth, major fields of study, dates of attendance, grade level, enrollment status (e.g., undergraduate or graduate, full-time or part-time), participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, degrees, honors and awards received, and most recent previous educational agency or institution attended. A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the district designate any or all of those types of information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the district in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two weeks from the time this information is first received. The district may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

ADDITIONAL NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

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

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education.

AD. Nondiscrimination

McCook Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, pregnancy, conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth, or genetic background in admission or access to, or treatment of employment in, its

programs or activities. If you feel you have been discriminated against, or have inquiries regarding grievance activities, or compliance with Title IX, or Section 504, contact TitleIX Coordinator, High School Principal, 700 West 7th, McCook, Nebraska 69001.

AE. Asbestos Notification

The Federal Government and the State of Nebraska require that all patrons and staff of each school building be notified each year of the asbestos conditions within each building. This requirement is to ensure a safe and wholesome environment for our children and employees. Asbestos is a harmful substance when the fibers become airborne. Properly managed, this material will not become friable and the fibers airborne. The federal and state government requires each school to have an asbestos management plan in place, the contents of which is on file in the main office of each building. This plan is open to the public and can be reviewed at any time with proper notice. This plan must be updated on a three-year basis or when any changes occur in the asbestos material in the building. All buildings in the McCook Public Schools have asbestos.

These areas are being managed by a required operation and maintenance plan and areas pose no threat to the safety and welfare of the patrons, staff or students in these buildings.

A six month surveillance program is in place whereby the asbestos containing materials is reviewed and inspected. This is to insure there is no change in its status since the last inspection. If you have concerns, please call the superintendent's office at 345-2510, or come in and discuss the management plan. It is the school's intention to keep the environment safe and wholesome for all the children, staff and patrons.

District Wellness Protocol

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

One of the major goals of the McCook School District is "to promote in each student a sense of his civic rights and responsibilities." To assist in the implementation and accomplishment of this goal, the McCook School District Board of Education has adopted policies related to student conduct. The rules and regulations, which govern the rights and responsibilities of students, teachers and administrators, are outlined on the following pages.

These rules reflect the rights of individuals as set forth in the United States Constitution, Nebraska State Constitution, the State Board of Education's mandated rules and regulations on procedural due process guarantees, the McCook School District Policies, and recent court decisions.

A. CRIMINAL OFFENSES DEFINED

Students involved in criminal acts are subject to prosecution whether these acts occur in the community or at school or school-related functions. Appropriate action, may be taken by school authorities, if the incident is school-related regardless of whether or not criminal

charges result. The following acts are among those defined as criminal offenses under the laws of the State of Nebraska.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR ILLEGAL DRUGS - The sale, use or possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs.

ARSON - The intentional setting of fire.

ASSAULT - Physical threats, violence to persons or inappropriate contact.

BOMB THREAT - Threatening damage to persons or property from an exploding bomb, whether real or imagined.

BURGLARY - Illegally entering with the intent to steal school or personal property.

EXPLOSIVES - Possession or use of explosive substance that could cause injury or damage. This does include firecrackers.

EXTORTION, BLACKMAIL OR COERCION - Obtaining money, property or favors by violence or forcing someone to do something against his will by force or threat of force or violence.

DANGEROUS WEAPONS - Illegal possession or use of firearms or dangerous weapons that could cause bodily harm to an individual.

FALSE FIRE ALARMS - Setting off false alarms.

FORGERY - Fraudulent imitation of a signature or document.

LARCENY - Stealing of school or personal property.

MALICIOUS MISCHIEF - Willful damage or destruction of school or personal property.

TRESPASSING - Being present in an unauthorized place or refusing to leave when ordered to do so.

UNLAWFUL INTERFERENCE WITH SCHOOL AUTHORITIES - Interfering with district employees by force or violence, or threat of force or violence.

B. SCHOOL OFFENSES DEFINED

Students at school-sponsored, off-campus events shall be governed by school district policy and regulations and are subject to the direction of school district authorities. Failure to obey the rules and regulations and/or failure to obey the lawful instructions of school district authorities shall result in appropriate disciplinary action. Principals have the discretion of adding, subtracting and/ or deleting to the listing of school offenses as needed. The following acts are among those that violate McCook School District Policies or individual school rules and regulations.

SMOKING OR POSSESSION OF TOBACCO - Smoking or possession of tobacco or E cigarettes by students is not permitted on school property or at school-sponsored activities. This does include all forms of tobacco – smoking or chewing and all forms of E cigarettes or vaporizing devices.

INAPPROPRIATE DRESS AND APPEARANCE - Dress and appearance must not present health or safety problems or cause disruption. (see dress code)

NON-ATTENDANCE - Daily attendance of all who are enrolled in the McCook Public Schools is required in accordance with state law and district policy and to ensure a proper opportunity to learn.

DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT - Conduct which materially and substantially interferes with the educational process is prohibited.

FAILURE TO COOPERATE WITH SCHOOL PERSONNEL - Students must obey reasonable instructions of school district personnel.

REFUSAL TO IDENTIFY SELF - All persons must, upon request, identify themselves to proper school authorities in the school building, on grounds or at school-sponsored events.

PHYSICAL VIOLENCE - Differences of opinion that result in the student using bodily force to assert their desire to control a situation. Any inappropriate physical contact with another person. Causing or attempting to cause physical harm to another individual.

TERRORISTIC THREATS - Verbal harassment, intimidation and threats upon students and/or staff.

BULLYING – any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school or at a school sponsored activities or events or being represented as a disruption to school.

HABITUAL ACTS OF NON-COMPLIANCE - Habitual or repeated violations of school regulations.

C. WEAPONS IN SCHOOL POLICY

Students are forbidden to knowingly and voluntarily possess, handle, transmit or use any instrument in school, on school grounds or at school functions that is a weapon, looks like a weapon, or is determined to be illegal or dangerous. Items which have no school-related purpose should not be brought to school or on to school grounds. Students who are in possession of the aforementioned articles will be subject to suspension or expulsion procedures.

Laws that are covered in this Policy:

Ref: Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) as amended (4-31-94) to include the Gun-Free Schools Act Nebraska Student Disciplinary Code as amended by LB1250 (1994) Nebraska Criminal and Juvenile Codes as amended by LB988 (1994)

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES FOR WEAPONS IN SCHOOL

This procedure shall cover any objects or items which could be used to injure another person or whose clear intent is to resemble an item which could cause injury and which has no school-related reason for being in school or on school grounds. Such items will be considered "weapons" for the purpose of this policy.

Lack of student awareness or student intent will not be considered a defense in the McCook School's Weapons in School Policy.

I. Guns

Any student who knowingly and voluntarily possesses, handles or transmits a gun in school, on school grounds, or at a school function will be excluded from school for a period of not less than one calendar year. (Due Process Procedures will be followed.)

For the purpose of this action, guns shall mean:

- 1) Any weapon which, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosion;
- 2) The frame or receiver of any such weapon;
- 3) A firearm muffler or silencer;
- 4) Starter pistol;
- 5) B-B gun, pellet or air gun;
- 6) Any destructive device;
- 7) Any explosive, incendiary or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket with a propellant charge of more than four ounces, mine or similar device; b) any combination of parts designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device or from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

II. Dangerous Weapons

Any student who knowingly and voluntarily possesses, handles, or transmits a dangerous weapon (other than Section I above) shall be excluded from school for a period of not less than one whole semester. If any portion of a semester remains, the exclusion will include that portion plus one complete semester. (Due Process Procedures will be followed.)

Other than Section I above, dangerous weapons shall include:

- 1) knives - any dagger, dirk or stiletto with a blade of two and one half inches or longer;
- 2) knuckles - any instrument that consists of finger rings or guards made of hard substances that is designed, made, or adapted for the purpose of inflicting serious bodily injury by striking a person with a fist enclosed in the knuckles;
- 3) lead-pipes;
- 4) chuck-sticks;
- 5) throwing stars;
- 6) darts, or;
- 7) blackjacks

III. Potentially Dangerous and Look Alike Weapons

Any student who knowingly and voluntarily possesses, handles or transmits any potentially dangerous weapons not addressed in Sections I and II above, or a look alike weapon, shall be subject to a short-term exclusion of five days or less during which time a review panel will be convened to review the incident and determine possible continuance of exclusion. The review panel will consist of 1) the administrator of the school of attendance; 2) an administrator from another district facility; and 3) Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee. The panel shall review the facts of the case including the article in question, circumstances of discovery, use of the article, and intent. Upon completion of the review, the panel may choose to continue the exclusion for a period of up to the remainder of the semester, unless ten or less days remain in the semester, in which case the exclusion will include the following semester.

Items in this category may include but not be limited to:

- 1) Knives with blades of less than two and one half inches;
- 2) Chains;
- 3) Fireworks;
- 4) Matches and cigarette lighters;
- 5) Chemicals;
- 6) Unauthorized tools;
- 7) Any articles that can be realistically mistaken for weapons;
- 8) Other items not covered in Section I and II above.
- 9) Laser pointers will be considered a weapon if pointed at the face of other people.

IV. Confiscation

Administrators or other delegated school officials shall confiscate any article previously described in Sections I, II or III. Articles identified in Section I and II will be submitted to the appropriate law enforcement agency. Articles identified in Section III may be turned over to law enforcement officials as appropriate.

V. Additional Considerations

- 1) *Exceptions* to unlawful possession of firearms:
 - a) Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Officers (28-1204.04 (1) (a));
 - b) Adult Supervision-firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor (28-1204.04 (1) (b));
 - c) "Gun Rack Rule" - firearms contained within the private vehicle operated by a non-student adult which are not loaded and
 - i) are encased or;
 - ii) are in a locked firearms rack that is on a motor vehicle (28-1204.04 (1) (c)).
 - jj) *Students with Disabilities* may be subject to the same disciplinary procedures if it is determined that the act was not related to the disability. *The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA) requires that educational services must continue, however, services may be provided in another setting. If the act is related to the disability the student may be subject to short-term suspension but may not be expelled. The district may seek a court order to remove the student or the placement may be changed.

D. FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND ASSEMBLY

McCook School District Policy relating to freedom of speech and assembly states:

Students are entitled to orally express their opinions. Such oral opinions shall not interfere with the freedom of others to express themselves. The use of obscenities or personal attacks is prohibited.

All student meetings in school buildings or on school grounds may function only as a part of the formal educational process or as authorized by the principal or other appropriate school officials. Students have the freedom to assemble peacefully. There is an appropriate time and place for expression of opinions and beliefs. Conducting demonstrations which interfere with the operation of the school or classroom are prohibited.

E. FREEDOM TO PUBLISH

McCook School District Policy relating to freedom to publish states:

Students are entitled to express in writing their personal opinions. Written expressions must be signed by the author. The distribution of such material may not interfere with or disrupt the educational process and must be approved by school authorities. Students who edit, publish or distribute handwritten, electronic, printed or duplicated matter among their fellow students within the school, must assume responsibility for the content of such publications. Libel, obscenity, vulgarity and personal attacks are prohibited in all publications. Commercial solicitation will not be allowed on school property unless expressly approved by the school administration.

F. SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Student lockers, desks and other such property, are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over school property. Students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in school property because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. The following rules shall apply to the search and the seizure of items in a student's possession or control:

1. There should be reasonable suspicion for school authorities to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or rule violation.
2. Illegal items or other possessions reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety or serenity of others may be seized by the school administration. Any firearm shall be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement as soon as practicable.
3. Items, which are used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process, may be removed from student possession.
4. A cell phone is subject to review.

G. DISCIPLINE

The common goal of students, parents, faculty and administration of McCook Public Schools is to maintain a school atmosphere, which is conducive to learning. In order to achieve this, McCook Public Schools will continue to review and distribute a set of reasonable and fair rules and policies. Violation of the McCook Public School's rules and policies will result in disciplinary action.

"Discipline" shall mean all forms of corrective action taken by school personnel, other than suspension and expulsion. The following methods are among those forms considered as "discipline": conferences, detention and acts such as the withholding of privileges or the assignment of tasks. For students with verified disabilities served in special education—all applicable federal and state regulations and rules will be followed.

McCook Public Schools follows the Nebraska School Discipline ACT [LINK](#)

DUE PROCESS FOR DISCIPLINE - Any student, parent or guardian who is aggrieved by any disciplinary action shall have the right to an informal conference with the appropriate school authority. At such conference, the student, parent/guardian shall respond to questions by school personnel and shall be entitled to question them in return. Any student, parent or guardian seeking further considerations after this conference shall, upon two school days prior notice, have the right to make a formal protest, either in writing or in person, to the Board of Education at its next regular meeting. Such protests shall be heard in an open meeting unless a closed session is specifically requested by the student and/or his parent/guardian. The Board of Education shall notify the student and/or his parent/guardian in writing of the decision within ten school days.

For students with verified disabilities served in special education, all applicable federal and state regulations and rules will be followed.

H. EXCLUSION FROM SCHOOL -- SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION

1. Nebraska Law provides that students may be excluded from school by means of:
 1. Short-term suspension of not more than five (5) days.
 2. Long-term suspension of not more than twenty (20) days.
 3. Expulsion for the remainder of the school semester.
 4. Emergency, immediate suspension if the student has a dangerous disease or presents a threat to the physical safety of the school community or is disruptive to the school program.
 5. The statute provides the conditions and applicable procedures for each type of exclusion:
 - a. Principal or Designee must make an investigation.
 - b. Principal or Designee may suspend after he/she determines it is to help the student, or to prevent interference with the school purposes.
 - c. Student must be given oral or written notices of charges, an explanation of the evidence against him/her, and an opportunity to present his/her version.
 - d. Within 24 hours (or such time as is reasonably necessary) following suspension, the principal must:
 1. Give reason for the action taken.
 2. Make a reasonable effort to confer with parents before or at time student returns to school.
2. Procedure for Emergency Exclusion:
 - a. Exclusions may not last longer than necessary to avoid the threats of the emergency.
 - b. If longer than five (5) days, there must be substantial compliance with the procedures provided for long-term exclusion (listed below).

3. Long-Term Expulsion and Mandatory Reassignment:

a. The following behavior constitutes grounds for these types of exclusions:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, substantial interference with school purposes.
2. Damage to property (private or school) of substantial value.
3. Physical injury to any student or school employee.
4. Threat to obtain money or anything of value.
5. Knowingly possessing or handling a weapon.
6. Possession of controlled substance or alcoholic liquor.
7. Bullying.
8. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law or school policy.
9. Repeated violation of rules and regulations.

I. SMOKING, DRINKING AND USE OF DRUGS

Smoking, carrying tobacco, or using tobacco, E cigarettes, or vape including electronic nicotine delivery system in any form on school property is forbidden for students. Students who persist in the use of tobacco on school property will be suspended. This includes chew. Students who are discovered in possession of tobacco, alcohol, E cigarettes or drugs should expect them to be confiscated. Drinking on school premises or drinking of alcoholic beverages then coming to school is forbidden. It is also forbidden to bring or possess alcoholic beverages on school property or at school functions. Students who do not abide by these regulations face possible suspension, expulsion and/or prosecution by the police. Any student using or carrying any substance that is classified as a drug or drug paraphernalia will also be faced with the aforementioned regulations. This includes students observed using tobacco products (nicotine) off campus and then returning to campus. In the event of a long term suspension for smoking, drinking, or use of drugs, a student may have the suspension reduced upon the successful completion of a drug and/or alcohol evaluation and counseling plan. The costs associated with the evaluation and treatment are the responsibility of the parent/guardian. The evaluation and/or plan must be submitted to administration for reviews.

Additionally, the district uses Alco-sensor, alcohol detection devices and drug detection aerosol sprays to detect illegal drugs or contraband on school property or at school related events. The purpose of the District's use of these tools is to eliminate alcohol, illegal drugs and contraband on school property (or school related events), and to maintain a safe school environment. The District may use these tools at any time there is reasonable suspicion indicating a need for the use. The Alco-sensors and breathalyzers which come in many forms may be used by trained administrative staff members on students prior to them entering or exiting a school related event or activity. If positive results are obtained from the Alco-sensors/breathalyzers or drug detection aerosol sprays, the student will be subject to school discipline and the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified as well as the School Resource Officer or other Law enforcement Officer. Students refusing to submit to testing for contraband will receive the same school discipline as if they had tested positive. Students who are under a doctor's care and are taking medication should notify the principal/assistant principal of his/her situation. The medication is to be checked into the principal's office until such time that it is to be used.

J. CHEATING

In the process of education, it is only natural that much learning is accomplished through student inter-action. Many classes and assignments lend themselves to student teaching and learning. However, classroom cheating and situations in which there is outright answer copying of homework assignments cannot be tolerated. Teachers who may observe homework copying taking place anywhere in the building are requested to report it to the teacher of that particular class. The teacher of that class will then decide how the involved students' homework assignment will be graded.

K. CONDUCT IN AND AROUND BUILDINGS

Any activity that can be defined as rowdy or a threat to other people's welfare is prohibited on McCook Public Schools campuses.

EXAMPLES: Bullying, dating violence, insubordination, excessive noise, running in the halls, throwing any object, fighting or shoving, swearing, vulgarity, snowballing, water guns, rubber bands, paper wads, pea shooters, etc. Students deemed to be interfering with the educational process and/or disrupting the normal function of the school are subject to disciplinary action even if they are in the vicinity of school property or school activity when the disruption occurs. Vicinity shall be defined as within 500 feet.

Students are not to engage in inappropriate public displays of affection on school property or at school activities. Such conduct includes kissing, touching, fondling or other displays of affection that would be reasonably considered to be embarrassing or a distraction to others.

Any student guilty of any of the preceding types of misbehavior will be dealt with according to the discretion of the teacher and/or principal depending upon the nature and extent of the infraction. This may involve reprimand, detention, suspension, parental notification, notification to the proper authorities if the situation warrants. Extreme situations may result in expulsion.

L. CONDUCT AT SCHOOL EVENTS

Codes of conduct for McCook Public School students are the same at after-school events as they are during the school day. School-sponsored events such as pep rallies, plays, musicals, athletic events, concerts, etc., are a continuation of the classroom and school day, the same rules, regulations and restrictions apply.

School personnel have the responsibility and authority to correct and control student misbehavior anywhere in the school building, on school properties, or at school functions in or out of town. McCook students are the responsibility of McCook Faculty members at all times during school sponsored activities.

M. VIOLENCE, DATING VIOLENCE, THREATS, AND DISRUPTIVE CONDUCT

Any gang related symbol worn, written, carried, displayed or communicated, will not be tolerated. We also prescribe to the three strikes and you're out philosophy. Physical violence is defined as any inappropriate physical contact with another person. This includes assaults and fights by mutual consent. Pursuant to Section 79-2,140, the Legislature has defined (a) "dating violence" to mean a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner; and (b) "dating

partner” to mean any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious, or long term.

Penalties for violence may include:

- 1st offense - 5 days out of school suspension
- 2nd offense - 5 days out of school suspension
- 3rd offense - Recommendation for Expulsion

Penalties for verbal threats may include:

- 1st offense - 1 day in school suspension
- 2nd offense - 5 days out of school suspension
- 3rd offense - Recommendation for Expulsion

Penalties for all other forms of disruptive conduct may include:

- 1st offense - 1 day in school suspension
- 2nd offense - 5 days out of school suspension
- 3rd offense - additional suspension or recommendation for expulsion

Penalties may vary depending on the severity or frequency of the offenses. The penalties listed above are suggested maximum guidelines.

N. SCHOOL DANCES --GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will apply to all school-sponsored dances at the McCook Junior -Senior High School:

1. Only McCook Senior High School students will be admitted to senior high dances. Exceptions are prom, homecoming, and color day.
2. Only McCook Junior High School Students will be admitted to junior high dances.
3. No re-admissions (once in - stay in).
4. Sponsors should consist of at least three adults including school personnel.
5. One adult sponsor should be stationed at the entrance area.
6. Senior High dances shall end no later than 12:00 a.m.
7. Junior High dances shall end no later than 10:30 p.m.
8. The advisor of the sponsoring organization must be in attendance.

O. DRESS CODE

Good personal appearance is conducive to a positive learning atmosphere. Dress that is in good taste, clean, is not distracting and is not vulgar or suggestive in appearance or in the written word or illustration, will be acceptable. Students should refrain from wearing spandex shorts, shirts and/or hats with vulgar/sexual/inappropriate illustrations or phrases that promote drugs, gangs, alcohol and/or tobacco. See-through shirts and blouses should not be worn by students. Students shall wear shoes at all times. Dirty or disruptive clothing should not be worn at any time. Clothing must cover undergarments. Bare midriffs and steel-toed footwear are prohibited.

1. At McCook Junior High, all students shall be prohibited from wearing hats, caps, bandannas, hoods or other such headgear in the school buildings during regular hours.

(a) Upon entering McCook Junior High School all caps, hats, bandannas, etc., will be deposited in the owners' locker and will remain there until the student leaves.

(b) At McCook Senior High, students may wear appropriate headwear as long as it does not disrupt the learning environment. Headwear will be at the discretion of the teacher, in individual classes.

2. Saggy pants, unbuckled/unbuttoned bib overalls, or any item of clothing that is deemed gang related is prohibited. Any tattoo or body piercing deemed gang related or potentially disruptive must be covered.

3. At McCook Junior High bags may be used to carry books to and from school. They may not be used during school hours. See through or mesh type book bags are recommended to promote safety. Outdoor type coats may be prohibited in classrooms at the discretion of the teacher.

(a) At McCook Senior High bags are allowed for students to use throughout the school day, as long as they do not cause a disruption to the classroom environment. Bags will be at the discretion of the teacher, in individual classes.

Coaches and other teachers in areas of public and inter-scholastic events, may specify additional requirements for dress and grooming. Principals will have the final authority in determining the appropriateness of student attire.

P. AFFIRMATIVE ACTION, ANTI-DISCRIMINATION AND SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY

1. Affirmative Action and Anti-Discrimination.

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

2. Preventing Harassment and Discrimination of Employees and/or Students.

A. Purpose:

McCook Public Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and any student based on ability and performance, in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers or other persons is prohibited. In addition, the McCook Public Schools will try to protect employees or students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the workplace and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on, for example, a person's race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability or age is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

(1) In general, ethnic, **antisemitic**, or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, religion, disability or national origin constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

(2) Age harassment has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

(3) Sexual harassment has been defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the workplace, classroom or educational environment.

(a) Sexual harassment exists when:

(i) Supervisors or managers make submission to such conduct either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment (including hiring, compensation, promotion, or retention);

(ii) Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used by supervisors or managers as a basis for employment related decisions such as promotion, performance evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc.

(iii) The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, classroom or educational environment.

(b) Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

(4) An employer may be held responsible for continuing harassment of employees or students by non-employees in the workplace, classroom or educational environment, if the problem is reported to a supervisor or manager and no corrective action is taken.

B. Procedures

(1) Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision.

(2) If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within (10) working days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of McCook Public Schools. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent of McCook Public Schools, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

- (3) The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent of McCook Public Schools, for complaints which are brought to and reach the Superintendent, will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees may be taken. Under no circumstances will a supervisor or teacher threaten or retaliate against an employee or student for alleging a violation of this policy.

Q. BULLYING POLICY

McCook Public Schools defines bullying as: When a person (s) intentionally and repeatedly directs physical, verbal, social, and/or psychological aggression or harassment toward others, with the goal of gaining power or dominating another individual which interrupts or disrupts the educational environment regardless of where it occurs.

Students who are bullied or witness bullying need to report a complaint of bullying or cyber-bullying, orally or in writing, to a staff member. If a parent initiates the complaint, the appropriate staff member will follow-up with the student. After the information has been gathered, the building principal shall be notified of the complaint. The building principal will determine the need for further investigation or the appropriate intervention, which may result in administrative discipline to ensure that the conduct ceases. This policy reserves the right to discipline students for actions taken off campus if the action adversely affects safety and/or educational environment of students at school.

Students who engage in bullying of any type are subject to administrative discipline. The form of discipline deemed appropriate by the school administrator may include, but is not limited to, loss of privileges, short-term suspension, long-term suspension and/or expulsion. A school administrator may also find it necessary to require the perpetrator to undergo counseling or some other form of bullying prevention training. The school resource or D.A.R.E. officer may also be notified. The parents/guardians of any student who engages in bullying will be notified orally or in writing concerning the bullying incident and the disciplinary action taken.

The consistency, scope and degree of bullying employed by the perpetrator will have bearing on an administrator's disciplinary decision.

R. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN SCHOOL

The McCook Public School District hereby finds and declares: Parental involvement is a key factor in the education of children; parents need to be informed of educational practices affecting their children; and the school district should foster and facilitate, to the extent appropriate, parental information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Along these lines:

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

2. Parents wishing to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities must obtain prior approval of and from the proper teacher, counselor, and administrator, or they will be asked to leave. Parents attending or monitoring courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities with prior approval who, by their conduct or presence, interfere with the educational process or constitute an interference with school purposes, will be asked to leave.
3. The school district will excuse students from testing, classroom instruction, and other school experiences, upon parental request, only under circumstances required by law. Parental requests must be in writing and submitted to the proper teacher and administrator a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction, or other school experience, and must be accompanied by written proof, acceptable to the school district, that the action is required by law. A plan for an acceptable alternative shall be approved by the proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as part of, the granting of any parent request.
4. Parents and others will be provided access to records of students according to law (e.g., Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. s123g or s79-4, 157, R.R.S., et seq.).
5. To assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement, testing shall occur in this district. District staff shall determine appropriate methods of testing and frequency of occurrence.
6. Participation in surveys of students shall occur in this district from time to time when determined appropriate by district staff for educational purposes. Notification to parents will be made prior to a survey being taken. Parents may remove students from such surveys only under circumstances required by law. Parental requests must be in writing and submitted to the proper teacher and administrator a reasonable time prior to the survey, and must be accompanied by written proof, acceptable to the school district, that the action is required by law.

S. CARE OF BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT

Pride in our building, the grounds and our facilities is the responsibility of each student and faculty member. All trash and debris should be thrown in the trash cans available. Intentional destruction of school property will not be tolerated. Students will be required to pay replacement costs in destruction cases. Possible suspension or expulsion might also be forthcoming.

If you unintentionally break something, report it immediately to the Principal or Assistant Principal. Posting of signs, billboards, or posters without administrative approval is prohibited. Unauthorized postings will be destroyed.

T. ATTENDANCE POLICY

(Absences, Tardies and Truancy)

This is a mandatory policy. The statement in #3 below meets requirements for a policy describing notification of excessive absenteeism to the county attorney. For notification purposes only, the district will no longer differentiate between excused and unexcused absences.

ABSENCES/MAKE-UP POLICY

1. Academic work should have priority over all other activities.
2. All students will be limited to twenty (20) absences per year per class except with further restrictions for absence due to truancy or class skipping.
 - a. Absences will not be categorized as excused or unexcused.
 1. When meeting with a health care provider, ask the provider to complete an appointment confirmation summary to submit to the school office.
 - b. Assignments missed due to any absence must be made up. A grade of "0" may be given for assignments not handed in within the allotted number of days allowed for make-up. When appropriate, make-up assignments should be completed before the absence.
3. Notification of absences will be given to parents upon the 5th absence per quarter by the teacher or the office staff. After ten (10) absences, a conference between the administration, teachers, parents, SRO, and student may be scheduled. With the 20th day of absence the County attorney and local law enforcement will be notified.
4. Parents are to call the building office any time that their child is absent or intends to be absent. The call should be made prior to 9:00 a.m. the day of the absence and earlier, whenever possible.
5. With the twentieth (20th) absence in any class, the student may be excluded from the class and registered as dropped with no grade given unless extenuating circumstances exist such as:
 - a. The majority of the absences were for sickness or of the nature that the student or parent could not control.
 - b. All make-up work (except in cases of truancy and class-skipping) has been completed to the teacher's satisfaction and handed in.
6. There will be two school days allowed for make-up of the first day of class missed and one additional day for every day missed thereafter, except for truancy, class skipping, or school activities.
 - a. The teacher may assign all make-up work missed at one time and require it due at the end of the make-up period.
 - b. The teacher may assign make-up work due in order of being missed; if the first assignment was missed the first day of absence, the student must have it done within two days after returning to school. The second assignment due on the third day missed must be in on the sixth day after returning.
 - c. In cases of extreme circumstances, administrators may grant additional time for the student to make up work but will not expect the instructor to decrease or alter the make-up work.
 - d. Any assignment due the day of truancy or class skip (that isn't handed in when due) may result in a "zero" grade for that assignment. Any assignment given on the day of the truancy or during the class skip must be handed in on the day due or may result in a "zero."
7. Participation in school activities does not constitute an absence.

a. Any student may be asked by the teacher to hand in all work or make up all tests prior to the day missed for a school activity, or any absence planned in advance, or to make up the work missed when the student returns.

8. All work previously assigned that is due the day the student is absent, will be due the day the student returns. This includes tests.

a. EXAMPLE: a worksheet is assigned on Tuesday to be due Wednesday; the student who missed Wednesday must have it completed and handed in the day the student returns to school.

9. Absence on a review day prior to a test will allow the student, upon returning to school on test day, not to take the test that day but the test will be taken the following day..

10. The only use of an "incomplete" will be when a student absence comes so late in the nine-week period that his/her make-up would extend into the next nine weeks.

11. In no case, other than extreme illness, will make-up time extend over ten school days past the end of each quarter.

12. With the fourth (4th) truancy and/or class skip, the student may be expelled for the remainder of the semester if the following procedure is not adhered to:

Time missed for truancy or class skip at the Senior High may be made up in detention or at times arranged by the Administration. Failure to show up at a designated make-up session will result in further consequences to be determined by the administrator. Failure to make up time owed will result in: in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension or expulsion.

1. Each suspension will not exceed five (5) school days.
2. The student and his/her parents are to have a conference with the principal before returning from out-of-school suspension. (The parents can satisfy this requirement by calling the principal.)

Time missed for truancy or class skip at the Junior High will result in noon detention for the first offense, in school suspension for the second offense, out of school suspension for the third offense followed by recommendation for expulsion. Failure to serve detention constitutes truancy. Parents contacting the school or SRO for assistance to have their student to attend school constitutes a truancy until attendance is noted present.

A. Truancy is defined as when the student misses school without the school's permission.

1. Truancy for failure to serve detention at the Junior High.

1st Offense	1 week of noon restriction
2nd Offense	1 week of noon restriction
3rd Offense	1 day of ISS
4th Offense	1 day of ISS

5th Offense	1 day of ISS: No Dances
6th Offense	5 days PASS
7th Offense	5 Days PASS
8th Offense	Suspended from School

B. Class skipping is defined as when a student fails to attend class, but remains in the building or on the school premises.

C. Parents/guardians are to call or email the school within 24 hours of each time their child is absent. After school hours, parents/guardians can leave a voice message regarding the absence or email the building administrative staff. Administrative staff may seek parent/guardian approval of the absence if questions arise. Emails from student accounts will not be accepted. In case of suspected truancy, within 24 hours, an administrator or other designee will make every reasonable attempt to notify the parent/guardian of the absentee before declaring the absence a truancy.

1. At the Senior High, the parents/guardians and students will be notified of the absence within 24 hours via phone call, email and/or Infinite Campus notifications (robo call/text message). If no communication is received from parents/guardians within 24 hours, the absence may be declared a truancy.

D. Remediation -- Before a student is expelled due to excessive truancy, remediation efforts by the school will be undertaken. These efforts may include but not be limited to such things as:

1. Meetings between the school officials and parents.
2. Educational counseling of the student.
3. Educational evaluation, which may include a psychological evaluation of the student.
4. Complete investigation of circumstances by the school. (LB 1250 Guidelines, passed in 1994)

E. At the junior high, students who are serving in school suspension are not dismissed until approximately fifteen(15) minutes after the dismissal bell.

TARDIES

High School Tardy Policy

1. If the student is late ten minutes or less to class they will be counted tardy. On the fourth tardy per class per semester, detention time will be assigned.
 - a. Tardy will not be categorized as excused or unexcused.
2. If a student misses more than ten minutes of class without being excused they will be counted absent and a detention will be assigned.

3. Failure to show up at a designated make-up session may result in an in-school suspension. If students persist in not making up time, they will be given out-of-school suspension, or ultimately, expulsion may be recommended.

Junior High Tardy Policy

Tardy = late 10 minutes or less to a class.

1. Tardy will not be categorized as excused or unexcused.
2. Tardiness shall be defined as when a student is late to any class without a reasonable explanation. (The teacher will determine "reasonable".) The penalty for such tardies is up to the teacher with notification of an administrator if necessary. Tardies that exceed 5 may be counted as an absence. On the fourth tardy per class per semester, detention time will be assigned. On the sixth, in-school suspension, eighth, PASS, and tenth out of school suspension.
3. First and Sixth period students who are tardy at the Junior High School should report to the office. Do not go to your classroom until you have a permit from the office.
4. Failure to show up at a designated make-up session may result in an in-school suspension. If students persist in not making up time, they will be given out-of-school suspension or ultimately, expulsion may be recommended.

U. PERMITS TO LEAVE CLASSES OR BUILDING

Junior High students will not be excused from the building without the parent/guardian entering the building and personally presenting themselves at the office and signing the sign-out sheet. Students should not leave their assigned class during any period of the school day. Students should be in their assigned class and seat when the tardy bell rings and not leave until the end-of-class bell rings.

If students are out of their assigned area for any reason they must carry a "student pass" with them. This pass must be written out by the teacher releasing the student and must also be signed by the teacher of the area to which the student passed. If leaving school the student must get permission from the office and sign the "sign-out" sheet in the office. Students should always return to the room to which they are assigned before the end of the period.

Students who become ill or are injured during the school day, must go to the office or report to the nurse. If it is decided that they should go home, the office staff will make contact with a parent or appropriate adult to notify them of the problem and a possible need of transportation.

The school does not provide supervision regarding who may or may not pick-up students following dismissal.

V. APPOINTMENTS

Business, medical, or dental appointments should be scheduled after school or on weekends whenever possible. If an appointment is scheduled during school time, it is necessary for the student to present a note from his parents to the office requesting the student's release. If reasonable, the student will be issued a checkout slip, which must be signed by the teachers of those classes he will miss during the duration of his/her appointment. The checkout slip must be

returned to the office before the student leaves the building. The student will also be expected to check out and in at the office. Naturally, emergencies could result in exceptions to the afor-mentioned procedures.

W. STUDENT WITHDRAWAL

If a student plans to drop out of school or transfer to another school, he/she must report to the principal for a withdrawal slip. He/she then asks teachers to sign this slip to indicate he/she has checked in all books and met all other obligations. The slip is then returned to the principal/assistant principal's office for administrative clearance.

X. STUDENT PARKING

The proximity of our residential district, as well as safety factors make it imperative that students park only in designated areas.

Students are prohibited from parking in the following areas:

1. Circle drive at the south end of the senior high school (teacher parking and visitor parking).
2. Between the Senior and Junior High School. No driving between the schools from 7:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m.
3. The area south and west of the Junior high, next to the school and between the weight room and gym.

Seventh (7th) Street "cruising" is prohibited by students driving cars between 7:45 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. One pass on 7th Street to park or go to the parking lot will be permitted. This also applies to the parking lot. When a student enters the parking lot, it can only be for parking. Reckless driving in the parking lot is prohibited and breaking this policy will merit suspension from school. "POWER STALLS" or "BURN OUTS" are prohibited in the parking lot and any place on West 7th Street. Students who violate the parking/driving policies and park or drive in restricted areas may be suspended from school. Student parking at all times around the school needs to be cautious. One of the strongest arguments against "Open Campus" is reckless driving.

Junior high students who drive to school are to notify the junior high office so parking instructions can be given.

Y. BICYCLES/SKATEBOARDS/SCOOTERS

Bicycles are to be parked in the racks provided. Students are not to ride bikes, use skates, roller blades, skateboards, scooters or other such modes of transportation on school property. All bicycles should be locked. The student riding the bicycle to school is responsible for the safety of the bike. The school is not responsible for any bicycles. Skateboards, skates, and roller blades should be kept in your locker or secured as instructed. Motorized scooters are not allowed on school grounds.

Z. ACADEMIC APPEALS PROCESS

If a student wishes to appeal the decision of the academic leader, the student can file a formal appeal. All Academic appeals are to be made in writing to the Office of the Principal within 14 calendar days from the last date of each semester. For the formal appeal process: Submit the written appeal with signatures along with all relevant documentation and Evidence to the Office of the Principal.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

McCook High School

Participation in extra-curricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. McCook Public Schools promotes the principle that its students are scholars first and that participation in activities is contingent upon success in the classroom.

All students who participate in activities must maintain passing grades in all but one class in order to remain eligible for participation or competition. Students who are enrolled less than full time Ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in any activity to include but not limited to; athletic contests, homecoming and color day royalty, non-academic performances, club activities until the eligibility requirement has been met.

Beginning the third week of classes each semester, any student failing two or more classes will be ineligible to represent McCook Senior High School. Grades will be reviewed Friday morning (or the final day students are scheduled to attend each week) by 10:00 a.m. to determine eligibility. The list of ineligible students will be available to the teachers, as well as the coaches/sponsors by 12:00 p.m. Friday.

The Principal or his/her designee will notify students on the ineligible list no later than Monday. An explanation of what needs done to be removed from the list will be provided. Students will be notified in person if possible; parents will be notified by phone, email, and/or mail.

The first time each semester that a student fails to meet the criteria for eligibility, the student will be given a one-week "grace period" of eligibility to improve their grades to meet the requirement. Thereafter, no "grace period" will apply and the student will be deemed ineligible immediately.

Students who are deemed ineligible will be placed on the ineligible list and barred from participation or competition from Monday to Sunday the following week.

During the ineligible period and "grace period" students will be required to attend Assignment Recovery Sessions after school from 3:35 to 4:00. Students must also meet with the teacher of the failing class so the teacher and student may form a plan for the student to improve his/her grade.

Students are expected to practice and/or meet with their associated extracurricular activity after completing the Assignment Recovery Session.

McCook Jr. High School

Participation in extra-curricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. McCook Public Schools promotes the principle that its students are scholars first and that participation in activities is contingent upon success in the classroom.

All students who participate in activities must maintain passing grades in all but one class in order to remain eligible for participation or competition. Ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in any activity to include but not limited to: athletic contests, dances, non-academic performances, club activities until the eligibility requirement has been met. Beginning the third week of classes each quarter, any student failing two or more classes will be ineligible to represent McCook Jr. High School. Grades will be reviewed Friday morning (or the final day students are scheduled to attend each week) by 10:00 a.m. to determine eligibility. The list of ineligible students will be available to the teachers, as well as the coaches/sponsors, by 12:00 p.m. Friday.

The Principal or his/her designee will notify students on the ineligible list no later than Monday. An explanation of what needs done to be removed from the list will be provided. Students will be notified in person if possible; parents will be notified by phone, email, and/or mail.

The first time each semester that a student fails to meet the criteria for eligibility, the student will be given a one-week "grace period" of eligibility to improve their grades to meet the requirement. Thereafter, no "grace period" will apply and the student will be deemed ineligible immediately.

Students who are deemed ineligible will be placed on the ineligible list and barred from participation or competition from Monday to Sunday the following week.

During the ineligible period and "grace period" students will be required to meet at a time as arranged by the teacher and student. Assignment Recovery will be conducted by the teacher of the failing class so the teacher and student may form a plan for the student to improve his/her grade.

Students are expected to practice and/or meet with their associated extracurricular activity after completing the Assignment Recovery Session.

A. ATHLETICS

McCook Junior/Senior High Schools offer a wide variety of girls and boys athletics. Students are encouraged to participate in one or more of the offerings. The Athletic Department has various rules and regulations that apply to all students participating. These rules and regulations are policy of the McCook School District and are in the athletic handbook as well as sports specific handbook that all participants receive. Playing time is at the discretion of the coach or sponsor. .

NOTICE REGARDING PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

According to the Nebraska School Activities Association, any student who turns nineteen years of age prior to August 1st of each school year is not eligible to participate in extracurricular activities. If a student attains the age of fifteen prior to August 1st of their eighth grade year, that student may participate in high school NSAA sponsored activities as an eighth grader. Contact the school Activities Director for additional information.

To be eligible for varsity competition, a student must be enrolled in at least 4 solid subjects and must have passed 4 subjects the immediate previous semester.

Specialized Equipment or Attire for Extracurricular Activities

The following extracurricular activities require specialized equipment or specialized attire to be provided by participating students. Students qualifying for free or reduced price meals are eligible to apply for waivers under school policy.

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Description</u>
Cheerleading	Cheerleading uniform
Dance Team	Dance Team Uniform
Golf	Golf clubs, bag, tees, balls
All Sports	Shoes
Tennis	Tennis racket—tennis uniform
Vocal Music	Performance outfit
Swimming	Swim team uniform

B. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

There are many honorary school-sponsored organizations available to students at the McCook Junior/Senior High Schools. Listed below are some of these with the specific area that each deals with. Some of the organizations are open to all students, some to specific students who

meet various pre-set standards. If you are interested in any activities, check with the sponsors to get further information.

JUNIOR HIGH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS MAY INCLUDE: Student Council, Science Club, Writing Club, Art Club, FFA, Chess Club and I. Tech Club.

SENIOR HIGH ORGANIZATIONS MAY INCLUDE:

1. Student Council -- The purpose of Student Council is to promote general welfare between the faculty and the students and to promote scholarship, good citizenship and sportsmanship among members of the student body. Subcommittees include: school spirit, educational project, leadership project, public relations project, community or school service project, social or recreational project, sportsmanship, and health, safety or drug awareness.
2. Math Club (Mu Alpha Theta) -- For students with aptitude and interest in mathematics.
3. NORE -- For students with aptitude and interest in science.
4. Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) -- For students interested in business.
5. Robotics-- For students with special interest in robotics.
6. Skills USA -- This club is part of the Trades and Industry program at our school, and part of the occupations class for those students interested in industrial education.
7. Thespians -- An internationally affiliated honorary fraternity for persons accumulating points through participation in drama activities.
8. Drama Club -- Open to students with an interest in drama.
9. Art Club -- Designed for students with special aptitude and interest in art.
10. Cheerleaders -- For leaders of school spirit and support of athletics.
11. Future Farmers of America (FFA) -- For those students who are interested in Agriculture and Ag-related areas.
12. Dance Team -- Performance dance group.
13. Quill and Scroll -- Honorary journalism club.
14. National Honor Society

The activity program of the McCook Public Schools is a vital part of the educational process. It's primary purpose is to help students grow and mature into respected members of society. As a participant, you are and will continue to be an important part of life in America and those ideals you aspire to will become a part of your value system and will remain with you throughout your life. These ideals will be transmitted to those who watch you perform and will be reflected in a constructive way in the lives of others.

ACTIVITY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The activity programs of the McCook Public Schools are designed to provide wholesome opportunities for those students who desire interscholastic competition.

It is our desire to instill in each participant the image of a true BISON participant. He or she will:

1. Consider all opponents as guests at McCook Public Schools and treat them with all the courtesy due friends and guests.
2. Accept the decisions of the officials without question.
3. Never use abusive or irritating remarks from the sideline.
4. Applaud good sportsmanship from opponents and teammates.

5. Strive for victory through fair play according to the rules of the game.
6. Love the competition for its own sake, not for what winning may bring through publicity.
7. Do everything possible to encourage enthusiasm for the game and courtesy and respect for the players, coaches and fans.
8. Win without boasting, and lose without excuses.
9. Do all within his/her power to make the entire activity program something of which we will always be proud.

Any student is welcome to try out for any of the interscholastic teams available to them, providing they meet the requirements established by the Nebraska School Activities Association and the school, and he/she agrees to adhere to the guidelines established in this handbook.

The guidelines established herein for the activity programs of McCook Public Schools were established by the cooperative efforts of the students, the coaching staff, the administration, and the Board of Education. All students engaged in activities, such as: Interscholastic activities, including but not limited to journalism, speech, band, choir, orchestra, Thespians, FFA, FBLA, and athletics. Elected to a position of responsibility, including but not limited to, class officer and student council; Representing the school including but not limited to drama, band, dance team, and cheerleader; Honor positions, including but not limited to Homecoming and Color Day will be governed by the following guidelines. These guidelines apply to students beginning the first day of fall practice as established by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) and will end on the last official day of school in a given year as established by the McCook Board of Education, unless the activity extends beyond the last official day of school.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARTICIPANTS

It will not be easy to contribute to such a great tradition. To compete for your school may mean that you will have to say "no". When you wear the colors of your school, we assume that you not only understand our traditions, but are willing to assume the responsibilities that go with them. However, the contributions you make should be a satisfying accomplishment for you and your family.

Responsibilities To Yourself

The most important of these responsibilities is to broaden yourself and develop strength of character. You owe it to yourself to get the greatest possible good from your school experiences.

Your studies, your participation in other extra-curricular activities as well as in sports, prepare you for your life as an adult.

Responsibilities To Your School

Another responsibility you assume as a team member is to your school. McCook cannot maintain its position as having an outstanding school unless you do your best in whatever activity you wish to engage. By participating in interscholastic competitions to the maximum of your ability, you are contributing to the reputation of your school. You assume a leadership role when you are a Bison. The student body and citizens of the community know you. You are on stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school by

your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field. Because of this leadership role, you can contribute greatly to school spirit and community pride. Make McCook proud of you, and your community proud, and your community proud of your school, by your faithful exemplification of these ideals.

Responsibilities To Others

As a team member, you also bear a heavy responsibility to your home. If you never give your parents anything to be ashamed of, you will have measured up to the ideal. When you know in your heart that you have lived up to all of the training rules, that you have practiced to the best of your ability every day, and that you have played the game "all out", you can enhance your self-respect and your family can be justly proud of you.

The younger students in the McCook Schools are watching you! They will copy you in many ways. Do not do anything to let them down. Set good examples for them.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. Each student is expected to make positive contributions to the team of which he/she is a member. These contributions should be in the areas of training, cooperation, competition, and the maintenance of a positive attitude toward the activity, other participants, and the sponsor/coaching staff. It is essential for the betterment of the program that insubordination and lack of cooperation be dealt with by the sponsor/coach-in-charge. Dismissal could result if conferences with the team member do not produce positive results.

B. The possession of smoking or chewing tobacco will not be tolerated. Discipline procedure:
1st offense: Should a team member be observed in possession of smoking or chewing tobacco by a member of the coaching staff of McCook Public Schools or is observed in possession of smoking or chewing tobacco on school property or at a school activity by a member of the school staff, the team member will be held from the next contest in which the team member is scheduled to participate.

2nd offense: Should a team member be observed in possession of smoking or chewing tobacco by a member of the coaching staff of McCook Public Schools or is observed in possession of smoking or chewing tobacco on school property or at a school activity by a member of the school staff for a second time during a season, the team member will be dismissed from the squad for the remainder of the season. The student shall be advised of his right to appear before a meeting of the Violation Board for purposes of presenting mitigating facts in support of a denial as explained in the hearing procedure which is covered later in these guidelines.

C. NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS--A team member may be dismissed from the activity if it is determined that he/she was in possession of or using alcoholic beverages or drugs. Discipline Procedure:

1st offense: A team member whose conduct constitutes a violation of the above rule may be denied participation in any contest for McCook Public Schools for up to three (3) weeks of competition. The team member shall continue to practice with the team during that period. This is only a general guideline. If it is the opinion of the Violations Board and the Principal involved that

a first offense is of a flagrant nature, dismissal from the team for the remainder of the sport season may result.

2nd offense: Should a team member be in violation of the above rule for a second time during the season, the team member will be dismissed from the team for the remainder of that season.

ADDITIONAL OFFENSES: Any additional violation of the above rule in a subsequent sport season during the current school term may be disciplined as if it were a second offense. The enforcement of this policy will begin with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the Nebraska School Activities Association and will end on the last official day of school in a given year as established by the McCook Board of Education, unless the activity extends beyond the last official day of school.

Any exclusion or dismissal investigation will begin when the Activities Director determines that a violation has occurred, regardless of the amount of time elapsed between the violation and actual discovery. If a sponsor/coach or activities director makes a decision to discipline a student because of the violation of the above-listed training rules, or makes a determination that there may be cause to discipline a student, the following procedures shall be followed:

1. The student shall be notified by the Activities Director or Coach/Sponsor or a designee of the Activities Director or Coach. The student shall be advised of the facts upon which the complaint is based and given an opportunity to deny or explain the matter. The student shall be advised of his right to appear before a meeting of the Violations Board for purposes of presenting mitigating facts in support of a denial.

2. The Activities Director, the coach/sponsor of the athlete involved, and one other coach/sponsor appointed by the Activities Director (total of 3) or a designee of any one or more shall constitute the Violation Board. If the violation involves a junior high student, the Violation Board will consist of junior high personnel in addition to the Activities Director; if the violation involves a senior high student, the Violation Board will consist of senior high personnel in addition to the Activities Director.

The Activities Director will assume the chairmanship of the Violation Board. His duties as chairperson will include the setting of the date, time and place of the hearing and designating all personnel to serve on the Violation Board.

3. The Violation Board shall meet within two days after the student has been notified. The student and a parent or guardian shall be advised by telephone, in person, or in writing of the time, place and purpose of the hearing. The hearing may be postponed for a reasonable time not to exceed two additional school days at the request of the student. The hearing shall be informal. The student may present witnesses on his/her behalf. The Violation Board shall have the right to deliberate and reach its decision in closed meeting and shall have the right to limit the number and testimony of witnesses as necessary to preclude unreasonable repetitive or irrelevant testimony.

4. If the decision of the Violation Board is that no violation occurred the head coach/sponsor has the responsibility to tell the student of the determination.

5. If the decision of the Violation Board is that a violation occurred which calls for the possible long-term suspension or exclusion from the sport, the Activities Director shall inform the Principal involved (junior or senior high school) of the Violation Board's findings and recommendation. The Principal will then determine the discipline to be administered and promptly visit with the student and a parent or guardian to state the decision and explain the discipline.

6. The student shall have the right to appeal the decision of the Violation Board and discipline of the Principal to the Superintendent of Schools, who shall appoint a hearing officer in compliance with the law. If the situation is not resolved to the student's satisfaction, the student shall have the right of further appeal to the Board of Education by presenting a written request for a hearing, the Secretary of the School Board. The appeal hearing will be conducted not later than the next regular meeting of the Board after receipt of the request. Such a request for appeal shall not delay the effective time of the suspension or expulsion.

7. Should a question arise regarding a rule of regulation of the Nebraska School Activities Association and the need arises for an individual to know the due process procedures of the NSAA, they may be found in the NSAA Yearbook which can be obtained from the Superintendent, Senior High Principal, Junior High Principal or Activities Director of the McCook Public Schools.

8. These rules and procedures shall, in no way, restrict the Principal from carrying out appropriate disciplinary responsibilities involving students under the Principal's jurisdiction whether those students be athletes or not.

DUE PROCESS

Due Process Procedures shall govern all alleged violations of rules and regulations of the McCook Public Schools and the Constitution, By-Laws, or Approved Ruling of the Nebraska School Activities Association. The McCook Public Schools' Due Process Procedures are available in the offices of the Superintendent and the Activities Director. The Nebraska School Activities Association Due Process Procedures are available in the Activity Director's office.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT POLICIES

A. Dropping or transferring of Sports

If a student is participating in one sport during a sports season and decides to quit that sport and participate in another sport during the same season (fall, winter or spring), the Nebraska School Activities Association rules restrict that student from practice or competing for seven school days. The McCook Public School's policy states that the practice of changing sports during the course of a season will be discouraged unless the athlete has the permission of both head coaches involved.

If an athlete is cut from a squad by the coaching staff, that student may then participate in another sport that season, within the guidelines of the Nebraska School Activities Association.

If an athlete is dropped from a squad for disciplinary reasons, they may not practice using school equipment or facilities until the sport from which he/she was dropped is completed.

B. Starting, Dismissal, and Length of Practices

All starting times will be designated by the individual coaches. The Activities Director and coach will determine starting times for activities which must share facilities with other activities. All participants are expected to be ready to practice at the designated starting time. Under normal conditions, all participants will be required to report to practice, dressed, no later than fifteen minutes from the time of school dismissal.

In order that students and their parents may plan accordingly, and for the welfare of the student, the following is the Maximum time length for practices:

1. Senior High - 2 1/2 hours
2. Junior High - 2 hours

C. Missing Practice

A participant should always consult his/her coach before missing practice. Missing practice or a contest without good reason will be dealt with severely. Sudden illness or some other emergency would be an acceptable reason for missing practice or a contest.

D. Attendance and Activities

Students who are participating in an activities program are not allowed to practice, perform, or compete on the same day they are absent from school for five periods or more or if they are not back in class after the lunch period. In addition, should the students participation be scheduled for Saturday, and the student is absent unexcused on Friday, he/she may not participate. Extenuating circumstances must be approved by the administration.

Students participating in school sponsored activities during the school week are expected to report to school on time the following day. Students tardy or absent may forfeit the opportunity to participate in the next contest/game. The high school administration has the sole authority to excuse a student on the day following the competition/activity.

E. Equipment

All equipment will be checked out to the student at the beginning of the season by the sponsor in charge. It is the responsibility of the student to check in the equipment at the end of the season, or immediately should he/she quit the activity. If a student fails to check in his/her equipment at the designated time they will be expected to pay for the cost of replacement.

At no time should a student wear school equipment for personal use. No student will be allowed to check out for another sport until the equipment he/she has checked out is either paid for or returned. Locks will be provided for all sports. Only school locks are to be used in varsity locker rooms. Each athlete is responsible for providing his/her own towel.

F. Team Travel

McCook activities teams and staff members travel to and from events by school vehicles. Travel by private car is discouraged, but when used, strict insurance standards are adhered to and adult drivers are used. All members of a team will return from a contest by the same mode of transportation provided for taking them to the contest. EXCEPTION: The student's parents must present a permission slip to the head coach involved, be present at the event, and personally sign the student out of the event.

G. College Recruitment Policy

In the event an athlete should be contacted personally by a college recruiter, he/she has an obligation to work through his/her coach and the activities department. Inform your coach of such a contact as soon as possible. College recruitment information is available in the Activities Office.

H. Conflicts in Extra-Curricular Activities

An individual student who attempts to participate in several extra-curricular activities will, undoubtedly, be in a position of a conflict of obligations.

The activities department recognizes that each student should have the opportunity to a broad range of experiences in the area of extracurricular activities; and to this end will attempt to schedule events in a manner so as to minimize conflicts.

Students have a responsibility to do everything they can to avoid continuous conflicts. This would include being cautious about becoming a member of too many activities where conflicts are bound to happen. It also means notifying the faculty sponsors involved immediately when a conflict does arise. When conflicts do arise, the sponsors will get together and work out a solution so the student does not feel in the middle. If a solution cannot be found, the principal will have to make the decision based on the following:

1. The relative importance of each event.
2. The importance of each event to the student.
3. The relative contribution the student can make.
4. How long each event has been scheduled.
5. Talk with parents.

Once the decision has been made and the student has followed that decision, he will not be penalized in any way by the faculty sponsor. If it becomes obvious that a student cannot fulfill the obligation of a school activity, he should withdraw from that activity.

PHYSICAL EXAMINATION

1. Each year a complete physical examination is required of each student before he/she may participate in any phase of the interscholastic athletic programs at MPS.
2. Each student shall have on file with the Athletic Director:
 - a. Physical examination release card along with a
 - b. Parental permit signed by parent(s) and/or guardian granting permission to participate in the interscholastic program at MPS.

GUARD YOUR ELIGIBILITY

In order to represent a high school in interscholastic competition, a student must abide by eligibility rules of the Nebraska School Activities Association. A summary of the major rules is given below. Contact the principal or activities director for an explanation of the complete rule.

1. Student must be an undergraduate.
2. Student is continuously enrolled in your school in 20 semester hours of credit.
3. Home school students shall have received, or be granted, 20 credit hours for the immediate preceding semester and be enrolled in 5 credit hours at your school.

4. Student must be enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh school day of the current year.
5. Student is ineligible if nineteen years of age before August 1 of current school year. (Student may participate on a high school team if he/she was 15 years of age prior to August 1 of current school year.)
6. After a student's initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she shall be ineligible after eight semesters of school membership.
7. Student must have been enrolled in school the immediate preceding semester.
8. Student must have received twenty hours of credit the immediate preceding semester.
9. Once the season of a sport begins, a student shall compete only in athletic contests/meets in that sport which are scheduled by his/her school. Any other competition will render the student ineligible for a portion of, or all of, the season in that sport. The season of a sport begins with the first date of practice as permitted by NSAA rules. The fall sports season begins August 12, 2024, and ends with the state meets in the fall sports. The winter sports season begins November 18, 2024, and ends with the state meets in the winter sports. The spring sports season begins March 3rd, 2025, and ends with the state meet in the spring sports.
10. A student shall not participate in sports camps or clinics during the season of a sport in which he/she is involved, either as an individual or as a member of a team.
11. A student shall not participate on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.
12. A student entering grade nine for the first time after being promoted from grade eight of a two-year junior high, or a three-year middle school, or entering a high school for the first time after being promoted to grade ten from a three-year junior high school is eligible. After making a choice of high schools, any subsequent transfer will cause the student to be ineligible for ninety school days.
13. When the parents of a student change their domicile from one school district, which has a high school to another school district, which has a high school, the student is ineligible for ninety school days except:
 - (a) If the change in domicile by the parents occurs during a school year, the student may remain at the school he/she is attending and be eligible until the end of the school year or transfer to a high school located in the school district where the parents established their domicile and be eligible.
 - (b) If a student has been attending the same high school since initial enrollment in grade nine and the school is located in the school district from which the parents moved, he/she may remain at that high school and retain eligibility or he/she is eligible at a high school located in the school district where his/her parents established their domicile.

(c) If the parents moved during the summer months and the student is in grade twelve, the student may remain at the high school he/she has been attending and retain eligibility.

14. Guardianship does not fulfill the definition of a parent. If a guardian has been appointed for a student, the student is eligible in the school district where his/her natural parent(s) have their domicile. Individual situations involving guardianship may be submitted to the Executive Director for his review and a ruling.
15. A student shall not participate in a contest under an assumed name.
16. A student must maintain his/her amateur status.

2024-2025 STUDENT HANDBOOK: COVID SUPPLEMENT -

Please contact school for updates to COVID response procedures

The following rules and expectations will be effective during the school year. These rules and expectations are intended to ensure the health and safety of all students, staff members, and the overall community. Because of the fluid nature of the current COVID-19 pandemic and the District's continued collaboration with health officials, these rules and expectations are subject to change at any time. The District will send parents and students written notification of any such changes. It is each family's responsibility to monitor for, understand, and adhere to any such changes, including those changes implemented on short notice. If a parent or student ever has any questions about the interpretation or implementation of these rules and expectations, the parent or student should promptly contact their building administrator.

1. Masks. Unless otherwise directed by the Superintendent, every student must wear an appropriate mask while in school vehicles. An appropriate mask is a double cloth mask that does not interfere with or disrupt the operation of the school or the learning environment. Masks must be worn in a manner that covers the student's nose and mouth. A student may remove their mask only when a staff member gives the student permission, such as during mask "breaks" or during lunchtime. If a staff member provides specific mask directives to a student, the student shall comply with those directives. Students who do not comply with the mask requirement or directives may face discipline, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

Students are highly encouraged to follow health and safety best practices outside of the school setting, including frequent hand washing and social distancing.

2. COVID-19 Symptoms. A student who experiences, or has experienced within 24 hours, any of the following symptoms must notify their administrator prior to coming to school or prior to entering a school vehicle:

- Two of the following: Fever, Chills, Muscle Pain, Headache, Sore Throat, Nausea, Vomiting, Diarrhea
- One of the following: New Cough, Shortness of Breath, Difficulty Breathing, Loss of Taste/Smell

The administrator will then evaluate the student's symptoms and then review the COVID-19 Exposure Determination document for guidance on whether to allow the student to report to school or to be given academic work to complete at home. Students who miss school due to potential COVID-19 exposure or symptoms will generally not be counted as an unexcused absence. However, if the administration determines that the student has violated other rules or has not been honest about his or her symptoms, the student's absence may be deemed unexcused and the student may face other consequences. A student's arrival on school grounds or in a school vehicle after the student or parent fails to promptly notify a building administrator of potential symptoms could result in student discipline, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

A student who fails to report COVID-19 symptoms because the student wants to participate or compete in activities may face additional activity consequences.

3. Potential Exposure. Parents and students who have reason to suspect that the student may have been exposed to COVID-19 must promptly inform a building administrator. Potential exposure includes, but is not limited to, coming into close contact with a person who tested positive or is awaiting test results, a family member in the household who has tested positive or is awaiting test results, traveling to a "hot spot," or receiving notification from a health official or medical professional of a potential exposure. Students who plan to travel outside of the community are encouraged to consult with a building administrator in advance to determine the potential consequences (such as mandatory quarantine) of such travel. Any student who has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 will not be allowed on school grounds or in a school vehicle until the District, in its sole and absolute discretion, determines that the student may safely return to school. A student's arrival on school grounds or in a school vehicle after the student or parent fails to promptly notify a building administrator of a potential exposure could result in student discipline, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

4. Academic Work at Home. A student who has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 and is not allowed on school grounds will not face an academic penalty unless the administration determines that the student has otherwise violated school rules. Any COVID-19 related student absence will not be counted as an unexcused absence. During a student's COVID-19 related absence, the student is expected (to the extent that he or she is able) to work with his or her teachers to obtain and complete coursework and assignments. A teacher retains the discretion to grade student work during a student's COVID-19 related absence. Student devices are available upon request in the case of unforeseen remote learning circumstances.

5. Activities. A student will not be permitted to participate in activities if the student has possible COVID-19 symptoms, has potentially been exposed to COVID-19 or would otherwise jeopardize the health and safety of other students or staff. The District, in its sole and absolute discretion, will determine when a student may return or participate in an activity. Any student who fails to promptly report COVID-19 symptoms, potential exposure, or otherwise takes action or inaction that could jeopardize the health and safety of other students or staff will be subject to discipline, including the removal from the activity for the remainder of the year.

6. Failure to be Honest. These rules and expectations are designed and will be implemented to ensure, to the extent practicable, the health and safety of all students and staff. The District will endeavor to balance the need to ensure the health and safety of school premises, while not intruding on a family's confidential medical information. With that in mind, students and families are expected to be honest with the District regarding a student's potential COVID-19 exposure or symptoms. If a parent is uncomfortable or unwilling to provide specific information to the District about a student's potential exposure or symptoms, the family need only inform a building administrator of the fact that there may have been a potential exposure or potential symptoms. A parent may, but will not be required to, divulge any specific information about the potential exposure or symptoms, such as medical information. In any circumstance, if the District determines that a parent or student has not been honest or forthright with information or facts provided (or not provided) to the District about a potential exposure or potential symptoms, the District may exclude a student for a longer period of time (for health and safety reasons) or may impose disciplinary consequences, up to and including exclusion or expulsion from school.

7. Other Health and Safety Rules. At any time, a staff member may impose or require a student to undertake other health and safety requirements (such as frequent hand washing, maintaining social distancing, and the like). A student must follow such health and safety requirements or face discipline.

8. Assumption of the Risks. In the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has endeavored to reopen schools for the benefit of student learning and development. However, there is no guarantee that the school environment will be completely safe and free from COVID-19 or other related risks and hazards. Any parent who is or has a child who is immunocompromised should get their physician's recommendation concerning their child's attendance at school. If your physician recommends an alternative placement you will need to contact your building principal to discuss options. Parents also have the right to apply for home school status with the Nebraska Department of Education. A parent who elects to send their student back to school does so understanding, assuming, and accepting the associated health and safety risks, including the possibility that the student may be exposed to and/or contract COVID-19.

MCCOOK PUBLIC SCHOOLS - McCook Junior and Senior High School TECHNOLOGY APPROPRIATE USE AGREEMENT

The district encourages appropriate use of the technology tools provided to our students. We acknowledge that digital skills are essential to the future success of each student in our district. Students in McCook Public Schools are expected to maintain high integrity when using the internet, applications, devices and other technology tools provided by the district. The network, devices and software applications are owned by the school district. Student devices are available upon request in the case of emergencies or unforeseen remote learning circumstances.

Provision of these resources comes with it a user expectation to abide by the generally accepted rules of school policy and network etiquette. These include but are not limited to the following:

1. Students will handle devices and technology tools responsibly and with care.
2. Students will use technology and the internet for appropriate educational purposes; the primary function of such use being to further educational goals and objectives. Examples include:
 - a. Using the internet to conduct research assigned by teachers.
 - b. Using the internet to research for classroom projects.
 - c. Using the internet to gain access to information about current events.
 - d. Using the internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
 - e. Using the internet for appropriate educational purposes.
3. Students will communicate with kindness and respect when using technology tools.

In addition, guidelines are in place district wide to promote the care of equipment provided to students:

1. Classroom or Lab devices, including but not limited to iPads, Computer Towers, Keyboards, Mice, and Chromebooks, should be handled gently and with care.
2. Students will follow established classroom/building procedures for checking out and checking in school owned equipment used at school or otherwise.
3. Accidental damages shall be reported immediately to supervising teachers or the main office of the building.
4. Students will be held financially responsible for damage to school devices up to the cost of replacement when negligence or intentional harm has been determined by the school administrator and/or their designee.

Technology privileges may temporarily be revoked at any time for inappropriate use, behavior, conduct or vandalism. Repeated misuse may result in permanent loss of technology privileges. Examples of these include but are not limited to the following:

1. Students should not link their Google accounts for school to any other accounts and applications other than those required for school.
2. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individual, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
3. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
4. Students shall not use electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging or other forms of direct electronic communications on school devices without the direct permission of the building administrator and/or their designee.
5. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, unauthorized on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems including, but not limited to Aimster or Freenet and the like.
6. Students shall not use school devices for financial activity of any kind.
7. Students shall not publish web pages or social media posts that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of administration.
8. Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of administration.
9. Students shall not erase, rename, alter or make unusable anyone else's electronic files, programs or drives.
10. Students shall not forge electronic mail messages, web pages, social media posts, audio messages or otherwise attempt to pass off communication as that of someone else.

11. Students shall not transmit language/material that is profane, sexual, obscene, abusive or offensive to others through school accounts such as Google and Canvas.
12. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational use.
13. Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission.
14. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software.
15. Students shall not install or download VPN's or any other tool designed to bypass safety and security filtering software or the network.
16. Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the technology department.
17. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without approval of a device request and contract.
18. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material and misuse of artificial intelligence tools.

Students have no right of privacy to any internet communications or other electronic files. As with any school property, any devices and/or electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection. Electronic mail, network usage, and all files stored on a school-issued device are not to be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by designated McCook Public Schools staff. The district will refer student misconduct to law enforcement and will cooperate fully with local, state, or federal officials in any criminal investigation, particularly those concerning or relating to violations of computer crime laws.

[By signing the signature page at the back of the handbook, I confirm that I agree to the terms and conditions of this Appropriate Use Agreement.](#)

Google:Workspace (Age 13 and Under) - McCook Junior High School

Google Workspace is a set of education productivity tools used by tens of millions of students and teachers around the world. McCook Public Schools provides a Google account for all students grades K-12. At McCook Junior High School, students will use their Google accounts to sign into Chromebooks, to complete assignments and to learn 21st century digital citizenship skills. Using their Google accounts, students may access the following services:

Google Docs, Sheets, Slides, Forms, Google Drive and Gmail.

When a student uses Google services, Google collects information based on the use of those services. This information includes device information, log information, location information, and search histories. Google uses this information to provide, maintain and protect the services. Google may also use this information to offer tailored content, such as more relevant search results. Google does not serve ads in the Core Services or use personal information collected in the Core Services for advertising purposes. The complete Google Workspace Notice to Parents and Guardians is available upon request.

Students at McCook Junior High School will **ONLY** be able to communicate and share documents with individuals inside our organization. Outside emails and other content are filtered and will not reach the students. The district also utilizes web filtering systems to further protect web searches and detect inappropriate or potentially harmful situations. McCook Public Schools works to maintain COPPA and FERPA compliance. Protecting student safety and their information is a district priority.

[By signing the signature page at the back of this handbook, I confirm that I agree to the terms and conditions of this Appropriate Use Agreement and give permission for McCook Public Schools to create and maintain a Google Workspace for Education account and other approved educational applications for my child.](#)

Receipt of standards of Conduct

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

Dear Parents:

The handbook has been especially written for the student of the McCook Public School because we feel development of good citizenship is an important part of a child's education.

The school district is required by State Law to notify all students and the parents/guardians of the rules and responsibilities students must abide by while attending school. The Federal Government also requires several notices to be given annually. The handbook fulfills this obligation.

Please read the handbook with your child. If you have any questions, please contact the principal of your child's school. After reading the handbook, please sign the line below for the parent and have your child sign the line for student. Please send the page back to school with your child.

All the items that are covered in this book will be considered known by all students and parents/guardian. The excuse "I didn't know" will not be acceptable if it concerns an item covered in this handbook.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract." The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Internet access is a privilege, not a right. Student and parent/guardian signatures are required for access. Signatures here will also serve to release the McCook Public Schools from any and all claims of any nature arising from student use of the computer network system.

[See Printable Signature Page](#)

Patricia J Dorshorst

EDUCATION

Masters of Science in Mathematics <i>Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska</i>	May 1985
Master of Science in Physical Education <i>Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska</i>	May 1983
Bachelors of Science in Mathematics and Physical Education <i>Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska</i>	May 1981
Associate of Arts <i>Eastern Wyoming College, Torrington, Wyoming</i>	May 1979

RECENT EDUCATION AND TRAINING

CANVAS

Teachers Teaching with Technology <i>Texas Instruments-Professional Development Webinar Series</i>	2015-2017
ThEMaT Online Study (Lesson Sketch) <i>University of Michigan</i>	2015
Mathematics in Career and Technology Education <i>Kansas Department of Education</i>	2010-2011
Axio-Online Teaching, Design, and Development Course <i>Kansas State University</i>	Fall 2008
National Mathematics Curriculum Consultant Network <i>Inverness Research & NCTM</i>	2007-2008

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

High School Mathematics and Physical Education Teacher/Coach <ul style="list-style-type: none">Decatur Community High School, Oberlin, KansasCourses taught: Physical Education, Algebra II, Trigonometry, Statistics, Applied Math, Geometry, CalculusSports Coached: Volleyball, Assistant Basketball, Track, Cross Country, Golf	August 1983 – 2018
Outreach Instructor	August 1989 – 2018
Online and Blended Instructor <ul style="list-style-type: none">Colby Community College, Colby, KansasCourses taught: Trigonometry, Statistics, CalculusOnline Course Taught: College AlgebraBlended Learning Course: Intermediate Algebra	August 2016 -2018
Graduate Assistant <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chadron State College, Chadron, NebraskaCourses Taught: Physical Education – Aquatics, Personal FitnessSports Coached: Assistant Volleyball Coach	August 1982 – May 1983

Mathematics Teacher

August 1981 – May 1982

- Yuma High School, Yuma, Colorado
- Courses Taught: Algebra I, Geometry
- Sports Coached: Volleyball, Assistant Basketball

RECENT HONORS, STRENGTHS, SKILLS, AND ACTIVITIES

- 2016 Kansas State Assessment Scorer
- 2016 Kansas State Assessment Question Review Committee
- 2015 Kansas Assessment Program Standard Setting Committee
- 2015 DCHS math students – Fort Hays State 2A-3A Math Relay Champions
- 2014 DCHS math students – Fort Hays State 2A-3A Math Relay Champions
- 2013 DCHS math students – Fort Hays State 2A-3A Math Relay Champions

REFERENCES

Ben Jimenez, Asst. Principal

- Manhattan High School
Manhattan, KS 67749
785-470-7142 (cell)
benjaminj@usd383.org

Brenda Breth, Principal

- Decatur Community High School
605 East Commercial
Oberlin, KS 67749
785-470-7301 (cell)
bbreth@usd294.org

Candace S. Dejmal, Retired Outreach Coordinator, Colby Community College

- 305 North Elk
Oberlin, KS 67749
785-475-4818 (cell)
785-475-2179 (home)
candy.dejmal@gmail.com

JOEL BEDNAR

jbednar@mccookbison.org | [REDACTED]

SUMMARY

Innovative and dynamic education leader with a proven track record across multiple roles, including teacher, technology director, staff developer, principal, and curriculum director. Skilled in building strong professional relationships, leading with vision, and fostering collaboration to drive student success. A strategic thinker with the ability to read people, navigate complex situations, and engage in critical conversations with clarity and purpose. Passionate about developing educators, implementing forward-thinking initiatives, and ensuring high-quality instruction through creative and data-driven decision-making.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Principal, Curriculum Director, McCook Public Schools

July 2018- Present

- Currently serving a 3 year term on State Accreditation Committee for Rule 10.
- Created a Culture of Learning and sense of belonging for students and staff at Central Elementary.
- 2024 Southwest Nebraska Area Educator of the Year
- Developed data warehouse of Criterion Referenced Tests data to show growth for school improvement and help monitor our most important data. This houses important protocols for our teachers to use to help guide instruction and the PLC process.
- Created several Google Data Dashboards internally for our district including assessment data, N-SCAS data, local Criterion Referenced Test data, textbook adoptions, parent/student records, etc.
- Organizes and often leads professional development within our district.
- Broadened our teacher mentoring program for our new teachers to make sure we grow and retain high quality teachers.
- Lead recruiter for open positions within the district.
- Organizes and leads textbook adoption cycles for the district.

Staff Developer, ESU #15

2016-2018

- Created and developed www.realframeworks.com as means to improve scores and provide lots of resources in terms of student learning and school improvement.
- NWEA Certified: Pending Spring/Summer 2018 Training, 1 of 65 people certified across the state.
- Developed a successful and sustainable PLC process for each grade level and content area across 9 districts using similar essential learnings as a framework to collaborate on.
- Created a housing system that is easy and sustainable for all districts for essential learnings, curriculum, pacing guides, etc.
- Created a Data Tracker System to show student growth for accountability and transparency purposes that can show individual/class/essential learning progress from year to year.
- Led several School Improvement meetings for schools to identify strengths and weaknesses, develop roadmaps for improvement, and provided a sustainable process for the 5 year cycle. Developed School Improvement website for 7 of the 9 districts.
- Presented in large groups locally, statewide, and nationally on various topics including PLC's, Curriculum, Technology, research on John Hattie, among other topics of interest.

Technology Director, McCook Public Schools 2012-2016
Science Teacher, 6th Grade, McCook Public Schools 2008-20012
Classroom Teacher, 5th Grade, Fire Ridge Elementary,
Elkhorn Public Schools 2006-2008

EDUCATION

Educational Specialist Degree University of Nebraska at Kearney	In Progress 6 Hours Remaining
Masters of Science in Education and Human Sciences PK-8 Principalship University of Nebraska at Kearney	2017-2019
Bachelor of Science in Education and Human Sciences University of Nebraska at Lincoln	2001-2006

KEY SKILLS

- Leadership in education, curriculum development, and instructional design
- Experience on an Elder board for McCook Evangelical Free Church
- Strong relationship-building and team collaboration skills
- Expertise in technology integration and educational innovation
- Skilled in coaching and developing educators for professional growth
- Ability to read people and navigate critical conversations effectively
- Strategic planning and data-driven decision-making
- Creative problem-solving and adaptability in dynamic environments
- Experience in staff development and district-wide instructional leadership

REFERENCES

- Grant Norgaard, Superintendent [REDACTED]
- Molly Sharp, Classroom Teacher [REDACTED]
- Greg Jerome, MEFC Board Member [REDACTED]

Molly Sharp

Dean of Students

4th Grade Teacher



SKILLS

Hardworking and determined Elementary Education Teacher/Dean of Students focused on creating a positive learning environment where students can learn and grow. Skilled in classroom management, lesson plan creation, and communication skills to engage students of all learning styles.

PHILOSOPHY TOWARDS EDUCATION

“Every student. Every day. Whatever it takes.” This has become my new philosophy for the past couple of years. This idea radiates not only in my classroom, but throughout my school building. When everyone believes in the same goal, amazing things can happen. When a teacher believes that EVERY student is capable of learning and achieving mastery, the student starts to believe it as well and that’s when growth takes place. Education is one of the most powerful tools for our children and every student should have access to a high quality education. I strive to build positive relationships with my students. Students will not learn from a teacher that they don’t like. I try to treat my students with respect and trust in order to build the foundation of the relationship. I hold my students to high expectations to help them achieve more than they thought could. I create fun learning experiences so they enjoy learning and are able to have those opportunities that they may not have otherwise.

EXPERIENCE

McCook Public Schools, McCook, Nebraska - *Dean of Students*

August 2021 - PRESENT

McCook Public Schools, McCook, Nebraska - *4th Grade Teacher*

August 2016 - PRESENT

Chase County Schools, Imperial, Nebraska - *3rd Grade Teacher*

August 2015 - May 2016

Perkins County Schools, Grant, Nebraska - *2nd Grade Teacher*

August 2014 - May 2015

Substitute Teacher

January 2014 - May 2014

EDUCATION

University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Nebraska

January 2019 - December 2021

- Principalship K-8
- GPA: 4.0/4.0

University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney, Nebraska

August 2009 - December 2013

- Elementary Education (K-6)
- Special Education (K-6)
- GPA : 3.6/4.0

COLLEGE AWARDS

- College Dean's List: Freshman - Senior
- DEA Scholarship
- Gold Torch Society Scholarship
- Henning Family Scholarship

COLLEEN OLSON

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Results-oriented 8th Math Teacher recognized for high student achievement and effective classroom management. Expertise in student engagement and individualized instruction, ready to leverage skills to create impactful learning experiences.

✉ [REDACTED]

☎ [REDACTED]

📍 [REDACTED]

SKILLS

- Adaptability and flexibility
- Effective communication
- Classroom management
- Student engagement

EDUCATION

University of Nebraska At Kearney
Kearney, NE • 05/1988

Bachelor of Arts: Elementary And Middle School Math And Science
I received my Masters Degree, plus thirty six hours in the area of education.

WORK HISTORY

McCook City Schools - 8th MathGrade Teacher
McCook, NE • 08/1990 - 05/2019

- Facilitated interactive classroom activities to enhance student participation.
- Developed engaging lesson plans to enhance student learning and comprehension.
- Implemented individualized instruction strategies to address diverse learning needs effectively.
- Implemented assessment strategies to monitor student progress effectively.
- Collaborated with colleagues to create a positive learning environment.
- Students consistently achieved high test scores year after year.
- Managed classroom behavior effectively, establishing clear expectations and consequences while fostering a respectful learning environment.
- Coached volleyball at several levels for twenty years.
- Started a Fellowship of Christian Athletes Huddle at the junior high level.
- Implemented a service learning class where students met with residents at the Hillcrest Nursing Home and met with elementary students at West Ward. Also, started a recycling program at the Junior High.

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 Board Authority for Supervision and Control

Date of Adoption: May 11, 2026

Business OperationsPurchasing 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.
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.

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

Date of Adoption: September 9, 2024

Business Operations

Procurement Plan – School Food Authorities

The following procurement policy statement shall govern all purchasing activities that relate to any aspect of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. This statement is meant to provide guidance to our personnel and vendors on acceptable and/or required procurement practices. Our goal is to fully implement all required and recommended procurement rules, regulations and policies set forth in 2 CFR 200, 7 CFR parts 210, 3016 and 3019, and by the State Agency.

Procurement Policy

The purchasing procedure to be followed shall be determined by the anticipated total annual expenditure on items related to the food service program:

- When the annual total for food service program related items is less than \$350,000 (simplified acquisition threshold) per procurement event or in aggregate purchases this organization will follow the informal simplified acquisition threshold procedures.
- When the annual total for food service program related items is greater than \$350,000 (simplified acquisition threshold) per year per procurement event or in aggregate purchases this organization will follow the Formal Competitive Solicitation Procedures.

Micro-Purchase Procedures

Micro-Purchases may be used for single purchases under \$15,000 made with a vendor [2 CFR 200.320(a)].

Prices will be reviewed for reasonableness [2 CFR 200.320(a)].

Purchases will be spread equitably among all qualified sources [2 CFR 200.320(a)].

Simplified Acquisition Threshold Procedures

For purchases made below the simplified acquisition threshold, simplified acquisition threshold Procedures will be utilized to purchase necessary goods and services. When simplified acquisition threshold Procedures are used, this organization will take the following steps:

1. Contact a reasonable number of qualified vendors.
2. Write specifications for goods and services.
3. Document each vendor's quoted price. (ex. log sheet)
3. Select the company that provides the lowest, most responsive, and responsible bid.
4. Document supplier who was awarded the quote.
5. Manage orders by confirming product and prices match quotes.

Formal Competitive Solicitation Procedures

For purchases made in excess of the simplified acquisition threshold, a Formal Competitive Solicitation will be conducted. When Formal Competitive Solicitation Procedures are used, this organization will take the following steps:

1. Prepare an Invitation for Bid (“IFB”) or Request for Proposal (“RFP”) document specifically addressing the items to be procured
 - a. Include detailed specifications
 - b. Ensure price will be most heavily weighted
2. Publicly announce and advertise the bid/proposal at least 21 calendar days prior to bid opening
 - a. Announcements will include the date, time and location in which bids will be opened
3. Determine the most responsive and responsible bid/proposal by using the selection criteria set forth in the bid/proposal document
 - a. Responsible bidders will be those whose bid/proposal conform to all of the terms, conditions and requirements of the IFB/RFP
 - b. Responsible bidders will be those who are capable of performing successfully under the terms and conditions of the contract.
4. Award the contract
 - a. To the most responsive and responsible bidder based on the criteria set forth in the IFB/RFP
 - b. At least two weeks before program operations begin
 - c. If a protest is received, it must be handled in accordance with 7 CFR 210.21
5. Retain all records pertaining to the formal competitive bid process for a period of five years plus the current year

(Note: If the simplified acquisition threshold established in the sponsor’s procurement policy statement is less than **\$350,000**, the smaller bid threshold will govern.)

Procurement Summary

This organization incorporates the following elements into the Procurement Policy Statement, as required by 2 CFR 200 and 7 CFR parts 210, 3016 and 3019.

- A. Competition: We shall demonstrate our goods and services are procured in an openly competitive manner. Competition will not be unreasonably restricted. [7 CFR 210.21(c)(1)] [2 CFR Part 200.319(a)(1-7)]
- B. Comparability: We recognize for true competition to take place, we must maintain reasonable product specifications to adequately describe the products to be purchased and the volume of planned purchases based upon pre-planned menu cycles. [2 CFR 200.319(a)(6)]

- C. Documentation: We shall maintain for the current year and the preceding three years all significant materials that will serve to document our policies and procedures. [2 CFR 200.318(i)]
- D. Code of Conduct: This program shall be governed by the attached Code of Conduct and it shall apply to all personnel, employees, directors, agents, officers, volunteers or any person(s) acting in any capacity concerning the food service procurement program. [2 CFR 200.318(c)(1)]
- E. Contract Administration: Purchases shall be checked or verified by designated staff to assure that all goods and services are received and prices verified. All invoices and receipts shall be signed, dated, and maintained in the documentation file. [2 CFR Part 200.318(b)]
- G. General Requirements:
1. Small, minority, veteran-owned and women's businesses enterprises and labor surplus firms are used when possible. [2 CFR 200.321]
 2. Ensure compliance with the Buy American Provision when purchasing food 7 CFR 210.21(d).
 3. A cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of the Simplified Acquisition Threshold including contract modifications. [2 CFR 200.323(a)]
 4. Documented Procurement Procedures and activities will be maintained. [2 CFR 200.318(a)]
- H. Duties of Food Service Supervisor:
1. Plan the goods or services needed for the school food service program for the school year based on planned menus through needs assessment, forecasting and budgeting.
 2. Develop written specifications for food/supplies needed. Include details such as descriptions and product requirements (e.g. packaging, weight, pack size, etc.) for needed goods or services.
 3. Compare product specifications among all vendors/contractors. Information for prices obtained from grocery stores, farmer's markets, etc.
 4. Make procurement awards based on the lowest and best vendor's response as determined by quality, availability, service, and price.
 5. Place and confirm orders with vendors or make plans to purchase the required items.
 6. To make procurement awards based on the lowest and best vendor's response as determined by quality, availability, service and price.
 7. To work with vendors on a fair and equal basis.
 8. To conduct an in-house procurement review once per year.

Date of Adoption: July 14, 2025 **Reapproved March 11, 2026**

Business OperationsInternal Controls

The District will develop and maintain internal control procedures as required by law and in accordance with sound fiscal monitoring practices that will ensure appropriate oversight of state and federal funds. The following internal control procedures will be utilized for all federal grants:

Generally: If the District receives federal awards, grants, or other funds, the District will:

- (a) Establish and maintain effective internal control over the federal award that provides reasonable assurance that the District manages the federal award in compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. The District will endeavor to develop and maintain these internal controls consistent with the “Standards for Internal Control in the Federal Government” issued by the Comptroller General of the United States or the “Internal Control Integrated Framework” issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO);
- (b) Comply with the U.S. Constitution, federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award;
- (c) Evaluate and monitor the District's compliance with statutes, regulations and the terms and conditions of federal award;
- (d) Take prompt action when instances of noncompliance are identified including noncompliance identified in audit findings; and
- (e) Take reasonable measures to safeguard protected personally identifiable information and other information the federal awarding agency, or pass-through entity, designates as “sensitive” or the District considers sensitive, consistent with applicable federal, state, and local laws regarding privacy and responsibility over confidentiality.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200.303.

Management requirements: The District will manage equipment (including replacement equipment), whether acquired in whole or in part under a federal award, until the District disposes of such equipment. The District will, as a minimum, meet the following requirements:

- 1) Maintain property records of the equipment (including equipment description, serial number or other identification number, source of funding, acquisition date, and the like);
- 2) Maintain a physical inventory procedure, with an inventory occurring at a minimum of every two (2) years;
- 3) Implement a Control System procedure;

- 4) Continue to develop and implement adequate maintenance procedures for the equipment;
- 5) Continue to develop and implement sales procedures for the equipment; and
- 6) Continue to develop and implement disposition procedure for the equipment.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.313 & 200.33.

Procurement: The District will use its own documented procurement procedures which reflect applicable State, local, and tribal laws and regulations, provided that the procurements conform to applicable Federal law and the requirement standards imposed by law, including:

- 1) A procedure for micro-purchases (Under \$15,000);
- 2) A procedure for simplified acquisition thresholds (between \$15,000 to \$350,000);
- 3) A procedure for sealed bids (over \$350,000);
- 4) A procedure for competitive proposals (with an explanation for why sealed bids were not accepted if over \$350,000); and
- 5) A procedure for noncompetitive bids.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.317 through 200.326.

Cross-Reference: Policies 3130 & 3131.

Record Retention: Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other related records pertinent to a federal award will be retained for a period of three (3) years from the date of submission of the final expenditure report or, for Federal awards that are renewed quarterly or annually, from the date of the submission of the quarterly or annual financial report, respectively, as reported to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity in the case of a sub-recipient.

For all other records, the District will retain such records for the length of time as required by law.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

Suspension and Debarment: The District will not contract with any entity or individual who has been debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in federal assistance programs or activities. Before entering into a contract regarding a federal award, the District will verify that a vendor has not been debarred, suspended or otherwise excluded, and the District will maintain a copy of said verification.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200.213.

Financial Management: The District will maintain financial management systems to account for the federal funds, including records documenting compliance with federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the federal award. These records will be sufficient to permit the District to prepare reports required by general and program-specific terms and conditions; and the tracing of funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that such funds have been used according to the Federal statutes, regulations, and the terms and conditions of the Federal award. The financial management system will provide for the following:

- 1) Identifying all of the federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received;
- 2) Ensuring that accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program are maintained in accordance with reporting requirements;
- 3) Identifying adequately the source and application of funds for federally-funded activities;
- 4) Ensuring effective controls over and accountability for all funds, property, and other assets;
- 5) Comparing actual expenditures with budget amounts for each federal award;
- 6) Ensuring payments of federal funds are made in accordance with applicable law, including 2 CFR § 200.305; and
- 7) Determining the allowability of costs in accordance with applicable law and the conditions of the federal award.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200.302.

Program Income: The District will consult with the federal awarding agency and refer to the applicable law and federal program terms and conditions to determine how to account for, deduct and otherwise handle income from federal programs.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200.307.

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

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

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200.306.

Compensation: Compensation for personal services includes all remuneration for services of employees rendered during the period of performance under the federal award, including, but not limited to wages, salaries, and fringe benefits. Costs of compensation may be allowable under federal law and the federal grant to the extent that they satisfy the following requirements:

- 1) Is reasonable for the services rendered; and

- 2) Conforms to the established written expectations of the District, as applied consistently to both Federal and non-Federal activities.

If the District intends to charge compensation to federal awards, such charges will be based on records that accurately reflect the work performed, and will:

- 1) Be supported by a system of internal control which provides reasonable assurance that the charges are accurate, allowable, and properly allocated;
- 2) Be incorporated into the official records of the District;
- 3) Reasonably reflect the total activity for which the employee is compensated by the District, not exceeding 100% of compensated activities;
- 4) Encompass both federally-assisted and all other activities compensated by the District on an integrated basis, but may include the use of subsidiary records as defined in the District's written procedures;
- 5) Comply with the established accounting policies and practices of the District; and
- 6) Differentiate and account for the distribution of the employee's salary or wages among specific activities or cost objectives if the employee works on more than one (1) Federal award; a Federal award and non-Federal award; an indirect cost activity and a direct cost activity; two (2) or more indirect activities which are allocated using different allocation bases; or an unallowable activity and a direct or indirect cost activity.

Budget estimates will generally not be used to support charges to Federal awards but may be used for interim accounting purposes.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. §§ 200.430 & 200.431.

Federal Funds for Construction Projects: For all federal awards, the District will comply with all applicable legal requirements, including the Davis-Bacon Act.

Legal Reference: 34 C.F.R. § 75.600, et seq.

Capitalization and Depreciation: The District will follow the rules for selected items of cost at 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Subpart E, when charging these specific expenditures to a federal grant. When applicable, District staff will check costs against the selected items of cost requirements to ensure the cost is allowable. In addition, federal, state, or program-specific rules, including the terms and conditions of the award, may deem a cost as unallowable and District personnel shall follow those requirements. The following rules of allowability apply to equipment and other capital expenditures:

- A. Capital expenditures for general purpose equipment, buildings, and land are unallowable as direct charges, except with the prior written approval of the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.
- B. Capital expenditures for special purpose equipment are allowable as direct costs, provided that items with a unit cost of \$5,000 or more have the prior written approval of the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.

C. Capital expenditures for improvements to land, buildings, or equipment which materially increase their value or useful life are unallowable as a direct cost except with the prior written approval of the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity.

D. Allowability of depreciation on buildings, capital improvements, and equipment shall be in accordance with 2 CFR § 200.436 and 2 CFR § 200.465.

E. When approved as a direct cost by the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity under Sections A - C, capital expenditures will be charged in the period in which the expenditure is incurred, or as otherwise determined appropriate and negotiated with the Federal awarding agency.

F. If the District is instructed by the federal awarding agency to otherwise dispose of or transfer the equipment, the costs of such disposal or transfer are allowable.

G. Any depreciation will be computed, charged, and recorded in a manner consistent with federal regulations and any requirements of the federal awarding agency.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. §§200.436 & 200.439.

Maintaining Records: Financial records, supporting documents, statistical records, and all other District records pertinent to a federal award must be retained for the minimum period time as required by federal law or the terms of the federal awarding agency, whichever is longer in time.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200.334.

Conflict of Interest: Notwithstanding any other Board Policies or Procedures, the District shall ensure that it avoids any conflicts of interest regarding any federal awards. The District will disclose in writing any potential conflict of interest to the federal awarding agency or pass-through entity in accordance with applicable federal awarding agency policy.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200.112.

Unexpected or Extraordinary Circumstances: For all federal awards, if the District does not currently have in place a sufficient policy that addresses extraordinary circumstances, such as those caused by COVID-19, the District may amend or create a policy at a later date in order to put emergency contingencies in place for federal and non-federal similarly situated employees. If the conditions exist for charges to be made to the federal grant, then charges may also be made to any non-federal sources that are used by the District in order to meet a matching requirement. The District will take other steps to comply with federal award requirements in the event of unexpected or extraordinary circumstances.

Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200, et seq.

Travel Costs: Travel costs (including transportation, lodging, subsistence, and related items) incurred by an employee who travels on official business for a federal award may only be charged to the federal award on an actual cost basis, a per diem or mileage basis, or on a combination of the two, provided the method used is applied to an entire trip and not to selected days of the trip. The District will ensure that the method used will be consistent with the method normally allowed in similar circumstances in the District's other travel and Board Policies. Any

travel costs charged directly to a federal award must be documented to justify that (1) the individual's participation is necessary for the federal award and (2) the costs are reasonable and consistent with the District's travel costs and expectations. All travel costs must be reasonable and not in excess of what the District typically allows for other travel. All reasonable rates and amounts will be consistent with the rates and amounts established under 5 U.S.C. 5701-11.
Legal Reference: 2 C.F.R. § 200.475

Date of Adoption: September 13, 2025 Reapproved May 11, 2026

Business OperationsRecords 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: May 11, 2026

Assignment of Students: Grade Placement and Transfer Students

Assignment of Students

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

Grade Level Placement and Credits

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

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

Transfers from State Accredited or State Approved Schools

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

Transfers from Non-Accredited or Approved Schools

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

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

4. Teacher evaluation of student competency

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

Class Rank

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

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

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

Class rank is maintained for the 9th through 12th grades. Class rank is based on the McCook Public Schools G.P.A. To be considered for class ranking and any honors or awards which are based on class rank or G.P.A. (e.g., Valedictorian), students must complete a minimum of four semesters of attendance at McCook Public Schools.

Graduation

It shall be the responsibility of the High School Principal to determine eligibility for graduation, subject to review by the Superintendent.

To receive a diploma from McCook Public Schools students must meet all district and state requirements for graduation. These credits must come from a state accredited or state approved school that is recognized by a state department of education in which the student resides at the time the course is taken. Those requirements are as follows:

Total Credits of 230.

Forty (40) credit hours of English

Thirty (30) credit hours of Social Studies

Thirty (30) credit hours of Science

STUDENTS

Policy No. 5003

Thirty (30) credit hours of Mathematics

Ten (10) credit hours of Physical Education

Five (5) credit hours of Speech

Five (5) credit hours of Personal Finance

Five (5) credit hours of Computer Science beginning with the class of 2028.

Students transferring from schools which are not state accredited or state approved (e.g., home schools) must also meet the following requirements to earn a diploma in addition to the general graduation requirements listed above: complete at least 30 credit hours of courses taken at McCook Public Schools with the final 25 credits being earned from McCook Public Schools during that student's last semester.

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

Date of Adoption: May 11, 2026

Students

Full-time and Part-time Enrollment

Full-time Enrollment

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

Exceptions are permitted only for:

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

Part-Time Enrollment of Non-Public School Students

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

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

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

educational services to be provided to full-time students.

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

A. Non-Public School Student Enrollment Application Procedures.

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

that enrollment will be continued from one year to the next.

B. Non-Public School Student Admission

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

C. Non-Public School Student Enrollment Standards

1. Maximum Enrollment. **Subject to Paragraph D.9 of this Policy,** students may not enroll in more than 2 middle school or high school courses during any one semester. Elementary students may not enroll in programming of greater than 90 minutes of instruction each day.
2. Capacity Limits. Enrollment will ordinarily be subject to capacity limits. Any grade level, program, or course which has been determined to be at capacity for option enrollment purposes will ordinarily not be available for non-public school students.
3. Integrated Courses. Students must meet prerequisite requirements to be enrolled in a course by appropriate credits earned through an accredited program. The principal may on a discretionary basis allow prerequisite requirements to be satisfied where the student provides reasonable indications that the academic criteria have been met, such as results from achievement tests or other indications of adequate preparation.
4. Educationally Appropriate Programs and Courses. Students will not be allowed to enroll in programs or courses which the school administration determines to not be educationally appropriate for the student. Determination of whether a program or course is educationally appropriate will be made based on the standards the District uses for making academic placement decisions.
5. Selection of Courses. Subject to Paragraphs 1 through 4 of this Paragraph C, and all other applicable provisions of this Policy, non-public school students may select their courses.

D. Non-Public School Student Policies

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

eligible to graduate or receive a diploma from the District or receive academic honors (for example, class rank and honor roll) except to the extent the student meets all requirements of the District's policies for such, including attainment of minimum credits and semesters of attendance.

9. Extracurricular Activities. Any student who is a resident of the District and who is enrolled in a school which elects pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet accreditation or approval requirements may participate in any of the District's extracurricular activity programs to the same extent and subject to the same requirements, conditions, and procedures as a full-time student in the District. 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. 79-2,136 and Sec. 79-526
LB 705, § 75
Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10

Date of Adoption: May 11, 2026

StudentsStudent Residence, Admission and Contracting for Educational Services

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

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

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

3. Approved for option enrollment into the School District.

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

1. The student is not a resident of the School District and is a resident of Nebraska. Such enrollment shall be pursuant to a contract between the Boards of Education of the School District and the school district in which the student is a resident and upon the collection of tuition pursuant to such contract. The amount of tuition shall be no less than the average cost per pupil as determined by the previous year's financial report.
2. The student is not a resident of the School District and is a resident of another State. Such enrollment shall be subject to collection of tuition in advance at a rate determined by the Superintendent.
3. The student is participating in an approved Foreign Exchange Program.
4. The student is a child of a member of the military on active duty and residing on certain property ceded to the United States and stationed in, near or adjacent to the School District, and children of employees of the federal government residing in Nebraska on national parks or national monuments within the State in, near or

adjacent to the School District. Such discretionary admission shall be without charge for tuition.

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

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

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

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

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

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 9
 LB 937 (2026)

Date of Adoption: May 11, 2026

StudentsOption EnrollmentA. Process and Timelines to Option In

For a student to attend [Name] Public Schools as an option enrollment student, the student's parent or legal guardian must submit an application to the Board of Education of the McCook Public School District between September 1 and March 15 for enrollment 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.

Waiver

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

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

B. Rejection of Applications; Reasons

1. Capacity: An option enrollment application shall be rejected 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: (Release unless Expulsion is Pending):

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

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 McCook Public School District, the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall provide written notification to the parent or guardian stating the reasons for the rejection and the process for appealing such rejection to the State Board of Education. Such notification shall be sent by certified mail.

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

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

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

Date of Adoption: May 11, 2026

StudentsAsthma, Anaphylaxis, and Allergic Reaction Protocol

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

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

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

The parent or guardian of a student of minority age may sign a waiver requesting that their student not receive emergency treatment under this protocol.

The Superintendent or designee shall further develop and implement protocols to address anaphylaxis and the emergency use of epinephrine at school buildings and school-sponsored activities. A school nurse or trained staff member may administer epinephrine to any individual believed to be experiencing anaphylaxis. These protocols will also address the District's response, documentation, notification, and reporting any instances of administering epinephrine. The District will continue to implement individualized health or Section 504 plans for students with known severe allergies, and nothing in this policy limits rights or accommodations under Section 504, the ADA, or the IDEA.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 59.006
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-227

Date of Adoption: May 11, 2026

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

McCook Public School District

Student Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

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

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

DATED: _____

Signature of Parent/Guardian/Custodian

DATED: _____

Signature of Physician

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

Internal Board Policies - OrganizationAnnual Organizational Meeting

- A. An organizational meeting of the McCook School District Board of Education shall be held on or before the third Monday of January of each year for the purposes of seating any new members and electing officers.

The following are procedures for election of officers and other business to take place at the annual organizational meeting of the Board:

1. After new Board members are sworn in, the Board will elect from its members a President, Vice President, and Secretary, and if it is determined by the Board of Education to be needed an ex officio secretary and treasurer and those elected will assume office at the organizational meeting.

Upon call for nominations for each office by the Chair, nominations shall be made by written or oral ballot. Voting will be by oral or written ballot on all members nominated and repeated until a majority is achieved for a nominee. If no member receives a majority of 1 hour, the Board member who was the President of the Board during the immediately preceding term shall continue as President. In the event that the previous Board President is no longer a Board member, then the Vice President from the immediately preceding term shall become the President. In the event that both the prior President and Vice President are no longer members of the Board, then the longest tenured Board member shall serve as President. The vote may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

2. The President shall assume the chair immediately upon the President's election.
3. The motions for the officer elections should read: Move that _____ be elected as _____ (name of office) to serve a term of one year, or until the person's successor is elected and qualified.

- B. take action to select District newspaper(s) _____ of record

5. Approval of current Board policies and regulations
6. Dissemination to each Board member of conflict of interest state statutes
7. Adjournment

The order of the meeting may be as follows:

1. Call to order and roll call
2. Oath of office for most recently elected board members
3. Elections
 - a. President
 - b. Vice president
 - c. Secretary
 - d. Appointment of Ex. officio secretary and treasurer
4. Approval of committees, positions, and designations
 - a. Consider, discuss and take action to select Legal counsel
 - b. Consider, discuss and take action to select Depository bank
 - c. Designate the method of advance notice of Board meetings
5. Dissemination to each Board member of conflict of interest state statutes
6. Next meeting item

Date of Adoption: May 11, 2026

Internal Board Policies - Methods of OperationDesignated 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: May 11, 2026

THE GRAFF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

P.O. BOX 1208
MCCOOK, NEBRASKA 69001

220 Norris Avenue • McCook, Nebraska 69001

MNB



www.mnb.net
76-78/1041

4/17/2026

1133

PAY TO THE ORDER OF McCook Public Schools

One Thousand and 00/100 *****

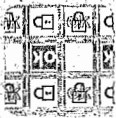
McCook Public Schools

\$ 1,000.00

DOLLARS

MEMO

2026 Grant (Restricted for Girls Tennis Program)



[Handwritten Signature]
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE



Security features. Details on back.

THE GRAFF CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

McCook Public Schools

2026 Grant (Restricted for Girls Tennis Program)

4/17/2026

1133

1,000.00

MNB IB #382036

2026 Grant (Restricted for Girls Tennis Program)

1,000.00

SECURITY FEATURES INCLUDE TRUE WATERMARK PAPER, HEAT SENSITIVE ICON AND FOIL HOLOGRAM.

Pinnacle Bank
78-1391/1049

22144

CTE Construction, LLC
PO Box 106
Mc Cook, NE 69001-0106

CHECKSAFE

4/15/2026

PAY TO THE ORDER OF McCook School Lunch Program

\$ **1,250.00

One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty and 00/100 ***** DOLLARS

McCook School Lunch Program

MEMO



Susan Hancock
AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE



CTE Construction, LLC

22144

McCook School Lunch Program

4/15/2026

Roofing with a purpose funds

1,250.00

CTE/Pinnacle Bank

1,250.00