

Sandy Creek Public Schools Staff Handbook

2025-2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION.....	2
DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS.....	2
THREAT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE.....	3
POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING ALL STAFF.....	6
Introduction: Board Policies, Rules, and Directives.....	6
Accidents and Injuries.....	7
Activity Accounts and Fundraising.....	7
Activity Tickets.....	7
Agents, Salesmen and Other Business Representatives.....	7
Announcements and Circulars.....	8
Child Abuse.....	8
Complaint Procedure.....	8
Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities.....	13
Bad Faith or Serial Filings.....	14
Computers and the Internet: Acceptable Use by Staff - 4012.....	14
Conflict of Interest - 4053.....	15
Contact Information.....	15
Copyright and Fair Use.....	15
Corporal Punishment.....	15
Crisis Response Team - 3039 Threat Assessment Team Concept.....	16
Disability Leave (Short-Term).....	16
Discrimination and Harassment.....	16
Driving (both school and personal vehicles) - 4060.....	17
Drug and Alcohol Testing.....	18
Duty to Report.....	19
Electronic Communication While Driving - 4060.....	19
Expenses.....	19
Family and Medical Leave (FMLA).....	20
Hours.....	20
In-School Communication.....	20
Intellectual Property.....	20
Jury and Witness Duty Leave.....	20

Keys and Security.....	21
Meals Program.....	21
Military Leaves of Absence.....	21
Milk Expression.....	22
News and Press Releases.....	22
Obligations Related to American Civics Instruction.....	22
Outside Employment.....	22
Political Activities.....	23
Pregnant or Parenting Students.....	23
Professional Boundaries Between Staff and Students - 4043.....	23
Professional Growth.....	24
Purchasing.....	24
Records and Reports - 5016.....	25
Recordings of Students and Classrooms - 3059.....	25
School Property - 3014.....	25
Smoking on School Premises or at School Activities - 3016.....	25
Sniffer (Drug) Dogs.....	25
Social Media Usage by Staff - 4012.....	25
Solicitation and Distribution of Merchandise.....	26
Staff Work Rooms and Lounge.....	26
Student Interviews.....	26
Telephones.....	26
Ticket Taking.....	26
Transportation Request Forms.....	26
Visitors.....	27
Wage and Salary Payments.....	27
Weather-Related Closings.....	28
Workplace Searches.....	28
Absences.....	29
Assemblies.....	30
Assignment of Teachers.....	30
Certificates, Teacher Contracts, Salary Information.....	30
Cheating.....	31
Check-out Forms.....	31
Class Record Books.....	31
Classroom Sanitation.....	32

Coaching Supplies.....	32
Collection of Student Money.....	33
Community Involvement.....	33
Display of Classroom Work in the School and the Community.....	33
Duties of Certified Staff.....	33
Extracurricular Activities.....	34
Evacuations.....	35
Evaluations - 4030 and 4031.....	36
Examinations.....	36
Faculty Meetings.....	36
Field Trip Request Forms - 6027.....	36
Sandy Creek Grading Policy.....	37
Eligibility Grades 6 -12.....	38
Guest Lecturers.....	38
Hall Duty.....	38
Homework Policy.....	39
Lesson Plans.....	39
Media Center.....	39
Paraeducators.....	39
Parent-Teacher Communication.....	40
Parking.....	40
Parties.....	40
Planning Time.....	40
PowerSchool.....	41
Private Tutoring.....	41
Projection Maps.....	41
Pupils' Records.....	42
Rights of Certified and Probationary Teachers.....	42
School Day.....	42
Sponsors.....	43
Student Activities.....	43
Student Aides.....	43
Student Attendance.....	44
Student Attire.....	44
Student Illness.....	44
Student Medication.....	44
Student Searches.....	45

Substitute Teaching During Planning Period.....	45
Teaching Controversial Issues.....	45
Textbooks.....	46
At-Will Employment.....	47
Bereavement Leave.....	47
Holidays - 4040 and 4040.1.....	47
Hours.....	47
Overtime and Compensatory Time.....	48
Leave Time Benefits.....	48
Reporting When School is Closed.....	48
Sick Leave.....	48
Vacation.....	48

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school district calendar is linked to the [school website](#).

INTRODUCTION

This handbook provides information to persons who are employed by the school district and are referred to in this handbook as employees, staff, or staff members. It is designed to provide practical information about the daily operation of the schools in the district and contains building and district directories, safety and emergency information, as well as district policies and procedures. Each staff member should carefully review this handbook. The administration and the board of education continually review policies and procedures, so staff members should discuss comments, concerns, or suggestions about this handbook with their building principal or another member of the administrative staff.

This handbook does not create a “contract” of employment. Staff positions and assignments that do not require a teaching certificate or are not otherwise governed by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an at-will basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except a contract approved by the board of education.

Many situations may arise that are not covered by this handbook. In those instances, staff members should use their own good judgment or consult with the administration. If any information contained in this handbook conflicts with board policy or state statute, the policy or statute will govern.

The provisions in this handbook are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education. From time to time, you may receive updated information concerning changes in the handbook. These updates should be kept within the handbook so that all procedures can be kept up to date. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please ask your supervisor or the Superintendent for assistance.

Your suggestions about ways to improve the school are welcome and will always be considered.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the:

ADA/Title II Coordinator: Stephen Grizzle at 1-402-726-2151, stephen.grizzle@sandycreek.us or in person at school.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator: Mrs. Amanda Skalka at 402-726-2412, amanda.skalka@sandycreek.us, 30671 HWY, Fairfield NE 68938 or in person at school. The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: [[Notice of Nondiscrimination](#)]

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact:

Title VI Coordinator: Stephen Grizzle at 1-402-726-2151, stephen.grizzle@sandycreek.us or in person at school.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the Superintendent: Stephen Grizzle at 1-402-726-2151, stephen.grizzle@sandycreek.us or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053 – Nondiscrimination.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS

It is vitally important to have a healthy workforce that is free from the effects of illegal drugs. The use or possession of unlawful drugs in the workplace has a very detrimental effect upon safety and morale of the affected employee, coworkers, and the public at large; and on productivity and the quality of work.

Federal law requires this school district, as a recipient of federal funds, to maintain a drug-free workplace. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in the district's workplace is prohibited. The term "workplace" includes every location where district employees may be found during their working hours or while they are on duty, regardless of whether the location is within the geographic boundaries of the district. Any employee who violates this policy will be disciplined with measures up to and including discharge. The district may, in its sole discretion, require or allow an employee who violates this policy to participate in and satisfactorily complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

The district shall provide every current employee with a copy of this policy, and shall provide each newly hired employee with a copy upon hiring. Every employee shall be required to signify receipt of a copy of the policy in writing. All district employees must abide by this policy, including those who are not directly engaged in the performance of work pursuant to a federal grant.

An employee must notify his/her supervisor of any conviction of a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace within five days. The failure to report such a conviction will be grounds for dismissal. If the employee convicted of such an offense is engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the provisions of a federal grant, the district shall notify the grant agency within 10 days of receiving notice of a conviction from the affected employee or of receiving actual notice of such a conviction.

THREAT ASSESSMENT AND RESPONSE

Team Concept

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for

members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. **Definitions**

- a. A **threat** is an expression of a willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.
 - i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.
 - ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
 - iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.
- b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of identifying and responding to serious threats in a systematic, data-informed way.
 - i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
 - ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. **Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.**

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such reports regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

3. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of Superintendent, Principal, Counselor, Teacher, Coach, and LMHP. Not every team member needs to participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations. The threat assessment team shall be familiar with mental health resources available to students, staff and patrons and shall collaborate with local mental health service providers as appropriate.

4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

When a threat is reported, the school administrator shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and, in consultation with members of the threat assessment team, make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The school administrator must contact law enforcement if the administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the threat assessment team will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The team may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the team will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The team is authorized to disclose the results of its investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The team may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of its investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and Nebraska law.

5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

The team will keep members of the school community appropriately informed about substantive threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, or communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

6. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The threat assessment team will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's All-Hazard School Safety Plan.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING ALL STAFF

Introduction: Board Policies, Rules, and Directives

The board of education has adopted policies that govern the operation of the school district. A complete policy manual is available on the district's website or in the main administrative office. These manuals will be updated as the board adopts new policies or modifies existing policies. In particular,

the 4000 series deals with policies that affect personnel. Additionally, the Board has authorized the Superintendent and his or her designee to adopt rules and directives regarding the conduct of students, staff, and other persons. Many of these rules and directives are published in the Student Handbook, Staff Handbook, and Activity Handbook, respectively. Each of these handbooks are available on the district's website and in the main administrative office. **By signing below, you agree that you have read and understood these policies, handbooks, rules, and directives, their application to you, and that you have had an opportunity to discuss any questions with the administration.**

Accidents and Injuries

Staff must inform the building office immediately of all accidents and/or injuries to students or staff, and complete the appropriate accident form that is available from the office secretary. The accident form must be returned to the office within twenty-four hours.

Activity Accounts and Fundraising

Activity accounts are handled through the superintendent's office. No student or sponsor may make any purchase without a signed purchase order from the superintendent. **Purchases made without permission are the personal obligation and responsibility of the purchaser.**

The superintendent is responsible for authorizing any fundraising on the part of student activities. **No fundraising may occur without express administrative permission.**

Activity Tickets

All staff, spouses, and their school-age children will be admitted to home games free of charge. Activity tickets will be issued to staff through the building offices.

Agents, Salesmen and Other Business Representatives

All business representatives calling on school matters must obtain permission from the superintendent or building principal before conferring with staff. Staff must determine whether the business representative has been granted permission before discussing business matters. Classroom teachers may not interrupt class work to confer with such representatives.

Staff may not use school time or school facilities for any personal activity for personal financial gain or confer with any business representative for personal business during school time.

Announcements and Circulars

No announcements shall be made before any school group without authorization of the principal or superintendent.

Any circulars or advertising displayed within the school shall have the approval of the building principal or superintendent before posting.

Child Abuse

School employees who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect will report the suspected abuse or neglect according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately. Employees shall also personally report or cause a report to be made to local law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. When the principal makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, he/she shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report.
3. Nothing in the paragraph above shall hinder a school employee from fulfilling his/her/their obligation to report suspected abuse or neglect if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.
4. Any doubt or question in reporting such cases shall be resolved in the favor of reporting the suspected abuse or neglect. Consultation between the administrator and school employee is encouraged, keeping in mind that prompt reporting is essential.

Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to complaints unless the complaint is subject to a different procedure required by law, policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When those efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status,

disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth in any specific policy addressing those areas or the procedures set forth below. Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

References to "coordinator" in this policy refer to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if the complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject the complainant or the complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
 - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
 - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
 - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or

age may also be submitted at any time during the complaint procedure to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.

3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - 1) [Complaint Form – BOE Policy 2006](#)
 - c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:
 - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
 - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.

4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.
 - a) The appeal must be in writing.
 - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.
 - c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate..
 - d) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.
5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:
 - a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;

- b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
- c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.

- d) This appeal must be in writing.
 - e) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
 - f) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
 - g) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.
 - h) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.
6. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
- a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate

handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.

- b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
- c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.
- d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.
- e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

No Retaliation. The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to

challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings

The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

Computers and the Internet: Acceptable Use by Staff - 4012

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. Staff members must refer to and comply with the board policy 4012. Staff should also refer to and comply with the board policy regarding Staff and District Social Media Use 4051.

Conflict of Interest - 4053

All staff members are subject to the board's policy governing conflict of interest. That policy provides, in part, that no employee shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the employee would thereby be influenced.

Contact Information

Staff are required to keep the district informed of any change in their name, address, telephone or other contact information. Contact the building secretary to report a change.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Staff members must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on behalf of the district. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Staff who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review *Reproduction of Copyrighted Works by Educators and Librarians* from the U.S. Copyright Office found at <https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ21.pdf> and *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is the infliction of bodily pain as a penalty for disapproved behavior, and is prohibited by law. Some physical contact is inevitable, and most of it is appropriate. Corporal punishment does not include the use of physical force that is reasonable and necessary to (1) protect school employees; (2) protect students or property; or (3) remove a student from a situation that endangers the student, persons, or property. Staff members should promptly report any event that required the use of physical force to their building principal.

Crisis Response Team - 3039 Threat Assessment Team Concept

Any staff member appointed by the district administration will serve on the Crisis Response Team as outlined in the board policies. The Crisis Response Team serves a vital role in supporting the district's staff and students. It is the responsibility of the appointed staff member to discuss with the district administration any circumstances that may affect the staff member's ability to perform the tasks required by board policy.

Disability Leave (Short-Term)

Short-term disability leave will be treated in the manner required by state and federal law and consistent with the negotiated agreement with the school district's local education association. Short-Term Disability leave will run concurrently with FMLA leave.

Discrimination and Harassment

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects an employee's employment opportunities. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: [redacted] Grades PK-5 Mr. Wiechman at 402-726-2412, joe.wiechman@sandycreek.us or in person at school [redacted] Grades 6-12 Mr. Searle at 402-726-2151, jason.searle@sandycreek.us or in person at school.

Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Mrs. Amanda Skalka at 402-726-2412, amanda.skalka@sandycreek.us, 30671 HWY 14, Fairfield NE 68938 or in person at school. The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: [\[Notice of Nondiscrimination\]](#)

Employees who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the Title VI Coordinator: Mr. Stephen Grizzle at 402-726-2412, stephen.grizzle@sandycreek.us, 30671 HWY 14, Fairfield NE 68938 or in person at school. Employees may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator

or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Driving (both school and personal vehicles) - 4060

The transportation of students in a pupil transportation vehicle is governed by the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district's safe pupil transportation plan or safety and security plan. School district employees, board members, and other elected or appointed school district officials who are not transporting children are authorized to use a school district vehicle to travel to a designated location or to their home when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. Staff should refer to the board policy regarding the use of school vehicles.

Staff members who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal automobile to transport students must have a valid driver's license and proof of insurance. Staff members will be provided a Driver's Certification form to verify this information. Staff members who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Staff members are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting students. Please see the school district's policy on school vehicle use for further information.

Drivers for the school district must be free from drug and alcohol use or abuse. The school district will test drivers as permitted under state and federal law and in accordance with board policy.

Dress Code - 4041

The attire worn by staff members conveys an important image to students and the general public. The appearance of professional staff members shall be appropriate to their assigned duties and indicative of their professional standing in the school and community.

I. Staff Expectations in Dress and Appearance

A. General Expectations in Dress and Appearance

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

B. Unacceptable Forms of Dress and Appearance

1. The following are examples of unprofessional attire which should not be worn by staff during the traditional school day, when students or visitors are in attendance, or when the employee is supervising, directing, or coaching students when the public is in attendance:
 - For men: shirts without collars, unless the shirt can be deemed professional by other standards.
 - Athletic wear, including sweat, jogging and wind suits, except when teaching a physical education activity in the gymnasium, on a playing field, or at athletic or other activity practices.
 - Gym shorts or spandex-like shorts, leggings without thigh length top.
 - Blue jeans, industrial grade shirt acceptable for industrial arts/ag instructors, except at athletic or other activity practices, or on days considered to be "dress down" days.
 - Hats, except when worn outside for sun coverage.
 - Rubber soled 'flip flop' thong sandals.
 - Any attire which is excessively wrinkled or torn, so that it is no longer neat and professional.
 - Any attire which is immodest or may distract other employees or students in the learning environment.

II. Enforcement

The superintendent or principal shall maintain the discretion to make determinations on staff dress and appearance. Administrators may temporarily suspend all or a portion of the dress code when other factors support a lower dress expectation for school employees (e.g., special "casual days" or field days). Any violation of school policy and rules may result in disciplinary action.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

School district administrators who suspect that drugs or alcohol may be present in a staff member's system may require the staff member to provide a body fluid or breath sample as provided in Nebraska law. Staff members who refuse a lawful directive to provide a body fluid or breath sample may be subject to disciplinary or administrative action by the employer, including denial of continued employment.

Duty to Report

School personnel shall self-report any of the following to the District's Superintendent within 24 hours of its occurrence or at the beginning of the next school day, whichever is earlier:

- Any criminal citation if the alleged offense is a misdemeanor or felony under federal or Nebraska law or in the state in which the alleged offense occurred;
- Any arrest for any reason;
- Any criminal conviction;
- Any sentence of incarceration;
- Any criminal or civil filing or Department of Health and Human Services or law enforcement investigation for child abuse and/or neglect;
- Any complaint or other administrative that could impact any certificate or professional license held by the employee;
- Any action or threat of action by any entity against the employee's driver's license or ability or authority to operate a motor vehicle if the employee's job duties may require the operation of a motor vehicle.

The failure to make a report required by this section may result in disciplinary action up to and including cancellation, termination, and non-renewal.

Electronic Communication While Driving - 4060

Unless the superintendent or a principal grants an exception to allow verbal communication on an as needed basis for specific district-related work based upon an employee's duties and responsibilities, school personnel shall not use any electronic communication device to read a written communication, manually type a written communication, send a written communication, verbally communicate with others, or otherwise communicate with others while operating a school vehicle. This prohibition includes but is not limited to reading or responding to emails, instant messages, text messages or other visual media.

Expenses

The board will reimburse staff for all pre-approved expenses incurred in attending to school business. Appropriate receipts must be attached.

To be reimbursed for an item or for personal vehicle use, staff members must complete a reimbursement claim form, attach receipts and submit it to the Superintendent or designee for approval.

All claims for reimbursement must be approved by the board, so some delay

is probable. Mileage reimbursement will be denied if a school vehicle was available.

Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)

Qualified employees will be provided leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as provided in board policy. The school district will utilize the “rolling” 12-month period measured backward from the date an employee uses any FMLA leave.

Hours

Work hours vary with the employee’s department and position. Some employees will occasionally be asked to attend meetings before or after their normal working hours.

It is vital that the district’s employees arrive at work punctually and consistently. Employees who are chronically late or excessively absent will be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

In-School Communication

A great deal of information is distributed to staff via the school’s e-mail system. Each staff member must check his or her email account throughout the school day. Staff members are allowed to use their school email accounts for a moderate amount of personal e-mail correspondence. However, sending or receiving personal email during class time is discouraged, regardless of whether that personal e-mail is received on the staff member’s school email account or a personal account.

Intellectual Property

All written or artistic works, instructional materials, inventions, procedures, ideas, innovations, systems, programs, or other work product created or developed by any employee in the course and scope of performance of his or her employment duties on behalf of the district, whether published or not, shall be the exclusive property of the district. The district has the sole right to sell, license, assign, or transfer any and all right, title, or interest in and to such property.

Jury and Witness Duty Leave

An employee who has been called to serve as a juror will be granted paid leave. Employees must sign over to the district the compensation they receive for jury duty, but not compensation for expenses.

An employee who has been subpoenaed to testify as a witness in a court

proceeding shall be entitled to one day of paid leave. To receive paid leave, the employee must sign over to the district his or her witness fee.

Keys and Security

Staff will not lend or have any duplicate keys made of any school key. Staff will make sure all doors are locked when they enter or leave the building other than regular school hours and are responsible for setting the security system after hours.

Staff members are responsible at all times for all keys issued to them and must keep their keys in a secure location or on the employee's person. Each classroom teacher must check that the doors and windows in his or her room are closed and locked at the end of the school day. Staff must report lost or stolen keys to the building principal immediately.

Each staff member is responsible for the security of his/her own classroom or work area. Staff must lock the doors and windows of their classrooms and/or other work areas each night.

Staff members who use the building after it has been locked by the custodian or on weekends are responsible for turning off all lights and locking all windows and doors that they or students under their supervision may have used.

Under no circumstances are pupils to be allowed in the building after school hours without faculty supervision. Keys to any school areas are not to be loaned to students under any circumstances.

Meals Program

Staff may take advantage of meals offered through the district's foods program. Staff may purchase lunches from the school cafeteria for \$4.25 per day. Staff may purchase breakfast from the school cafeteria for \$2.25 per day. The lunch price includes one carton of milk. Extra cartons cost 50 cents. Staff members must deposit funds in their lunch accounts before purchasing meals. Staff members will not be allowed to run a deficit in their lunch accounts.

Supervision of breakfast - staff receive a free breakfast

Supervision of lunch - staff receive a free lunch

Military Leaves of Absence

Leaves of absence without pay for military or Reserve duty are granted to all employees as required by law. An employee who is called to active military duty or to Reserve or National Guard training or who volunteers for the same should submit copies of the military orders to the Superintendent as soon as

is practicable. An administrator, at his or her discretion, may require an employee who requests leave under the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act to provide certification from the proper military authority to verify the employee's eligibility for the leave requested.

Military Leave under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act will be governed by the board's policies.

Milk Expression

Except as otherwise provided by law, the district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to breastfeed or express breast milk for her nursing child each time such employee has the need to do so. The district will provide a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. These accommodations will be provided for one year after the child's birth, unless otherwise required by law.

News and Press Releases

Only individuals who have prior administrative approval may issue press releases or other official communications regarding school activities and events in furtherance of the individual's official responsibilities. The superintendent may delegate responsibility for communicating with the media to building principals, the activities director, event sponsors, and other staff on an ad hoc basis.

Activity sponsors and other staff who are involved in newsworthy activity should submit typed press releases to the office for distribution to the media when noteworthy events have occurred. Coaches must communicate with local TV, radio, and print media promptly after matches or games to disseminate the results.

Obligations Related to American Civics Instruction

All staff members shall be familiar with, and comply with, the requirements of state law, board policy, and district curriculum to properly instruct students regarding American Civics, Social Studies, American History, and appropriate patriotic exercises on particular days of the year. Neglect of any such responsibilities by any employee may be considered just cause for dismissal.

Outside Employment

No full-time staff member may accept any other employment or carry on any business or activity for profit that interferes with the complete and competent discharge of his or her responsibilities to the school district.

Political Activities

District employees retain all rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may participate in the political process, including seeking an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

While the District supports its employees by allowing them to exercise their rights, any impact on the employee's ability to perform his or her functions as required by the district is grounds for discipline. For further guidance regarding political conduct on school grounds, contact the superintendent and consult the board policies.

Pregnant or Parenting Students

The school district encourages students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue to participate in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting have been told to notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student and appropriate district staff to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Such a plan may include:

1. If the student cannot regularly attend classes, the provision of online courses;
2. The arrangement of meeting times with teachers;
3. If the student has not identified appropriate childcare, the identification of child care providers that meet statutory requirements for quality and care; and
4. All other curricular adjustments, modifications, and means of supplementing classroom attendance deemed appropriate by the school administrators including, but not limited to, modification of attendance policies.

Professional Boundaries Between Staff and Students - 4043

All district employees must follow board policy when interacting with students in any way. School district employees are responsible for conducting themselves professionally and for teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, both at and away from school. District employees must be aware of professional boundaries between students and staff, and they must never blur the boundaries. These

standards of behavior apply to social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., along with communications and interactions of any kind between staff and students.

Examples of unprofessional misconduct include: inappropriate sexual communications or interactions with students, meeting with students in private outside of school, and intruding on a student's personal space. These are a few examples of inappropriate behavior, not an exhaustive list. For further guidance, refer to the district's policies regarding professionalism and staff-student interactions.

Any teacher or student who witnesses or knows information about a district employee violating board policy should report the violation to the district administration *immediately*. Minor violations and questionable violations should be reported as soon as possible, but always within 24 hours.

A violation of board policies for professionalism will form the basis for employee discipline up to and including termination or cancellation of employment, filing a report with law enforcement officials, and filing a report with the Commissioner of Education.

Professional Growth

All employees continually participate in professional development and shall be provided opportunities for the development of increased competence beyond that which they may attain through the performance of their assigned duties.

In addition to this requirement, the superintendent will select in-service programming to provide additional professional growth activities for certified and classified staff.

Purchasing

All requisitions for books and school supplies must be filed with the building principal. All orders or supplies must be authorized by the administration. Failure to follow the procedure for requisitions may prevent the staff member from receiving the items requisitioned. Staff may be personally liable for any orders placed without such authorization.

When routine supplies are needed for immediate use, staff should contact the building secretary. When it is necessary to make a special or emergency requisition for supplies or equipment, staff should contact the principal for the necessary forms. The superintendent will either approve or disapprove the request through the principal.

Records and Reports - 5016

Staff members must refer to and comply with Board Policy No. 5016 regarding the management and maintenance of student records.

All staff members shall promptly furnish the administration with any information relating to their professional training, experience, activities or work required for reports to county, state or federal officials or for official school records. Personal information will be treated confidentially by school officials.

Recordings of Students and Classrooms - 3059

Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator. Staff should refer to Board Policy 3059 for information on recording by students.

School Property - 3014

Refer to school board policy 3014 for use of School Property.

Smoking on School Premises or at School Activities - 3016

Smoking, including the use of cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is permitted by non-students only in your personal vehicle (outside of venue and away from the general spectator area and commons).

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified that:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Social Media Usage by Staff - 4012

Social media is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. The district also uses social media accounts to provide information to district stakeholders. All

staff members must refer to and comply with the board's policies regarding Staff Internet and Computer Use and Staff and District Social Media Use. Staff members who are uncertain about the applicability of board policy to a particular situation must confer with their supervising administrator prior to posting on social media.

Solicitation and Distribution of Merchandise

In the interest of maintaining a proper school environment and preventing interference with school purposes, employees may not sell merchandise, solicit financial contributions, solicit, or distribute literature or printed material for any non-school related cause during working time or on school grounds except as approved by the administration.

Staff Work Rooms and Lounge

The staff room is maintained for the exclusive use and convenience of the staff. It is not for student use and staff members should not hold student conferences there. Each staff member will assume responsibility in keeping the staff room in an orderly and presentable condition.

Student Interviews

Employees shall refer any police officer, child protective service worker, or other similar individual seeking to speak to or interview a student to an administrator.

Telephones

School telephones are maintained for the primary purpose of conducting school business. Staff members should limit their use of school phones to brief conversations. Teachers will not be called to the telephone during class time except in the case of an emergency.

Staff members may not use personal cell phones to make or receive calls or to send or receive text messages during instructional time.

Ticket Taking

All staff will be expected to take tickets at one time or another at home events. Staff members who coach a sport may take tickets at an event they do not coach. Staff members who are unavailable to take tickets at the event they are assigned to work must find their own replacements and notify the building principal of who will be taking their place.

Transportation Request Forms

Staff members must complete transportation request forms as soon as they know they need school-provided transportation to allow the activities/transportation director adequate time to schedule drivers and

vehicles.

Visitors

Staff should welcome members of the public who wish to visit school, but should ensure that visitors follow the district's requirements.

All visitors must report to the building office before visiting any classroom or other areas of the building.

Visitors must comply with the following guidelines:

- if a visitor wishes to observe a specific skill or subject, he or she will be asked to observe during a specified time period
- children under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- all visitors must have the prior approval of the principal or superintendent
- salespeople and other such agents will not be allowed to solicit staff members during school hours
- visitors must wear the visitor's badge supplied by the building office

Wage and Salary Payments

Staff members are paid on the 15th of each month. The district provides direct deposit of paychecks to designated financial institutions. Otherwise, paychecks will be delivered personally at school or mailed to the address on file in the district office. Staff who wish to activate or modify their direct deposits or who wish to have paychecks mailed to a different address must contact the district office. The school district will mail staff paychecks to the last address on file for each employee during months when school is not in session. Employees shall not be paid in advance under any circumstances.

All required deductions, such as for federal, state, and local taxes, retirement contributions, and all authorized voluntary deductions, such as for insurance or union dues, will be withheld automatically from your paychecks. Garnishments are legal proceedings imposed by a court of law upon the school district requiring payment to a third party of monies earned by district employees. The school district will accept all legal garnishments and tax levies against wages in compliance with state and federal law. An employee's pay will be held upon receipt of a garnishment until a court order is issued indicating satisfaction of the indebtedness or until ordered to surrender the monies to the court or its agent. The school district prohibits improper pay deductions, and employees shall be reimbursed for any improper pay deductions. If you believe that an improper deduction has been made to your pay, you should immediately report this information to your direct supervisor, payroll personnel, or the Superintendent.

Staff members, by their signature on the acknowledgement page of this

handbook, authorize the school district to withhold such sums from their paychecks as necessary to cover property damage, cash shortages or other amounts owed to the school district by the employee.

Weather-Related Closings

If school is called off because of bad weather or for any other reason, it will be announced on Channel 10/11, social media, and sent to patrons via the school messaging system.

Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. Staff members should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

Workplace Searches

To safeguard the property and interests of our students, employees, and patrons; to help prevent the possession, sale, and use of illegal drugs on school grounds, and in keeping with the spirit and intent of the district's drug-free workplace policy and other policies, the school district reserves the right to question employees and all other persons entering and leaving our premises, and to inspect any packages, parcels, purses, handbags, briefcases, lunch boxes, or any other possessions or articles carried to and from school when it has reasonable grounds to do so. The school also reserves the right to search any employee's office, desk, files, locker, or any other area or article on school grounds. All offices, desks, files, lockers, and so forth, are school district property and are issued or provided for the use of employees only during their employment with the district. Inspections may be conducted at any time at the discretion of the administration. Employees who refuse to cooperate with this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CERTIFIED STAFF

Absences

The accumulation of leave for teaching staff is governed by the Negotiated Agreement between the Board of Education and the Education Association. Refer to the negotiated agreement for specific details regarding leave. This handbook provides guidance for how leave should be communicated to building administration and secretaries.

1. Paid Time Off (PTO)

Certified staff members who are too ill to perform their teaching duties must contact their building principal by 6:00 a.m.

Certified staff who wish to take planned leave must submit a leave request to their building principal as soon as possible in advance of the proposed leave. Building principals may deny planned leave requests if the school district is unable to secure the services of a qualified substitute teacher on the day of the proposed leave.

Please refer to the current [negotiated agreement](#) for more details.

2. Professional Leave

The board and administration recognize the value of continuing education and encourage certified staff to participate in seminars, workshops and other activities which will continue their professional growth. Certified staff members who wish to take professional leave must submit a leave request to their building principal, along with a description of the proposed event and estimated costs. Building principals may deny requests for professional leave if they are unable to secure the services of a qualified substitute, aligned with school improvement goals, or if the principal determines that the activity will not enhance the certified staff member's effectiveness as an employee of the district. Certified staff members who feel they have been unfairly denied professional leave may grieve the principal's decision, pursuant to the grievance procedure contained in the district's Negotiated Agreement.

3. Substitute Folders

Each teacher must prepare a substitute binder and keep the completed folder easily available. The folder must contain:

- a.) the current seating chart for each class;
- b.) the daily routine followed by each class;
- c.) all schedules (fire drill procedures, lunch schedule, etc.);
- d.) plans for the day if the teacher's absence was anticipated
- e.) emergency plans if the teacher's absence is unplanned. (These plans are in addition to the teacher's regular lesson plan book.)

Staff members may not make arrangements for their own substitute.

Assemblies

Classroom teachers must attend assemblies and pep rallies and sit with students to help maintain order.

All certified staff members should attend school assemblies and should try to attend as many of the school functions as possible regardless of whether they have specific assigned duties or not.

Assignment of Teachers

The administration will assign certified staff to individual duties. Certified staff will also be assigned for various forms of hall, extracurricular, recess, traffic, lunch period and other noontime duties, and athletic events.

Certificates, Teacher Contracts, Salary Information

Teaching certificates must be registered with the Superintendent before they may legally be paid. It is the certified staff member's responsibility to make sure this is done.

Each certified staff member must provide the superintendent's office with the following information:

- a. social security number,
- b. retirement number,
- c. withholding form W-4, and
- d. authorization to withhold for insurance benefits.

Each new certified staff member must fill out forms for retirement benefits before the first pay day as well as the family coverage of the district hospital/medical insurance program.

It is the sole responsibility of the certified staff member to inform the superintendent of any changes, including but not limited to changes in certification, endorsements, benefits plans, and salary payment information.

Cheating

Students caught cheating (including plagiarizing) must be sent to the building principal for administrative discipline. The classroom teacher may also give the cheating student a zero grade for the test or assignment.

Check-out Forms

All certified staff must complete a check-out form and obtain the building principal's signature on the form prior to departing for the summer. Classrooms must be tidy to allow the custodial staff to clean classrooms and work areas. Certified staff members who do not clean their work area before departing for the summer will not receive their paychecks until the work is completed.

Class Record Books

A class record book is the school's official record of matters relating to each student in each teacher's class. It may be maintained in paper or electronic form and must be complete in scope and accurately maintained. All classroom teachers are required to keep class record books which list students in each class in alphabetical order and show the attendance and all grades earned by each student. At the end of each school year, classroom teachers must turn their record books into the building office. Record books are subject to examination by the building principal or superintendent at any time.

Classroom Management and Student Discipline

Classroom discipline is first and foremost the responsibility of the classroom teacher. Individual teachers are expected to assume responsibility for good discipline throughout the school system. However, if a certified staff member needs assistance with student discipline, they should seek the advice and counsel of the principal or superintendent.

Classroom teachers may not leave their classrooms unless the students are supervised by a competent adult.

Classroom teachers should have a well-defined discipline plan that is known to the students. Rules and consequences should be stated clearly and posted where appropriate.

Each building has its own specific procedures concerning student discipline. Classroom teachers should consult with their building principal for more information.

Teachers may remove a student from the classroom for failure to comply with established rules of conduct. Only an administrator can suspend or

expel students from class or school and due process must be followed.

Students may be kept after school for matters relating to discipline or to assist in their academic progress. Certified staff should allow all elementary students and junior/senior high students who ride the bus to arrange parental transportation for the next day with their parents. Students who do not have transportation concerns may be kept without delay. Students may not avoid being kept after school because they have an after school practice or other school activity.

Both elementary and secondary certified staff are responsible for assisting with hallway discipline between classes and in the school lunchroom.

Classes should begin on time and end promptly. Work should continue throughout the period assigned for it. Classroom teachers have no right to waste the pupils' time. Classroom teachers may not dismiss classes early except by permission of the building principal.

Staff members may never send a student off school grounds without the authorization of the building principal.

Classroom Sanitation

1. Handling of Body Fluids

All body fluids of all persons should be considered to potentially contain infectious agents (germs). Hand washing after contact with a school child is recommended if physical contact has been made with any child's blood or body fluids. The term "body fluids" includes: blood, semen, drainage from scrapes and cuts, tears, feces, urine, vomit, respiratory secretions, and saliva.

2. Infectious Diseases

Certified staff should promptly report any indication of an infectious or contagious disease to the school nurse or building principal. Certified staff should report to the school nurse or the student's parents any pupil whom they suspect of having been exposed to any infectious or contagious disease.

Coaching Supplies

Coaching supplies will be distributed by the athletic director. Such items include tape, prewrap, heel pads, band aids, ankle braces, game balls, etc. Coaches should request additional supplies from the activities directory only when they have run out of supplies.

Coaches must fill out and submit inventory forms to the activities director immediately after the season is complete.

Collection of Student Money

Staff members must comply with the school district's student fee policy before collecting any funds from students.

Money collected from students should be turned into the office on the day it is collected for deposit in the proper activity or school district fund. Any checks written by students or parents for various payments should be made out to Sandy Creek Schools, unless otherwise instructed. Certified staff must submit a financial accountability form when they turn funds into the office.

When students purchase items such as coats, rings, etc., through the school district, they must pay for these and other major items before the order is sent. The sponsor of any school organization is not to give merchandise to students; items will be distributed by the office after proper payment.

Community Involvement

Certified staff are encouraged to take part in civic affairs in the community and must do so when required by state law and board policy.

Display of Classroom Work in the School and the Community

Classroom teachers are encouraged to display student work for public viewing. Students and parents enjoy viewing the display and may be even more supportive of their school because the display shows them many of the things the students do. Classroom teachers may use the window area of the central office or the commons area to display student work or they may use during a night activity. Certified staff must contact the principal before displaying student work at an evening activity.

Duties of Certified Staff

The duties of certified staff include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Becoming acquainted with board policies, district rules and regulations, and the state laws concerning teachers and pupils.
- b) Attending such education conferences as are required by law or administrative directives.
- c) Attending school assemblies unless excused by the principal.
- d) Instructing pupils in the proper use of equipment and instructional supplies.
- e) Reporting in writing to the principal any injury to any child while under the jurisdiction of the school, including athletic injuries.

- f) Complying with the Teachers Professional Code of Ethics which has been promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education (92 Neb. Admin. Code § 27) and adopted by the Board of Education of the district.
- g) Discussing a student only with the child's parents and the superintendent, principal, guidance counselor or classroom teachers who may know the circumstances and have a need to know. It is unprofessional and inappropriate to discuss student or other staff members in the staff lounge.
- h) Being responsible for students whom they keep in school at times other than during regular school time. Certified staff will be responsible for any special work done by their students, including field trips, joint assemblies, school programs, etc.
- i) Refraining from joining book clubs or film clubs using the school name.
- j) Turning in all monies collected to the main office by the end of the school day.
- k) Clearing all class meetings or trips through the principal's office.
- l) Participating in Student Assistance Teams pursuant to board policy.
- m) Assisting with the administration of standardized testing as assigned by the administration.
- n) Provide homebound instruction as assigned by the administration.
- o) Performing additional duties as assigned by the administration.

Extracurricular Activities

Staff must schedule all events and other extracurricular activities at the activity director's office to avoid conflicts. Activities must be put on the school calendar located in the activity director's office at least one week before the activity. Staff should avoid or shorten practices and activities on Wednesday evenings and Sundays, in order to give students sufficient time away from school for family-related activities.

Certain activities require time to be scheduled outside regular school hours. Any school sponsored activity involving students must have approval of the principal prior to the activity, including all fund raising activities.

Regular classroom work in all grades will have precedence over any other activity. Students will not be dismissed from classes to participate in extracurricular activities without permission from the principal. Make up slips must be completely signed and returned to the sponsor of the activity prior to dismissal from class. All evening activities, except practices, must have a school sponsor. Non school sponsors must be approved by the

administration. If vehicles are used for transportation, the drivers must be adults who have been approved by the school.

The activities director has the responsibility for all activities. Therefore, any ruling or handbook decision he/she makes will be school regulation in lieu of further board action.

No student may participate in a field trip off school property without written permission of his or her parent or guardian.

Evacuations

Early in the semester, classroom teachers should review instructions for leaving the classroom with all of their students. Classroom teachers should also periodically review with each class what to do in case of fire, tornado or other emergency.

1. Fire Drills

Fire drills will be held on a regular basis. Certified staff may or may not be notified in advance. These drills are important exercises that help ensure the safety of students in case of an emergency.

When the fire alarm is sounded, all students and staff immediately must cease the activity in which they are engaged and leave the building at once, following these regulations:

- a) Students nearest the windows will close them before leaving.
- b) The classroom teacher will be the last to leave the room. He or she will turn out all the lights and close the door as he or she leaves.
- c) Classroom teachers will take their fire drill packets and class grade books with them when they leave their classrooms.
- d) The first two students reaching the exit doors will hold the doors wide open until everyone has filed out.
- e) Staff and students will move far enough away from the building to avoid possible injury from fire and falling embers, and also, to remain clear of emergency vehicle traffic.
- f) Once outside, each teacher must account for every student in the class. Classroom teachers will take roll for their class and;
 - 1) hold up a Green Card (all students accounted for)
 - 2) hold up a Red Card (missing student (s) listed)
 - 3) hold up a Yellow Card (extra students listed)

The signal to return to the school building will be the short bell. It will be sounded upon completion of the drill. Students will return in an orderly manner.

2. Tornado Drills

When a tornado warning has been issued, the school will evacuate classrooms and move students to the designated tornado shelters. Tornado alerts will be given via the intercom system. When a tornado alert is given, all students and staff immediately must cease the activity in which they are engaged immediately and seek shelter, following these regulations:

1. All students and staff should proceed to the designated tornado shelter.
2. Classroom teachers should be sure that each student is sitting with his or her back to the wall, their knees up and their heads should be between their legs.

3. Protocol for all Evacuations

Upon evacuation signals, all students and staff must exit each building. Classroom teachers should do the following:

1. Take the class roster;
2. Lock the classroom door after all occupants have exited the room;
3. Keep the class together and move promptly in an orderly fashion; and
4. Upon arriving at the evacuation point, take roll, maintain order, and supervise students.

Evaluations - 4030 and 4031

The appropriate district administrator will evaluate tenured and probationary teachers as required by law and district policy [4030](#) and [4031](#). Additional evaluations, both formal and informal, may be conducted as the district administration deems appropriate. Sandy Creek Public Schools uses the NEE Network of Educator Effectiveness to evaluate teachers.

Examinations

Semester examinations are encouraged whether it is comprehensive, end of unit/chapter, or project based. Tests and final exams will not be given ahead of time. Students are not to type tests or grade any major tests.

Faculty Meetings

The superintendent and principals will call meetings as needed. Certified staff are required to be present at all faculty meetings unless excused by the administration.

Field Trip Request Forms - 6027

Certified staff who wish to take students off school property must submit a request to administration at least ten calendar days prior to the date of the requested activity.

Elementary grades will be limited to two field trips per year. Additional requests may be granted on a case by case basis.

Sandy Creek Grading Policy

Failing reports for Middle and High School students must be turned into the office at the set time as prescribed by local school site procedures. A pupil should never be placed on the "pupils failing" list without first being on the "pupils about to fail."

Grades are given as a letter or percentage as requested by the building principal. No incomplete or condition grades will be given, but grades may be changed by request of the classroom teacher to the principal. If a student fails the first semester and passes the second semester, a classroom teacher may pass a student for the full year.

A student is to be graded on academic performance. **A student's grade is not to be reduced for discipline.** Prejudice or favoritism has no place in grading a student.

All grading should be explained in simple, understandable terms to the student. No final grade should be assigned that is higher than 100%.

Classroom teachers should provide students and parents with frequent updates regarding the student's progress during the quarter. At the conclusion of each quarter, students will receive an end-of-quarter progress report. Classroom teachers should use the following symbols for each subject area:

<u>Report Cards</u>	<u>Numerical Scale</u>	<u>Report Cards</u>	<u>Numerical Scale</u>
A+	98-100	C	77-81
A	93-97	D+	74-76
B+	90-92	D	70-73
B	85-89	F	Below 70
C+	82-84		

In the elementary, students will receive letter grades only in designated "core" curricular subjects. Elementary teachers should report student progress on grade reports using letter grades or S/U as determined by local school site regulations.

2-5 Music and PE and 2nd Grade Scale: S = Satisfactory; S+ = Satisfactory Plus; S- = Satisfactory Minus; N= Needs Improvement

K-1 Standards Based Grade Scale

1 = Does not meet standard yet; 2 = Meets standard with assistance; 3 = Meets Standard; 4 = Exceeds Standard

Eligibility Grades 6 -12

Grades are taken by 8:00 a.m on Friday or the last day of the week to calculate the eligibility list.

Grades in all subjects, including non-core classes, will be reported each Friday beginning the second week of each semester. Any student failing two classes in any single week will be ineligible to represent Sandy Creek Schools. A pupil should never be placed on the "pupils failing" list without first being on the "pupils about to fail" list. The period of ineligibility, following the reported Friday of failing two or more classes, which results in attained ineligibility status, will be from the next Monday to Sunday, inclusive.

Ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in any NSAA competitions which include but are not limited to the following: football, volleyball, cross country, basketball, wrestling, track, golf, e-sports, speech, one act, yearbook, journalism, student council, and any other extra curricular activities that may exist that requires student participation outside the normal school day that would result in missed school time. Exceptions to NSAA competitions are district large group vocal and instrumental music due to the fact of students receiving a performance grade.

Also, ineligible students will not be allowed to participate in Prom, Homecoming, FBLA, FFA, HOSA, Skills USA, Quiz Bowl, NHS, NAHS, and any other student clubs or organizations that may be formed or exist that requires student participation outside the normal school day that would result in missed school time. Students are expected to practice with their team or group during the ineligibility period.

Guest Lecturers

Guest lecturers must be approved by the administration before they are asked to address a class. The guest lecturer must have a specific, relatable objective in his/her lecture.

Hall Duty

Every classroom teacher is on hall duty before school in the morning and between classes. Classroom teachers are responsible especially for the part of the hall adjacent to their classrooms.

Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of student learning. When parents, teachers, and students work together, out-of-class assignments are a valuable part of the instructional program. Homework should provide opportunities for students to practice acquired skills, develop initiative, form independent study habits, and use community resources.

Lesson Plans

These plans must be written so that they are clear to any substitute teacher and readily available to any teacher. An up-to-date seating chart and/or rosters of the class or classes shall be part of the lesson plans. Other regulations relative to lesson plans will be made by individual building principals. The lesson plans of all classroom teachers are subject to review of the building principal or other members of the school district's administration at any time.

Lesson plans must **identify major instructional objectives and show page assignments and general direction that might be followed by anyone who might be called upon to teach the classes.**

Media Center

The media center is set up to serve the needs of certified staff and students. Certified staff who need assistance with textbooks, literature sets, magazines and other reference materials should consult with the media specialist assigned to their building.

Students may use the media center during study halls, at lunch, after school and in the evenings. Classroom teachers may send individual students to use the media center during class time, but should contact the media staff before sending a group of students during class. The media staff may send disruptive students back to class or study hall, or may exclude unruly students from the media center for a specified period of time. Classroom teachers who send their entire class to the media center must accompany and supervise the students, unless prior arrangements have been made with the media specialist.

Audiovisual materials are available to certified staff through the media center. Certified staff may obtain these materials by filling out the required requisition form and sending it to the media specialist in their building. When certified staff return media, they should complete the film report card and return it to the media specialist.

Paraeducators

Paraeducators provide valuable assistance in the educational process and

allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A paraeducator must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The classroom teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the teacher aide in a supportive role. Paraeducators may be used to assist the classroom teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, preparing bulletin boards, grading tests or class work, and calculating and recording grades. Paraeducators are to work only on and within their assigned work days. If the classroom teacher desires the paraeducator to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned work day, he or she must contact the administration for approval.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. Certified staff should strive to develop open and supportive relationships with parents and guardians. Each classroom teacher is responsible for keeping a student's parents informed about the student's progress. This may be done by letter, telephone, e-mail, or personal conference. Certified staff must attend parent teacher conferences, promptly return phone calls, participate in teacher events for students and parents, and where necessary utilize a planner as a communication tool. Certified staff who need additional support in communicating with parents should contact their building principal or guidance counselor.

Parking

Staff members have areas in the parking lot reserved for them. **Students are not to park their cars in the staff lot.** Staff members may not allow students to park in the staff lot when groups leave early in the morning on a school day for field trips or athletic events.

Parties

1. No activities or picnics shall be held by an organization of the school without the presence of the sponsor or sponsors.
2. The number of activities and the closing hour for activities will be determined by the building principal and organization sponsor.
3. In making arrangements for activities and picnics, staff must avoid disturbing the routine of the school.
4. Cleaning up after the activity is the responsibility of the sponsor.

Planning Time

Each classroom teacher is provided with duty-free time for planning, preparation of school-related materials, and a brief respite from the duties of

the day.

The Board defines planning time as time for educational planning and other task-related functions that cannot normally be accomplished during instructional periods. Planning time should not be confused with personal time. **Planning time is not to be used for running personal errands, conducting personal business, or pursuing non-school hobbies and/or interests.**

PowerSchool

All teachers/classroom aides will be required to use PowerSchool.

Attendance will be taken as follows:

Elementary – at the beginning of the morning

Secondary – at the beginning of every period

Attendance must be taken within the first five minutes of each period / beginning session.

Lunch count will also be taken with the Google form.

Elementary, comments on progress reports and report cards are required for 2nd quarter and 4th quarter.

Private Tutoring

Classroom teachers must provide individual assistance to students as a part of their duties. Any certified staff member who engages in private tutoring for pay (compensation of any kind from a source other than the District) is subject to the following rules:

- Certified staff may not arrange to provide private tutoring for any child enrolled in the staff member's class.
- Certified staff are not to provide private tutoring in a school building.
- Certified staff are not to provide private tutoring during duty time.
- Certified staff are prohibited from advertising or promoting the private tutoring services in the school or in the school's communications systems except with the express permission of the Superintendent or designee.

Projection Maps

The school district will only use the Gall-Peters projection map or a similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or the AuthaGraph projection map for display or use in the classroom. Use of the Mercator projection map is prohibited unless:

1. The Mercator projection map is used in conjunction with other projection maps in a teaching exercise to demonstrate that all maps are flawed in some way and different map projections serve different functions and may affect how individuals view the world; or
2. The Mercator projection map is part of any:
 - a. book or material obtained prior to July 19, 2024; or geographic information system; or computer program that renders a three-dimensional representation of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery, such as Google Earth or similar software; and
 - b. a Gall-Peters projection map or similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or an AuthaGraph projection map is displayed in the classroom or shown to students during the lesson in which a Mercator projection map is used.

Pupils' Records

1. Each classroom teacher must keep a set of records in the daily class record book of the class recitations, tests, exams, daily work, notebook, etc. This serves as a justification of the final grade in case of dispute between teacher and pupil, or teacher and parent, and assists in making out the final grades. This book must be turned into the principal at the end of each school year.
2. Report cards will be issued within one week following the end of the semester unless otherwise announced.
 - a) Reports should be conscientiously and accurately made because they are a serious estimate of the degree of success of the pupil.
 - b) Each classroom teacher should be adequately prepared to defend all decisions given on the report card.
 - c) Each classroom teacher is responsible for distribution of class cards on time.
 - d) Classroom teachers must confer with the principal before recording any incomplete, failing, or conditional grades on report cards.

Rights of Certified and Probationary Teachers

Certified and probationary teachers are entitled to the legal and procedural rights outlined in the board policies and state and federal law with regard to the amendment, cancellation, or termination of the teacher's employment contract. For specific questions relating to those procedural or legal rights, please refer to the district's board policies.

School Day

All certified staff must be at school or on duty between the hours of 7:45

a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday. On Fridays and days preceding certain holidays or vacation periods, certified staff are permitted to leave after the students are dismissed. Under special circumstances, certified staff may seek permission from their building principal to vary these duty hours. In addition, certified staff may be assigned responsibilities at other hours by the principal or superintendent for supervising or directing school activities or affairs or for participation in affairs under the direct sponsorship of the school.

Each teacher will be in his or her classroom and ready to teach at 8:00 a.m. each day. Classroom teachers will stand at their doors when class is dismissed and must be outside their classroom doors before each class period. Classroom teachers must be physically present in their classrooms at all times during class periods and conference periods.

Personal work may not be done on school time.

Sponsors

Certified staff members are assigned by the superintendent as class and club sponsors. Sponsors must be present at all meetings and activities of the sponsored group. The procedure for activity accounts and meetings can be found in the student manual. Purchasing of supplies must be approved by the Superintendent.

Student Activities

Staff members who sponsor extracurricular activities such as athletics, class plays, and class activities may leave the school building only after making sure that all students and other individuals have left the building. No student is to be left unattended in the school building at any time.

School-owned clothing or equipment that is checked out to students remains the property of the school. The clothing or equipment is not to be used or worn by the student except for its intended use. Each piece of equipment or clothing is to be returned to the instructor or coach when the season or the use for such clothing or equipment is over. Certified staff will be held responsible for clothing and equipment that is not returned.

Student Aides

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the certified staff member and are not to leave the building or be in the halls or anywhere they are not being supervised. Student aides are not to be used to assist the certified staff member by helping supervise another student, grade tests or class work, calculate student grades, or record grades. Keys are NEVER to be given to students, whether they are student aides or not. A student aide

should not be present and assisting a certified staff member without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

Student Attendance

Students are expected to arrive at each class, be seated and ready for instruction prior to the beginning of the class day or class period, as appropriate. Student tardiness is the classroom teacher's professional responsibility. Classroom teachers must insist that students be on time.

Each teacher must maintain an accurate record of student attendance each day through the use of PowerSchool. Classroom teachers must carefully check and record attendance information at the beginning of each school day and, in upper grades, at the beginning of each period. Students and student assistants are not permitted to check attendance. Excessive absenteeism should be reported to the building principal or guidance counselor.

A student who departs school during the school day must report to the office and sign out before leaving the building. A student who returns during the school day must sign in at the building office before returning to class.

Student Attire

The responsibility for proper daily grooming and dress is primarily the responsibility of students and parents/guardians. However, certified staff members must insist that students do not remain in school while wearing attire that violates the dress code set forth in the Student Handbook.

Classroom teachers must report students who are not in compliance with the dress code to the building principal. The final decision on what is considered proper grooming and appearance is the responsibility of the building principal.

Student Illness

In the event of student illness or injury, classroom teachers should notify the school nurse and the building principal or superintendent immediately. Staff should never send a pupil home without notifying school officials and checking to see if his/her parents are home.

Student Medication

Student medications should not be dispensed by staff members unless they follow the following procedures.

No staff members other than the school nurse may dispense medications (prescription or over-the-counter) to students at any time. Students may, with written parental or guardian permission, self-administer medications

such as aspirin and cough syrup or cough drops.

Staff members are not authorized to dispense prescription medicine without an agreement with a parent or guardian to provide a prescription container for the medicine that includes a pharmaceutical label, the physician's name, a child guard cap and directions for administering the medication.

After receiving the medication, the school employee should lock the medication in a cabinet or place it in an area where access is restricted to school employees only.

Student Searches

Certified staff members may not search students or their belongings. If a staff member suspects that a student is in possession of contraband, he/she should immediately contact a member of the administration and supervise the student until the administrator arrives. Students who are suspected of having an item in violation of school rules may be directed to wait with a staff member.

Substitute Teaching During Planning Period

Certified staff may be required to substitute during their planning period. [[policy on payment](#)]

Teaching Controversial Issues

Teachers may teach or lead discussions about controversial issues if they comply with the following criteria:

- The issues discussed must be relevant to the curriculum and be part of a planned educational program.
- Students must have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues.
- The teacher must encourage students to consider and discuss a variety of viewpoints.
- The topic and materials used must be within the range, knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students.
- The teacher must inform parents and the building principal before discussing sensitive or controversial issues.
- The teacher must keep detailed, documentary evidence to prove that both sides and/or all facts available were presented.
- Teachers must refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda through any classroom or a school device; however, a teacher shall not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as the student is encouraged to reach his/her own decision independently.

Textbooks

Classroom teachers will issue textbooks to the pupils, keeping a record of the number and condition of the book assigned to each pupil. If the books are new, classroom teachers must make sure the books are stamped and numbered before distribution.

Textbooks are to be stored in the classroom or storeroom. Textbooks are to be checked out to the students with teachers keeping an accurate record of each book by number in the place provided in grade books. Pupils are to pay for lost or damaged books.

Workbooks do not become the property of the students and in most cases should be retained by the school.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CLASSIFIED STAFF

At-Will Employment

Classified staff members are employed "at-will." Either you or the school district may terminate your employment at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or notice. This handbook is not a contract, express or implied, guaranteeing employment for any specific duration.

Bereavement Leave

Classified employees will be granted up to 5 days off from work [with] OR [without] pay in the event of the death of your spouse, child, parent, or sibling; up to 3 days in the event of the death of your grandparents, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, or daughter-in-law. In the event of the death of a relative not a member of your immediate family as defined above would be charged against sick leave. All requests for bereavement leave should be submitted to the Superintendent.

Holidays - [4040](#) and [4040.1](#)

Employees will receive paid time off on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Holidays falling on a Saturday are normally observed on the preceding Friday. Holidays falling on a Sunday are normally observed on the following Monday.

Classified employees will generally be required to work their regularly scheduled hours the workday preceding and workday following the holiday in order to be eligible to receive holiday pay.

Hours

Work hours vary with the classified staff member's department and position. Meetings will occasionally be scheduled before or after normal working hours.

It is vital that the district's employees arrive at work punctually and consistently. Staff members who are chronically late or excessively absent will be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Overtime and Compensatory Time

All classified staff members must keep an accurate record of all hours worked for the district. The only exceptions are those who have been notified in writing that they are exempt from this time-keeping requirement. Classified staff should not work more than forty hours in a given week without the express permission of their immediate supervisor. Those who accrue more than forty hours in a given workweek will receive overtime or compensatory time, pursuant to board policy.

Leave Time Benefits

Please refer to your job classification and corresponding policy. For School year employees, policy [4040](#). For Year-round employees, policy [4040.1](#).

Reporting When School is Closed

When school is closed due to inclement weather, classified staff should report to work based on their positions:

- a) **Secretaries/Clerical staff** should not report to work unless specifically directed to do so by their supervisor or the superintendent.
- b) **Paraprofessionals** should not report to work unless teaching staff are asked to report.
- c) **Food Service staff** should not report to work.
- d) **Bus Drivers** should not report to work.
- e) **Custodians/Maintenance staff** should report to work.

OR

Unless the superintendent directs otherwise, staff shall not be required to report when school is canceled due to inclement weather.

Sick Leave

Classified employees will receive 8 days of sick leave. A staff member who is too ill to come to work, or who has a qualifying family member who is too ill to be left alone, must notify his or her immediate supervisor at least three hours prior to the time he/she regularly reports to work. Sick leave does not accumulate from year to year. Classified employees shall not be paid for accrued unused sick days at the end of the school year or in the event of termination of employment.

Vacation

Eligible classified employees will receive paid vacation each school year. Employees should consult with their immediate supervisor for vacation information.

New employees will not be entitled to any vacation leave for the first six months of employment. After the completion of the last day of the sixth month of employment, new employees will be awarded one-half of the total vacation days provided for their job assignment. After the completion of the last day of the ninth month of employment, new employees will receive the remaining days of vacation provided for their job assignment.

Employees may accrue up to (For School year employees, policy [4040](#). For Year-round employees, policy [4040.1](#)) days of vacation.

STAFF DIRECTORY can be found on the school website at sandycreek.us

Staff Acceptable Use

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching and learning skills. The following procedures and guidelines are intended to ensure appropriate use of the Internet at the school by the district's faculty and staff. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff and District Social Media Use.

I. Staff Expectations in Use of the Internet

A. Acceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property

1. Staff shall be restricted to use the Internet to conduct research for instructional purposes.
2. Staff may use the Internet for school-related e-mail communication with fellow educators, students, parents, and patrons.
3. Staff may use the Internet in any other way which serves a legitimate educational purpose and that is consistent with district policy and good professional judgment.
4. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on the Internet is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter on the Internet.

B. Unacceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property

1. Staff shall not access obscene or pornographic material.
2. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities on school computers, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.
3. Staff shall not use school computers or district internet access to use peer-to-peer sharing systems such as BitTorrent, or participate in any activity which interferes with the staff member's ability to perform their assigned duties.
4. The only political advocacy allowed by staff on school computers or district internet access is that which is permitted by the Political Accountability and Disclosure Act and complies with district policy.
5. Staff shall not share their passwords with anyone, including students, volunteers or fellow employees.

II. School Affiliated Websites

Staff must obtain the permission of the administration prior to creating or publishing any school-affiliated web page which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any website which identifies the school district by name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated web pages and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff must also comply with all board policies in their school-affiliated websites and must comply with the board's policy on professional boundaries between staff and students at all times and in all contexts.

Publication of student work or personality-identifiable student information on the Internet may violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act. Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information on the Internet.

III. Enforcement

A. Methods of Enforcement

The district owns the computer system and monitors e-mail and Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Staff members have no right of privacy in any electronic communications or files, which are stored or accessed on or using school property and these are subject to search and inspection at any time.

1. The district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some sites that are not in accordance with the district's policy. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
2. Due to the nature of technology, the filter may sometimes block pages that are appropriate for staff research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measures that blocks or filters Internet access for staff access to a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
3. The district will monitor staff use of the Internet by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of this policy.

B. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in that staff member facing:

1. Discharge from employment or such other discipline as the administration and/or the board deem appropriate;
2. The filing of a complaint with the Commissioner of Education alleging unprofessional conduct by a certified staff member;
3. When appropriate, the involvement of law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting wrongdoing.

IV. Off-Duty Personal Use

School employees may use the internet, school computers, and other school technology while not on duty for personal use as long as such use is (1) consistent with other district policies, (2) consistent with the provisions of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27 (Nebraska Department

of Education "Rule 27"), and (3) is reported as compensation in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and taxes, if any, are paid. All of the provisions of Rule 27 will apply to non-certificated staff for the purposes of this policy. In addition, employees may not use the school's internet, computers, or other technology to access obscene or pornographic material, sext, or engage in any illegal activities.

3057

Title IX Policy

As required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is the policy of the school district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of the school district's programs or activities, or in regards to admission or employment. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. This report may be made by any means to the district's Title IX Coordinator, Amanda Skalka, who can be contacted at 30671 Hwy 14 Fairfield, NE 68938, amanda.skalka@sandycreek.us, (402) 726-2412. Any other inquiries regarding the application of this policy should be referred to the Title IX Coordinator.

Definitions. As used in this policy, the following terms are defined as follows:

- **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- **Formal complaint** means a document or electronic submission filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment and requesting that the district investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. At the time of filing a formal complaint with the district, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the district's education program or activity.
- **Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- **Consent** for purposes of this policy means the willingness in fact for conduct to occur. An individual may, as a result of age, incapacity, disability, lack of information, or other circumstances be incapable of providing consent to some or all sexual conduct or activity. Neither verbal nor physical resistance is required to establish that an

individual did not consent. District officials will consider the totality of the circumstances in determining whether there was consent for any specific conduct. Consent may be revoked or withdrawn at any time.

- **Sexual harassment** means conduct on the basis of sex where (1) An employee of the district conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the district on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) An individual experiences unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies the person equal access to the district's education program or activity; (3) An individual experiences a sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as further defined below. Any report of conduct not meeting these definitions will not require the grievance procedure described in this policy.
- **Sexual assault**, as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), which means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:
 - **Sex Offenses, Forcible**—Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.
 - **Rape**—(Except Statutory Rape) The carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
 - **Sodomy**—Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
 - **Sexual Assault With An Object**—To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of

his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity

- **Fondling**—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
- **Sex Offenses, Non-forcible**—(Except Prostitution Offenses) Unlawful, non-forcible sexual intercourse.
 - **Incest**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law
 - **Statutory Rape**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent
- **Dating violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(10), which means violence committed by a person—
 - who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
 - where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - The length of the relationship.
 - The type of relationship.
 - The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- **Domestic violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(8), which includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction

receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.

- **Stalking**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30), which means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—
 - fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or
 - suffer substantial emotional distress.
- **Supportive measures** are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered without fee that do not unreasonably burden the parties. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures.

Reporting Sexual Harassment. Any person who witnesses an act of unlawful sexual harassment is encouraged to report it to the district's Title IX Coordinator. district personnel will not retaliate against any individual based on any report of suspected sexual harassment. Any district employee who receives a report of sexual harassment or has actual knowledge of sexual harassment must convey that information to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no case later than the end of the following school day.

Response to Sexual Harassment

General Obligations. When the district has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, the district will respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. For the purposes of this policy "education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the district exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs. The district's ability to impose discipline for off-campus misconduct does not necessarily constitute "substantial control" over the respondent and the context. The district's response to an allegation of sex harassment will treat complainants and respondents equitably.

Limitations on Discipline. No respondent will have disciplinary sanctions imposed upon him/her until the conclusion of the formal grievance process described below.

Emergency Removal. Disciplinary sanctions do not include removal on an emergency basis where the respondent is an immediate threat to the health or safety of another as a result of allegations of sexual harassment. The district also may place any employee on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process below.

Grievance Process for Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment

General Obligations. All Title IX team members and individuals carrying out district obligations will comply with the regulatory requirements of objective evaluations, avoiding conflict of interest or bias, training, and protection of legally privileged information.

Presumption. It is presumed that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

Grievance Procedure

Time Frames. The district will resolve grievances in a time frame that is reasonably prompt. Good cause for delay may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.

Range of Possible Sanctions and Remedies. At the conclusion of the grievance process, the district may impose disciplinary sanctions and remedies in conformance with this and the district's student discipline policy, and other state and federal laws. Depending upon the circumstances, these policies provide for disciplinary sanctions and remedies up to and including expulsion and/or immediate discharge from employment.

Separation of Roles. The decision-maker cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s).

Notice of Allegations. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the district will provide notice of this policy and the allegations to all parties. The notice will include sufficient details known by the district at that time to provide sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details, if known by the district, include the identities of the parties involved

in the incident, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident. The district will provide notice of additional allegations revealed during an investigation to the parties.

Dismissal of Formal Complaint. The district **must** dismiss a formal complaint if the conduct alleged in the formal complaint, would not constitute sexual harassment even if proven; did not occur in the district's education program or activity; or if the conduct alleged did not occur against a person in the United States.

The district **may** dismiss the formal complaint if, at any time during the investigation or hearing, the complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein; the respondent is no longer enrolled in or employed by the district; or specific circumstances prevent the district from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Upon a dismissal, the district will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and an explanation of that action simultaneously to the parties.

Dismissal of a formal complaint under this policy does not preclude the district from taking action under another provision of the district's code of conduct or pursuant to another district policy.

Investigation of Formal Complaint. When investigating a formal complaint and throughout the grievance process, the district will designate and authorize one or more persons (which need not be district employees) as investigator(s) to conduct the district's investigation of a formal complaint. The district may consolidate formal complaints where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

The district will bear the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility. All parties will have an equal opportunity to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. The district may not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

All parties will have the same opportunity to be accompanied by the advisor of their choice in any meeting or grievance proceeding. This policy does not relieve the advisor of choice of any other applicable legal obligations or limitations. The district may establish restrictions regarding the extent to

which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties.

The district will provide written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

All parties will have an equal opportunity to inspect and review evidence obtained as part of the investigation if that evidence is directly related to the allegations raised in a formal complaint. The parties will have no less than 10 calendar days to review the evidence and submit a response. The investigative report will fairly summarize the relevant evidence and the investigator will send the finalized report to all parties and their advisors.

Determination Regarding Responsibility. Before the district reaches a determination regarding responsibility, each party may submit written, relevant questions of any party or witness. The decision-maker will provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition are never relevant. Questions about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are only relevant if those questions and evidence are offered (1) to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or (2) are offered to prove consent and concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent. If the decision-maker decides to exclude a question because it is not relevant, he/she will explain the basis for that decision.

The decision-maker will issue a written determination regarding responsibility no sooner than ten days after the parties receive the final investigative report. The decision-maker will apply the preponderance of the evidence standard. The written determination will include:

- Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
- A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence;
- Findings of fact supporting the determination;
- Conclusions regarding the application of the district's code of conduct

to the facts;

- A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the district imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity will be provided by the district to the complainant; and
- The district's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

The district will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously. If neither party timely appeals, the determination becomes final. If a party appeals, the determination will become final on the date that the district provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal.

Appeals. The district will offer both parties the opportunity to appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from the district's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the grounds identified below.

Time for Appeal. Appeals may only be initiated by submitting a written Notice of Appeal to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools no later than 5:00 pm on the fifth calendar day after the written determination is issued. The Notice of Appeal must include (a) the name of the party or parties making the appeal, (b) the determination, dismissal, or portion thereof being appealed, and (c) a concise statement of the specific grounds upon which the appeal is based. A party's failure to timely submit a Notice of Appeal will be deemed a waiver of the party's right to appeal.

Grounds for Appeal. Appeals are limited to the following grounds:

- Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination or dismissal was made that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

The district will notify other parties in writing when an appeal is filed; implement appeal procedures equally for all parties; and ensure that the decision-maker for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator.

The district will give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement that supports or challenges the outcome; issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

Informal Resolution. The district may informally resolve allegations without completing the grievance procedure with the written consent of all parties. The process may not be used when allegations involve an employee harassing a student. As part of this process, the district will provide to the parties in writing a notice stating:

- the allegations;
- the requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations;
- that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint; and
- any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.

Recordkeeping. The district will maintain the following records for a period of seven years:

- Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed, and any remedies provided;
- Any appeal and its result;
- Any informal resolution and its result; and
- All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal

resolution process. The district will make these training materials publicly available on its website, or if the district does not maintain a website, then the district will make these materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.

The district will also create records documenting any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, the district will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity. If the district does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the district will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the district in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken. The district will maintain these records for a period of seven years.

Retaliation Prohibited. Neither the district nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, 34 C.F.R. part 106, or this policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. The district will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the FERPA statute, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 C.F.R. part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 C.F.R. part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to shall be addressed pursuant to Board Policy 2006 (Complaint Procedure).

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation prohibited by this section. Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this part does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this section, provided that a determination regarding responsibility alone is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Notification of Policy. The district will notify applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district of the existence of this policy. The requirement to not discriminate, as stated in Title IX and 34 C.F.R. part 106, in the district's education program(s) or activities extends to admission and employment, and inquiries about the application of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. part 106 to the district may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, or both.

Publication of Policy. The district will prominently display on its website, if any, and in each handbook that it makes available to applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district, the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the employee or employees designated as the Title IX Coordinator(s).

Application Outside the United States. The requirements of this policy apply only to sex discrimination occurring against a person in the United States.

Scope of Policy. Nothing herein shall be construed to be more demanding or more constraining upon the district than the requirements of Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and 34 C.F.R. part 106. To the extent that the district is in compliance with Title IX and 34 C.F.R. part 106, then all of the district's obligations under this policy shall be deemed to be fulfilled and discharged.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

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

Signature

Date