

6001

School Organization

The school district shall be organized under a system whereby preschool through 5th grade shall be designated the elementary school, grades 6 through 8 shall be designated the middle school, and grades 9 through 12 shall be designated the high school.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6002

School Calendar

The superintendent shall propose the calendar for each school year. The board will approve and/or amend the proposed calendar. The calendar shall provide for sufficient instructional time to meet or exceed the requirements of state statutes and regulations, and should provide time for staff orientation, in-service and curriculum work.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6003

Instructional Program

1. The minimum number of instructional hours in the school year will be 1,080 for grades 9 through 12, 1,032 for grades Kindergarten through 8, and 450 for preschool, exclusive of lunchtime.
2. The district may establish special programs for individual students that may deviate from these requirements. All special programs must either be adopted pursuant to applicable law or approved by the superintendent in advance. Prior to the district's commencement of a specialized program, the district will provide the student's parents or guardians with notice of the program.
3. The board, acting with the advice of the administration and certificated staff, will adopt a curriculum and procure textbooks and materials to support that curriculum. The administration and certificated staff will design instructional strategies and assessments to implement the curriculum.
4. To the extent possible, practice for, travel to, and participation in activities sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association and the Nebraska Department of Education will be scheduled outside of instructional time. Individual student absences because of illness or family-centered activities will be governed by district attendance policies.
5. The board intends to strike a sensible balance between the time spent on academics and time spent on extra-curricular activities, acknowledging that both work and play are important in each student's total development and education.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6005

Academic Credits and Graduation

Graduation Requirements

Total Credits

40 credits	English Language Arts
30 credits	Social Science
30 credits	Mathematics
30 credits	Science
5 credits	Personal Finance (Class of 2024)
5 credits	Computer Science (Class of 2028)
12 credits	NCAPS prorated for transfer-in students
20 credits	Visual & Performing and/or Career and Technical Education courses (excluding the state-required Personal Finance and Computer Science classes).
240 credits	Total credits required

Every senior must complete the FAFSA or have a waiver form signed by the parents turned in to the principal or school counselor by December 1st.

These updated graduation requirements will be in effect for the Class of 2028.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6006

Commencement Ceremony

The district shall conduct a commencement ceremony for members of the senior class at the end of the school year. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right, and the superintendent or his/her designee may prohibit students who have violated conduct rules from participating in the ceremony as a consequence for the misconduct.

Only those students who have completed all graduation requirements (i.e., completed the required coursework or achieved the goals set in the student's individual education plan) or who have received a certificate of attendance (i.e. foreign exchange students) will be allowed to participate in commencement.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6007

Senior Recognition

The school district will recognize the outstanding academic achievement of its graduating seniors in the following manner:

Eligibility for honors as a Valedictorian or Salutatorian at commencement exercises is based on overall percentage G.P.A. earned in grades 9 through 12. In addition, students must meet all graduation requirements and be in attendance in the Sandy Creek system for two full semesters in grade 12 to be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6008

Class Rank

Student class rank shall be determined by using a numeric grade point average derived from all classes graded on a numeric basis. To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for each core curriculum class in which he/she was enrolled. For the purposes of this policy, core curriculum shall include all courses in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance.

Students who transfer into the school district in the middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian and salutatorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

Grade Placement and Academic Credits of Transfer Students

Subject to a determination on grade placement based on the criteria set forth below, a student transferring from an accredited school generally will be placed at the grade level that is comparable to the placement in the school from which the student is transferring. Temporary placement may be made until a student's records are received to verify the placement.

Elementary Level Students

The appropriate level of placement for elementary level students may be determined by, but not limited to, consideration of the following information:

- Chronological age
- Previous public school or private school experience
- Diagnostic test data
- Achievement test data
- Criterion-referenced test data

Secondary Level Students

The appropriate level of placement for secondary students may be determined by, but not limited to, consideration of the following information:

- Chronological age
- Previous public school or private school experience and transcript
- Standardized achievement test data
- Criterion-referenced test data
- Final examination test data
- Diagnostic test data

The district will accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by an accredited school district and which, in the professional judgment of the administrative team, are sufficiently rigorous and comparable to the district's offered courses of study. A student transferring into the school district in grades 9-12 will be responsible for meeting all graduation requirement in order to be awarded a diploma from the district.

Students who transfer from an exempt (home) school and/or a non-accredited school may be awarded credits to be counted toward high school graduation requirements at the discretion of the building principal in consultation with the superintendent of schools. The principal will consider all of the factors listed above and will also consider the student's performance on the district's internal benchmark tests.

The district administration, in conjunction with the building principal, will determine the appropriate grade level/credit status of a student transferring from a foreign country.

Adopted on: July 12, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6010

Special Education

All children with verified disabilities who are eligible for special education services are entitled to a free appropriate public education and an equal opportunity for education according to their needs. The district will follow state and federal law as well as the rules and protocols created by the Nebraska Department of Education and the United States Department of Education in identifying, evaluating, verifying and serving students who may be entitled to rehabilitation or special education services.

The school district shall provide special education and rehabilitative services only to children with verified disabilities and qualifying conditions.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6011

Fire Instruction and Prevention

The school district will provide regular periods of instruction in fire danger and fire prevention, and will observe State Fire Day; the second Saturday in May is designated and shall be known as Fire Recognition Day. State Statute 79-705.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6012

Flag Display and Patriotic Observances

The district shall display the flags of the United States of America and the State of Nebraska prominently on the grounds of every school building each day that school is in session.

Each building principal shall be responsible for the care and display of the flags at his/her assigned building, and shall adhere to the rules and customs pertaining to the use and display of the flags as set forth in the United States Code.

Each day, at the time designated by the building administrator, staff shall ensure that students in grades K-12 will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the presence of the flag of the United States of America. Pupil participation in the recitation of pledge shall be voluntary. Pupils who elect not to participate shall sit or stand silently and must respect the rights of those students choosing to participate.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

Teaching Controversial Issues

The ability to discuss, listen, and dissent are essential elements of responsible citizenship. The school district encourages students to develop skills in analyzing issues, respecting the opinion of others, distinguishing between fact and opinion, considering all pertinent factors in reaching decisions, and arriving at group decisions.

Teachers may teach or lead discussions about controversial issues if they comply with the criteria contained in this policy. Controversial issues may be questions, subjects, or problems which can create a difference of opinion. They can include issues which may have political, social, environmental, or personal impacts on pupils and/or the wider community: locally, nationally or internationally. Often they have no easy answer, in part, because solutions may be based on an individual's personal values and beliefs.

1. The issues discussed must be relevant to the curriculum and be part of a planned educational program.
2. Students must have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues.
3. The teacher must encourage students to consider and discuss a variety of viewpoints.
4. The topic and materials used must be within the range, knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students.
5. The teacher must inform parents and the building principal before discussing sensitive or controversial issues.
6. The teacher must keep detailed, documentary evidence to prove that both sides and/or all facts available were presented.
7. Teachers must refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda of any kind 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.

Teachers who are unsure of their obligations under this policy must confer with their principal prior to discussing controversial issues in the classroom.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6014

School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities

Students who are absent from school for any part of the day will not be permitted to practice or participate in an extracurricular contest, practice or performance unless the student has a medical note or the building principal's prior permission to participate despite the absence.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6015

Credit Recovery and Summer School

The school district may conduct a credit recovery or summer school program to provide additional educational opportunities for students who need remedial instruction and/or to enrich students' educational experiences. Students who successfully complete classes offered through the district's credit recovery or summer school program will earn credit toward high school graduation. Students will be allowed to substitute a credit recovery or summer-school grade for a failing grade earned during the regular school year.

Students who take credit recovery or summer school courses to replace a passing grade may not use the summer school course or credit recovery course to advance their class rank.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6016

Homebound and Off-Campus Instruction

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home or other off-campus location under the following circumstances:

- if the student's IEP or 504 team determines that homebound instruction is appropriate;
- if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes and the superintendent or his/her designee had determined that a program of off-campus instruction is appropriate, after conferring with the student's parents, teacher(s) and/or physician; or
- under other circumstances which the superintendent deems to be appropriate.

Homebound and off-campus instruction may include a variety of in-person and distance learning services, as determined appropriate by the superintendent or relevant educational team. The superintendent or relevant educational team shall periodically review individual off-campus instructional programs and shall only continue them as long as they are educationally appropriate.

Adopted on: June 11, 2025
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6017

Homework

Homework consists of assignments made by teachers that students must complete during non-class time. Homework is intended to ensure student learning of certain concepts and/or skills found in the written and taught curriculum.

Teachers are allowed to assign homework and must use their professional judgment in determining the length, difficulty, and student readiness to proceed with homework assignments.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6018

Grades

The school will report student grades and/or academic progress to parents at least four times per year. The superintendent or his/her designee shall develop and implement student grading guidelines to be used by teachers. The objective of grading guidelines shall be to quantify and report the academic achievement of each student.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

Multicultural Education

In every curriculum area and at all grades, the school district will provide programs which foster and develop an appreciation and understanding of the racial, ethnic, and cultural heritage of all students. These programs will allow students to explore the history and contributions made by various ethnic groups and will emphasize human relations, sensitivity toward all races, and the rich diversity of the population of the United States. The district's multicultural education curriculum will be consistent with the district's responsibility under state law to ensure that youth are given the opportunity to become competent, responsible, patriotic, and civil citizens. The district's civics curriculum and multicultural curriculum will work together to make students fully aware of the liberties, opportunities, and advantages we possess and the sacrifices and struggles through whose efforts these benefits were gained.

Philosophy, Mission, and Program Goals. The school district respects and appreciates cultural diversity and seeks to promote the understanding of unique cultural and ethnic heritage. The district will promote the development of a culturally responsible and responsive curriculum. The school district's program will explore the attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary to function in various cultures.

District Guides, Frameworks, or Standards. Appropriate district staff and/or committee(s) will review the school district curriculum guides, frameworks, or standards to determine that they appropriately incorporate multicultural education.

Selecting Appropriate Instructional Materials. Appropriate school district staff and/or committee(s) will review instructional materials and make a recommendation regarding those that are appropriate for the school district's multicultural education program.

Providing Staff Development. Appropriate school district staff and/or committee(s) will review the staff development provided for administrators, teachers, and support staff to determine that it includes appropriate multicultural education that is consistent with school district and program goals.

Periodic Assessment. Appropriate school district staff and/or committee(s) will periodically review the school district's multicultural

education program by reviewing the criteria in this policy to assess whether the school district is adequately and appropriately incorporating multicultural education in all curriculum areas in all grades.

Annual Status Report. The superintendent will provide the board with a report on the status of the school district's multicultural education program annually.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6021

District Criteria for Selecting Evaluators to be Used for Special Education Evaluation and Verification and Independent Educational Evaluations

The following criteria shall be used for selecting evaluators according to 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 51-006.07B:

1. Those in-state service agencies that have approved rates for the current year established by the Nebraska Department of Education. A list of service agencies with approved rates, including state agencies, individual providers, and in-state providers may be found at <https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/service-agencies/>.
2. Those Nebraska providers are located within 150 miles of the building of the district where the child attends when driving by ordinary public roadways.
3. Evaluations must consider the educational, health, or other student records of the student provided by the district. The parents, guardians, or age-appropriate student must provide any required consent to the disclosure of these records unless disclosure is already authorized by state and federal law.
4. Evaluations must be provided to the district, including all educational, health, student, or other records created as part of or relied upon to complete the evaluation. The parents, guardians, or age-appropriate student must provide any required consent to the disclosure of these records unless disclosure is already authorized by state and federal law.
5. Evaluations must be conducted by a provider that is authorized, available, and willing to discuss, confer, or otherwise cooperate with the district regarding the evaluation, its results, or any other information related to the evaluation. Such cooperation may include reasonable participation in, or the submission of additional reports or information to, an IEP, MDT, or SAT team. Evaluators must make available to the district any documents or records created in relation to the evaluation, including evaluation and assessment protocols and responses, when the district determines in its sole discretion that such documentation is necessary in order to permit meaningful parental participation. The parents, guardians, or age-appropriate student must provide any required consent to the disclosure of these records or information unless disclosure is already authorized by state and federal law.
6. Evaluations must be sufficiently comprehensive for the evaluator to submit

to the district a report that specifically details whether the student should be considered eligible for special education and related services, the nature of special education and related services recommended to accommodate the student's suspected disability, and the particular facts or findings underlying the evaluator's conclusions. This report must be submitted to the district within 45 days after the conclusion of the evaluation.

7. Evaluations must meet the then-current state standards for reliability, research-based processes, and educational or professional best practices.
8. Reimbursement to any evaluator chosen in conformance with this policy shall not exceed the cost that would be charged by the school district's contracted providers for the same or substantially similar evaluation.

All special education evaluations, including those independently obtained at the district's expense, must be obtained in a manner consistent with the criteria set forth above, unless state or federal law requires waiver of one or more criteria in order to accommodate unique circumstances.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices while at school, so long as they do so safely, responsibly and respectfully and comply with all other school rules while using these devices.

By bringing their cell phones and other electronic communication devices to school, students consent to the search of said devices by school staff when permitted by law.

Students may not have cell phones or electronic devices on while they are in locker rooms, restrooms, or any other area in which others may have a reasonable expectation of privacy.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (including things like texting, sexting, emailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct.

While on school property, at a school activity, or in a school vehicle, students may not use their cell phones or electronic devices to bully, harass, or intimidate any other person as governed by the student code of conduct.

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their electronic devices. The district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of any electronic device, including any calls or downloads.

Students who violate this policy may have their cell phones or electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the parent or guardian of the offending student, after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the rule violation. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: July 16, 2025

Reviewed on: _____

6026

Emergency Dismissal

The superintendent or his/her designee is responsible for determining when school and/or extracurricular activities should be cancelled or dismissed due to severe weather or other emergency conditions. Coaches and/or sponsors may not conduct practices on days that school is cancelled without first securing the superintendent's specific permission.

Adopted on: June 11, 2025

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6027

Field Trips

The board encourages instructional staff to incorporate field trips into the curriculum. These trips should normally be conducted during the school day.

1. General Conditions

All trips must be pre-approved by the teacher's building principal. Out-of-state and overnight trips require pre-approval by the board. The superintendent and principals will develop guidelines for approval of trips and communicate those guidelines to teaching staff.

2. Parental Permission

Each student must submit a signed parental permission slip to have on file before being allowed to attend a field trip. Caregivers, as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, shall be permitted to sign parental permission slips.

3. Supervision

Sponsoring teachers must ensure that students are adequately supervised and chaperoned by a responsible adult at all times during field trips. Whether paid staff or volunteers, chaperones are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages of any kind at any time during any field trip. All chaperones must be at least 21 years of age. Chaperones do not have any property right in or to a chaperone assignment. The school district may deny or terminate a chaperone assignment for any reason that is not unconstitutional or unlawful. The superintendent's decision shall be final.

4. Student Conduct

Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

The Extracurricular Activities Program

1. General Purpose

- a. The extracurricular program includes non curricular activities which are sponsored by the school district. These activities include sports, speech, plays, Career Service Organizations, music performance groups and other activities which are sponsored by the school.
- b. Extracurricular activities are an important part of the total school experience, but are secondary to the academic program and must be kept in that perspective.
- c. Extracurricular activities **do not** include:
 - i. co-curricular activities such as band and choir, in which students must participate as part of the requirements for enrollment in and receiving a grade for a particular course.
 - ii. student-initiated, non-curriculum related student groups which are permitted to hold meetings and events on school premises. These groups are not school-sponsored and are not governed by this policy or other policies and rules governing extracurricular groups.

2. Governance

- a. All extracurricular activities shall be under the exclusive governance and control of the school district. This control includes, but is not be limited to, the formation, naming, structure, operation, financing, and discontinuance of all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities shall not have any separate or individual existence, status, rights, or authority.
- b. Students and sponsors will be governed by all board's policies and administrative rules including the policy on field trips when traveling for extracurricular activities.

3. Student Eligibility

- a. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular

activities. Participation shall be open to and limited to all students who are currently enrolled in the school district on a voluntary basis.

- b.** Extracurricular activities may establish academic or course enrollment qualifications for participation if such qualifications are necessarily related to the purposes of the activity.
- c.** Standards for scholastic eligibility for students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities shall be set by the administration and shall be consistent with at least the minimum standards provided by the NSAA.
- d.** All students in grades 7-12 who participate in athletics must have a physical examination by a qualified health care provider at the student's expense.
- e.** Students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities must abide by the student code of conduct, the extracurricular code of conduct and any additional rules set by the activity sponsor.
- f.** Students are not eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity until they and their parents/guardians have signed the student handbook and extracurricular handbook receipt and acknowledgement.

4. Sponsors

- a.** Each extracurricular activity must have a sponsor who is a member of the district's certificated staff or a selected community member who is qualified by virtue of education, training, experience, or special interest to serve as the sponsor.
- b.** The superintendent or his/her designee will assign activity sponsors. Payment to sponsors will be negotiated with the sponsor based on the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, the sponsor's training and experience and any other lawful criteria. Sponsors serve in their capacity as a sponsor at the will of the superintendent, who is specifically empowered to remove an activity sponsor at the superintendent's sole discretion.

- c. Sponsors shall be required to: develop materials, activities, and a budget; promote membership and participation; communicate with the principal or designee, staff, students, and parents; schedule meeting dates and locations; plan meaningful experiences; supervise students during activities; evaluate and make recommendations; and submit a year-end report to the principal or designee.

5. **Fundraising Activities**

All fundraising activities shall require authorization by a member of the school district administration and shall be subject to all other school policies. All money raised by these activities shall be governed by Policy 3005.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6029

Activity Trips

Students must travel to and from all extracurricular activities in the transportation provided by the school. A student may travel home from an activity with his/her parent or guardian if the activity sponsor has personally released the student to the parents' custody. Students who misbehave while on an activity trip may be subject to disciplinary consequences set forth in the board's student discipline policy. In addition to any other disciplinary consequences imposed, students who misbehave while on school-sponsored trips may be prohibited from attending future trips.

Students must comply with the board's policies on field trips as well as the student code of conduct, the extracurricular code, and all directives of a sponsor or chaperone while on activity trip.

Adopted on: June 11, 2025
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6030

Public Appearances of School Groups

The reputation of the school district is enhanced when student groups appear at public non-school functions. Therefore, the board encourages student groups to appear at public events, subject to the following requirements:

1. Activity sponsors must secure the permission of their building principal before booking a student group at a public event.
2. Sponsors are discouraged from booking student groups to perform on more than one school night (Sunday-Thursday) per week.
3. Student groups may not perform at a political rally without permission from the superintendent and prior notice to parents.
4. The policies and rules that apply to field trips also apply to student group appearances in public.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6031

Emergency Exclusion

Grounds for Emergency Exclusion. Any student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances subject to the procedural provisions governing short term suspension found elsewhere in these policies or state law:

(a) If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or

(b) If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

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

Extension of Exclusion. Pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, the principal has the authority to exclude a student from school for up to five school days on an emergency basis. If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that it is appropriate to consider the extension of an exclusion beyond five days, such consideration shall be made according to the procedures set forth below.

Notification of Student's Parent(s) or Guardian(s). The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) that the principal has proposed the extension of the exclusion. If the initial notice is oral, the superintendent shall confirm it in writing. The notice shall include notice of a recommended hearing examiner and an alternate hearing examiner for consideration by the parent(s) or guardian(s) if a hearing is requested.

Opportunity to Request a Hearing. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may submit a request for a hearing on the proposed extension of the exclusion within one school day of receiving the notice of the proposed extension.

Failure to Request a Hearing. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) do not

request a hearing within one school day of receiving oral or written notice, the proposed extension of the exclusion shall automatically go into effect.

Appointment and Qualifications of a Hearing Examiner. The parent(s) or guardian(s) shall notify the superintendent within one school day of receiving notice of the recommended extension and proposed hearing examiner and alternate hearing examiner if the alternate hearing examiner is preferred.

Hearing Examiner's Notice to Parent(s) or Guardian(s). The hearing examiner shall promptly give written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. The hearing will be held within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion; provided, the hearing may be held more than five school days after receipt of the request upon a showing of good cause. No hearing will be held on less than two (2) school days' notice unless otherwise agreed to by the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) and school officials.

Continued Exclusion. If a hearing is requested, the principal may determine in his or her sole discretion that the student shall remain excluded from school until the hearing officer makes a recommendation to the superintendent.

Examination of Student's Records and Affidavits. Prior to the hearing, the student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) shall have the right to examine and have school officials explain the student's records and any affidavits that will be used by school officials at the hearing.

Attendance at Hearing. The hearing may be attended by the hearing examiner, the principal (or designee), the student, and the student's parents or guardian(s). The student may be represented at this hearing by a representative of the family's choice.

Student's Witness(es). The student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) may ask any person with knowledge of the events leading up to the sanction or with general knowledge of the student's character to testify on behalf of the student. If school personnel or other students are requested to testify by the student's parent(s) or guardian(s), the hearing officer shall endeavor to help obtain the presence of such witnesses at the hearing.

Right to Know Issues and Nature of Testimony. The student and his/her parent(s) or guardian(s) have the right to request in advance of the hearing the issues which the administration will propose in support of the extension, and the general nature of the testimony of any administrative or expert witnesses.

Presence of Student and Witnesses at the Hearing. The student and witnesses may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing examiner in accordance with state statutes. The student may speak in his/her own defense and may be questioned on such testimony, but may choose not to testify. The school district shall make available to testify at the hearing any employee who is a witness to the matter upon request from the parent(s) or guardian(s).

Sworn or Affirmed Testimony. The principal or his or her designee shall present evidence supporting the recommended extension. Witnesses will give testimony under oath of affirmation, and may be questioned.

Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendations. The hearing examiner shall prepare a report of his or her findings and recommendations, and forward the report to the superintendent.

Superintendent's Decision. The superintendent will review the hearing examiner's report and determine whether to extend the exclusion. He or she shall have the decision delivered or sent by registered or certified mail to the student, student's parent(s), or guardian(s). If the superintendent decides to extend the exclusion, the extension will take effect immediately.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

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Reviewed on: _____

6032

Constitution Day Education

Each year on September 17, designated as Constitution Day, the school district will conduct a program designed to highlight the historic and continuing importance of the United States Constitution. When September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the district will provide this program during the preceding or following week.

The program shall be implemented within the guidelines of the U.S. Department of Education and in accordance with any other applicable laws and/or regulations.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

Concussion Awareness

The Nebraska Unicameral has found that concussions are one of the “most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities and that the risk of catastrophic injury or death is significant when a concussion or brain injury is not properly evaluated and managed.”

The School District will:

- a. Require all coaches and trainers to complete a training course approved by the Chief Medical Officer on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury.
- b. On an annual basis provide concussion and brain injury information to students and their parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition. This information will include:
 - 1 The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
 - 2 The risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and
 - 3 The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of his or her coaches.

A student who participates on a school athletic team must be removed from a practice or game when he/she is reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in such practice or game after observation by a coach or a licensed health care professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the school. The student will not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including practices or games, until the student:

- a. has been evaluated by a licensed healthcare professional;
- b. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed healthcare professional; and
- c. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student’s parent or guardian.

If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity, the parent or guardian of the student will be notified by the school of:

- a. the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student,
- b. the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and
- c. any actions taken to treat the student.

The school district will not provide for the presence of a licensed health care professional at any practice or game.

School officials shall deem the signature of an individual who represents that he/she is a licensed health care professional on a written clearance to resume participation that is provided to the school to be conclusive and reliable evidence that the individual who signed the clearance is a licensed healthcare professional. The school will not take any additional or independent steps to verify the individual's qualifications.

Students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered. The school's "return to learn protocol" shall follow the model provided by the Nebraska Department of Education. Nothing in this policy or the referenced protocol shall entitle a student who has sustained a concussion to an individualized plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, although staff will refer students who have sustained a concussion for evaluation under Section 504 as appropriate.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024

Revised on: July 16, 2025

Reviewed on: _____

Reading Instruction and Intervention Services

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate reading instruction and intervention services to address student reading needs, including, but not limited to, dyslexia. It is the school district's goal that each student be able to read at or above grade level by third grade.

Effective Reading Teachers. It is the intent of the school district to employ teachers for kindergarten through third grade who are effective reading teachers as evidenced by (a) evaluations based on classroom observations and student improvement on reading assessments or (b) specialized training in reading improvement.

Reading Assessment. Beginning in 2019-20, the school district will administer a reading assessment approved by the Nebraska Department of Education three times during the school year to all students in kindergarten through third grade. Exceptions to this requirement include:

- Any student receiving specialized instruction for limited English proficiency who has been receiving such instruction for less than two years;
- Any student receiving special education services for whom such assessment would conflict with the individualized education plan; and
- Any student receiving services under a plan pursuant to the requirements of section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, or Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12131 to 12165, as such acts and sections existed on January 1, 2018, for whom such assessment would conflict with such section 504 or Title II plan.

The first assessment must occur within the first 30 days of the school year.

Diagnostic assessments used within a supplemental reading intervention program do not require Nebraska Department of Education approval.

Deficiency Identification. Any student in kindergarten through third grade performing below the threshold level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Education shall be identified as having a reading deficiency for purposes of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and this policy. A student who is identified as having a reading deficiency shall remain identified as having a reading deficiency until the student performs at or

above the threshold level on an approved reading assessment. Nothing in the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act or this policy shall prohibit a school district from identifying any other student as having a reading deficiency.

Supplemental Reading Intervention Program. The school district will provide a supplemental reading intervention program to ensure that students can read at or above grade level at the end of third grade. The school district may work collaboratively with a reading specialist at the Nebraska Department of Education, with educational service units, with learning communities, or through interlocal agreements to develop and provide such supplemental reading intervention programs. Each supplemental reading intervention program must:

- Be provided to any student identified as having a reading deficiency;
- Be implemented during regular school hours in addition to regularly scheduled reading instruction unless otherwise agreed to by a parent or guardian; and
- Make available a summer reading program each summer for any student who has been enrolled in grade one or higher and is identified as continuing to have a reading deficiency at the conclusion of the school year preceding such summer reading program. The summer reading program may be held in conjunction with existing summer programs in the school district or in a community reading program not affiliated with the school district or may be offered online.

The supplemental reading intervention program may also include:

- Reading intervention techniques that are based on scientific research and best practices;
- Diagnostic assessments to frequently monitor student progress throughout the school year and adjust instruction accordingly;
- Intensive intervention using strategies selected from the following list to match the weaknesses identified in the diagnostic assessment:
 - Development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension;
 - Explicit and systematic instruction with detailed explanations, extensive opportunities for guided practice, and opportunities for error corrections and feedback; or
 - Daily targeted individual or small-group reading intervention based on student needs as determined by diagnostic assessment data subject to planned extracurricular school activities;
- Strategies and resources to assist with reading skills at home, including parent-training workshops and suggestions for parent-guided home reading; or

- Access to before-school or after-school supplemental reading intervention with a teacher or tutor who has specialized training in reading intervention.

Parent/Guardian Notification. The school will give notice in writing or by electronic communication to the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any student identified as having a reading deficiency within 15 working days of such identification that the student has been identified as having a reading deficiency and that an individual reading improvement plan will be established and shared with the parents or guardians.

Reading Improvement Plan. Any student who is identified as having a reading deficiency will receive an individual reading improvement plan no later than 30 days after the identification of the reading deficiency. The reading improvement plan may be created by the teacher, the principal, other pertinent school personnel, and the parents or guardians of the student and shall describe the reading intervention services the student will receive through the supplemental reading intervention program to remedy the reading deficiency. The student must receive reading intervention services through the supplemental reading intervention program until the student is no longer identified as having a reading deficiency.

Reading Progress. Each student in kindergarten through third grade and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) will be informed of the student's reading progress within a reasonable time after the school district receives the results from the student's approved reading assessment.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

Selection and Review of Library Media

The board approves curriculum and curriculum-related materials for the district with input from administrators and staff. Those processes are covered in other board policies. Staff members seeking to procure materials for use during instruction must follow board policy, practices, and directives. Those items are not covered by this policy.

The district procures library books and other media available to students that are not part of a specific class or curriculum. For purposes of this policy, those will be called library materials. This policy addresses the selection and review of library materials, regardless of their source. This policy applies regardless of whether library materials are purchased using district funds, donated, or shared at no cost to the district.

No Right to Materials. The board supports having excellent educational opportunities for students, including availability of library materials used to enrich the educational experience. However, the board and administration are responsible for considering materials based on a variety of factors and legal obligations. There is no right to force any material to be included or excluded. Staff requesting library materials do so only within the course and scope of their employment with the district.

Selection Process. The selection and approval of new library materials must comply with the district's general requisition, donation, and budgeting requirements. To ensure materials selected are appropriate for the district's students and consistent with the district's legal obligations, the following process applies to selection of library materials.

PRINCIPAL REVIEW The school librarian, media specialist, or any individual requesting library materials is responsible for submitting the request in writing to the building principal or to superintendent if there is no principal assigned to the building. The request must include the following

1. Name of the book, material, or resource;
2. The author, publisher, and supplier of the material;
3. The physical medium (*i.e.*, book, magazine, video, game, digital subscription, etc.);
4. The cost of the material;

5. A summary of the content of the material, including how it supports age-appropriate learning objectives, enriches the curriculum, and/or supports student development and learning;
6. The material's accolades, such as presence on best seller lists, awards won, and recommendations from professional library journals and organizations with a focus on K-12 school library materials; and
7. Whether any of the content in the material represents a perspective that may not be universal, such as a political, religious, or social perspective for which disagreement or differences of opinion exist. The summary should include a description of these items.

The building principal will review the library material request and inform the requester whether the material will be accepted or denied. Materials which require expenditure of district funds will be processed consistently with the district's purchasing and procurement policies and practices. There is no appeal from this determination.

Requested Review of Library Materials. A concerned parent of a current student or patron living within the school district boundaries may request the review of a specific library material (*i.e.*, a specific book, magazine, etc.) or portion of a specific library material. The parent or patron must first discuss their concern with the building principal and explain their concern regarding the library material. If there is no principal assigned to that building, the parent or patron should discuss their concern with the superintendent. The board believes most concerns will be resolved in this manner.

SUPERINTENDENT REVIEW. If the parent or patron is dissatisfied after the informal review and discussion with the relevant administrator, they may request a review in writing ([Review Request Form](#)). To request a review, the individual must complete the Library Material Review Request form and submit it to the superintendent.

The superintendent will review the request within a reasonable time after receiving it. The superintendent may consult with the school's librarian or media specialist, staff, and legal counsel at his or her discretion. The superintendent may decide to remove the material, keep the material, restrict access to the material to students based on age or grade level, or make any other determination the superintendent deems appropriate. The superintendent's decision regarding the review will be communicated to the requester in writing.

The decision of the superintendent is final, and the board will not hear any appeal regarding the review of library material.

Additional Rules for Library Media Review. Unless the superintendent decides otherwise, the library material will remain in circulation while a review is pending. Unless otherwise required by law, no library material will be reviewed again within 4 years after a requested review is completed. Any parent or patron requesting review of multiple library materials may only request a maximum of 5 materials to be reviewed at one time, and a new request cannot be submitted until the prior review is completed and notice of the determination is provided to the requesting party. Nothing in this policy prohibits the superintendent or their designee from reviewing library material outside of the review process contained in this policy and taking any action the superintendent or their designee deems appropriate.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

Artificial Intelligence

As used in this policy, artificial intelligence tools (“AI Tools”) mean machine-based resources that use computer science, algorithms, large language models, and/or machine learning to perform tasks, answer questions, collect information, and respond to human-directed tasks, queries, and objectives. AI Tools include, but are not necessarily limited to, commercially-available resources like ChaptGPT, Google Bard, and other chatbots.

The board recognizes that among other resources, when properly used, AI Tools may provide valuable source information to students and teachers in relation to the district’s academic curriculum and assignments. Student use of AI Tools should focus on using such tools as a resource and for background material, rather than using the AI Tools to complete the assignment. Therefore, AI Tools may only be used by students in accordance with the following requirements:

1. Unless an individual teacher affirmatively communicates to students that AI Tools may be used for a specific assignment, then AI Tools may not be used. Individual teachers will decide for each individual assignment the extent to which students may use AI Tools for such assignment. Teachers are encouraged to make such a decision in advance of students being given the individual assignment in question.
2. Teachers will communicate to all students responsible for completing an assignment the extent to which such students may use AI Tools in connection with such assignment. Teachers will endeavor to include in such communications examples of permissible and impermissible uses of AI Tools.
3. If a student uses any AI Tools in connection with a school assignment, the student must comply with the following:
 - a. The student must explicitly disclose to the teacher in writing that the student used an AI Tool and the specific AI Tool used.
 - b. In any student work (whether hard copy, electronic, digital, or otherwise), the student shall give proper attribution to the AI Tool(s) used to the same extent that students are expected to give proper attribution to other sources of information such as

books, texts, encyclopedias, secondary sources, and other traditional media. Such attribution may include, but is not necessarily limited to, accurate quotations, citations, footnotes, endnotes, and/or bibliography entries.

- c. In no instance may the output from one or more AI Tools be copied and placed within a student’s work as if the student wrote such a section himself or herself. For example and not limitation, students may not outsource the organization or the writing of any written work to any AI Tool.
- 4. A student’s failure to meet the requirements stated in this policy will constitute a violation of the district’s prohibitions against cheating plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty, including but not necessarily limited to such prohibitions stated in the Student Handbook, which violation will subject the student to discipline up to and including expulsion.
- 5. The student requirements stated above are the minimum requirements for any student assignment. An individual teacher may impose more stringent requirements for any specific academic assignment or coursework.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6041

Malcolm X Day Education

Each year on May 19th, designated as El-Hajj Malik ElShabazz, Malcolm X Day, the school district will hold suitable exercises in recognition of the sacrifices of the late Nebraska Hall of Fame inductee El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, Malcolm X, and his contributions to the betterment of society. When May 19th falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the district will provide the suitable exercises during the preceding or following week. The program shall be implemented within any applicable laws and/or regulations.

Adopted on: June 11, 2025
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

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.

Adopted on: July 10, 2024
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

Sharing Mapping Data

This policy shall provide for the sharing of information to public safety agencies in order to implement effective emergency response protocols.

Definition. Mapping data means maps relating to the school buildings or school property with data for an efficient emergency response.

Sharing of Mapping Data. Mapping data shall be shared in an electronic or printable format with public safety agencies that provide emergency services to district property to assist those agencies in responding to an emergency on district property.

Requirements Related to Mapping Data. Mapping data shared with public safety agencies pursuant to this policy shall meet the following requirements:

- The mapping data shall be compatible with and able to be integrated into software platforms used by public safety that provide emergency services to the specific school for which the data is provided without requiring:
 - The purchase of additional software by such public safety agencies; or
 - The integration of third-party software to view the data;
- The mapping data shall be a finished map product in a file format easily accessible using a standard or open-source file reader, depending on the needs of the school and the public safety agency;
- The mapping data shall be provided in a printable format;
- The mapping data shall be verified for accuracy, during production and annually, through a walk-through of the school campus;
- The mapping data shall give an indication of what direction is true north;
- The mapping data shall include accurate floor plans overlaid on accurate, verified aerial imagery of the school campus;
- The mapping data shall contain site-specific labeling that matches the structure of school buildings, including room labels, hallway names, external door or stairwell numbers, locations of hazards, key utility locations, key boxes, automated external defibrillators, and trauma kits using standard labeling rules set by the State Department of Education;
- The mapping data shall contain site-specific labeling that matches the school grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding

roads, and neighboring properties using standard labeling rules set by the State Department of Education; and

- The mapping data shall be overlaid with a grid and coordinates.

Annual Certification or Updates. The district shall annually:

- Certify to the appropriate public safety agencies that the mapping data provided pursuant to this policy is accurate; or
- If such information has changed, provide the appropriate public safety agencies with updated mapping data.

Reimbursement. The Superintendent shall apply to the State Department of Education in the manner prescribed by the Commissioner of Education for a grant to cover the costs of providing payment to vendors on behalf of the school district to facilitate the implementation of mapping data in accordance with this policy. Such application shall include a copy of this school policy, an estimate from a vendor on the cost of providing such mapping data that meets the requirements of this policy, and any other information the department may require. Alternatively, the Superintendent may apply to and contract with the district's educational service unit in the manner prescribed by the educational service unit for purposes of covering the costs of facilitating mapping data in accordance with this policy.

Adopted on: November 13, 2024

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

Participation and Assignment of Athletic Teams

Designation of Athletic Team or Sport. The terms male, female, and coed are defined as provided by state law. All athletic and sports teams of the district are hereby designated as male, female, or coed as follows:

Sport/Team	Designation
Football	Male
Volleyball	Female
Cross Country	Male and Female Teams
Golf	Male and Female Teams
Basketball	Male and Female Teams
Wrestling	Male and Female Teams
Track	Male and Female Teams

Participation on Assigned Teams. Males shall not participate on teams designated for females. Females may only participate on male teams when there is no female team offered or available for such sport. Males and females may participate on coed teams and in coed events as long as their participation is consistent with the eligibility and other rules of that team or event.

Determination of Student Sex. To determine eligibility, a student and the student's parent or guardian shall provide the district with confirmation of the student's sex on a document signed by a doctor or signed under authority of a doctor.

Conduct of Visitors and the Public. Visitors and members of the public attending district interscholastic team activities are expected to comply with all district policies and practices, including sportsmanship rules.

Adopted on: July 16, 2025

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6045

Behavioral Intervention

General Approach. The district utilizes a tiered system of support to foster a positive school climate and culture, encourage appropriate student behavior, and provide the necessary support for academic and behavioral success.

Interaction with Student Discipline Policy. This policy does not replace the Student Discipline policy or limit the District's authority under the Student Discipline Act when behaviors warrant action under that policy or Act.

Classroom Removal. Students may be removed from the classroom if the student poses a threat to their own safety, the safety of others, or the environment or if the student's behavior is disruptive to the learning environment. When appropriate, prior to removal staff should consider the use of de-escalation techniques, behavior redirection, or other Tier 1 or Tier 2 or comparable interventions.

When classroom removal is appropriate, the District will consider whether the student requires additional support to transition back to the classroom and continue to monitor the student's behavior to adjust interventions and supports as needed.

Required Training. The School District, independently or through the educational service unit, will develop and provide behavioral awareness and intervention training to employees with behavioral management responsibilities. Each employee with behavior management responsibilities must complete the behavioral awareness and intervention training during the 2026-27 school year or during the first year of employment with the district.

The length of such training will be at least 1 hours.

Behavioral Awareness Point of Contact (BAPC). Each school building must designate one or more school employees as a BAPC. Each BAPC must have knowledge of community services providers and other resources available for students and families. Each BAPC must coordinate access to support services for students.

The BAPC will be identified on the district website and in the school directory.

Adopted on: July 16, 2025
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____