6000
Policies Relating to Curricular/Extra-Curricular Programs

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6000 Series Policies

6001 School Organization

6002 School Calendar

6003 Instructional Program

6004 Curriculum Development

6005 Academic Credits and Graduation

6006 Commencement Ceremony

6007 Senior Recognition

6008 Class Rank

6009 Grade Placement of Transfer Students

6010 Special Education Identification, Evaluation and Verification

6011 Fire Inspection and Prevention

6012 Flag Display and Patriotic Observances

6013 Controversial Issues

6014 School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities

6015 Summer School

6016 Homebound Instruction

6017 Homework

6018 Grades

6019 Communication with Parents

6020 Multi-Cultural Education

6021 District Criteria for Selecting Evaluators to be Used for Special Education

6022 Section 504 Grievance Procedure

6023 Relations with Non-Accredited Private or Home School Students

6024 Student Discipline

6025 Student Cell Phone and Page Policy

6026 Emergency Dismissal

6027 Field Trips

6028 The Extra Curricular Activities Program

6029 Activity Trips

6030 Public Appearances of School Groups

6031 Emergency Exclusion Procedure

6032 Constitution Day Education

6001
School Organization

The school district shall be organized under a system whereby kindergarten through 6th grade shall be designated the elementary school, and 7th grade through 12th grade shall be designated the high school.

Or

6001
School Organization

The school district shall be organized under a system whereby kindergarten 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: _____
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: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6003
Instructional Program

1. The minimum number of instructional hours in the school year will be _____ for middle school and high school students, _____ for elementary students, and _____ for kindergarten students, exclusive of lunchtime.

2. The district may establish special programs for individual students that may deviate from these requirements when, in the opinion of the superintendent or his/her designee, the programs will further the student's educational needs. All special programs must be arranged and approved by the administration with authorization from the student's parents or guardian.

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: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6004
Curriculum Development

The superintendent shall be responsible for providing and directing system-wide planning for curriculum, instruction, assessment and staff development.

The curriculum shall be standards-driven and accountability-based. It shall be articulated PreK-12. It shall meet state and district established content standards and reflect the comprehensive plan of the school district. All professional staff are responsible for implementing the curriculum.

The superintendent will present this curriculum to the board for approval or modification.

The superintendent shall be responsible for establishing curriculum guides to articulate and coordinate the written curriculum, and to provide consistency of the written curriculum from one level of the district to the next. Curriculum guides shall provide for the development of the school district's curriculum and shall set academic standards, identify essential educational outcome criteria, and provide for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of student learning.

Teachers are responsible for following the curriculum guides and teaching the written curriculum. Principals are responsible for monitoring the curriculum and evaluating teachers to ensure that they are teaching in compliance with the curriculum guides and written curriculum. The superintendent and his/her designee shall ensure that principals monitor the curriculum and evaluate teachers.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6005
Academic Credits and Graduation

The district shall accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by an accredited school district, and shall award a diploma to an option student if the student meets the district's graduation requirements.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

Option A
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) will be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

A student who lacks _____ or fewer credits to satisfy graduation requirements may participate in commencement ceremonies but will not be awarded a diploma until all graduation requirements have been met.

(highlighted language also optional)

Option B
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.

All students who are enrolled as members of the senior class at the end of a school year, whether students in the regular education curriculum or students with individual education plans, shall be eligible to participate in the ceremony regardless of whether they have completed all graduation requirements. A student may participate in only one ceremony. Being permitted to participate in the ceremony does not constitute graduation, and only those students who have completed all graduation requirements prior to the ceremony will receive a diploma.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6007
Senior Recognition

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

Insert your district's process for selecting valedictorian and salutatorian or otherwise recognizing academic achievement at graduation here.

Adopted on: _____
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 must be enrolled in the district's high school the last two semesters to be eligible to be included in class ranking.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6009
Grade Placement of Transfer Students

Subject to a determination on grade placement based on the criteria set forth below, a student transferring from an accredited school will generally 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.
- Standardized achievement test data.
- Criterion referenced test data.
- Final examination test data.
- Diagnostic test data.

A student transferring into the school district in grades 9-12 will be responsible for meeting all graduation requirements to earn a high school diploma. Credits earned in grades 9-12 at an accredited school will be counted toward high school graduation requirements. Credits from a home school and/or a non-accredited school will not be counted toward high school graduation requirements.

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: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6010
Special Education Identification, Evaluation and Verification

All children, regardless of their handicapping condition, are entitled to a free appropriate public education and an equal opportunity for education according to their needs. The district will follow the protocols created by the Nebraska Department of Education and the United States Department of Education in identifying, evaluating, and verifying 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: _____
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.

Adopted on: _____
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.

Staff and students shall recite the Pledge of Allegiance at the beginning of each school day. Students will be excused from reciting the pledge upon the written request of their parents/guardian.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6013
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 following criteria:

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 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: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6014

School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities

Students must attend regularly scheduled classes on the day they participate in any student activity.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6015
Summer School

The school district may conduct a summer school program to provide additional educational opportunities for students who need remedial instruction and/or to enrich students' educational experiences. Students may earn credit toward high school graduation that may result in a revision of class placement in the high school, but such advance placement is not guaranteed.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6016
Homebound Instruction

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home and under parental supervision if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes for an extended period of time. Homebound instruction shall be provided when the student's physical and mental condition are such that the student can benefit from instruction and no other provision will meet the student's educational needs. The superintendent or his/her designee will determine when homebound instruction is appropriate, after conferring with the student's parents, teacher(s) and/or physician.

Adopted on: _____
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 encouraged to assign homework and must use their professional judgment in determining the length, difficulty, and student readiness to proceed with homework assignments. Homework assignments shall be kept minimal on Wednesday nights, which is traditionally considered "family night" in the community.

(highlighted language is optional)

Adopted on: _____
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.

A student's academic grade shall not be reduced because of disciplinary reasons. This policy shall not apply when a student's grade is reduced because of work the student missed because of an unexcused absence, during a suspension or dismissal period.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6019
Communication with Parents

Effective communication between home and school is crucial to students' educational success. Both teachers and parents must work to communicate frequently about students' progress. Methods of communication include, but are not limited to, parent-teacher conferences, e-mail, telephone contact, school visitation by parents and home visitation by teachers. Teachers must notify parents about unsatisfactory student work promptly and prior to the end of a grading period.

The school calendar will provide opportunities for formal parent-teacher conferences. The conferences need not be limited to these days; they should be scheduled at times that will allow adequate time for an effective conference.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6020
Multi-Cultural Education

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 the rich diversity of the population of the United States.

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

Adopted on: _____
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 www.nde.state.ne.us.

2. Those Nebraska providers located within 100 miles of the school district.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6022
Section 504 Grievance Procedure

1. Complaints concerning entitlement to student services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 should be filed with the school district's 504 Coordinator (coordinator). All complaints must be in writing and signed by the person making the complaint. The 504 Coordinator may be contacted at :

   Name
   Title
   Address
   Phone

2. The coordinator will conduct an initial review of the complaint and attempt to effect a resolution. If the coordinator cannot resolve the complaint, the complaining party will be so advised in writing. In reviewing the complaint, the coordinator will meet with the complaining party, the complaining party's representative(s), and appropriate school district personnel including, but not limited to, the child's teacher(s) and school counselor.

3. If the coordinator does not resolve the complaint, the parties may agree to consult with a mediator from the Department of Education.

4. If the parties are unable to resolve the complaint through mediation, the party filing the complaint will be advised of the right to file the complaint with the Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, Region VII, Kansas City, Missouri, or to initiate judicial remedies as permitted by law.

5. All meetings that the complaining party is to attend shall be scheduled at a time convenient to both the complaining party and the coordinator.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6023
Option A
Relations with Non-Accredited Private or Home School Students

The board of education finds that allowing students who elect to receive their education in a non-accredited private and/or home school under Title 92 of the ***Nebraska Administrative Code***, Chapter 13 to participate in the curricular or extracurricular programs of the school district would create significant administrative difficulties for the district. Those difficulties include, but are not limited to:

- accommodating students on a selective basis
- the problems posed by admitting students to courses for which they had not completed prerequisite courses
- the impossibility of testing them for participation in such courses
- the increased burden on teachers and administrators
- the rules and regulations of the Nebraska State Activities Association, which require schools to monitor the academic eligibility of students who participate in extracurricular activities

Therefore, such students will not be allowed to participate in the district's curricular programs on a part-time basis (e.g., a home-school student may not take a high school chemistry class) except for state and/or federally-mandated special education services. They will not be allowed to participate in any of the district's extracurricular activities.

Textbooks shall not be made available to home schools that exist under the guidelines of the Nebraska Department of Education.

6024
Option B
Relations with Non-Accredited Private or Home School Students

Students who elect to receive their education in a non-accredited private and/or home school under Title 92 of the ***Nebraska Administrative Code***, Chapter 13, may apply to the board for permission to participate in any of the curricular or extra-curricular activities of the district. The board will grant the student=s application when, in its sole judgment, (a) the school district has the capacity to serve those students without adversely affecting the students who are enrolled as full-time students; (b) the applicant will have a positive effect on the activity and the other

students; and (c) the applicant has the skills and/or knowledge necessary to participate in the activity.

Textbooks will be made available to home schools that exist under the guidelines of the Nebraska Department of Education.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6024
STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude students from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,

2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, that occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a connection between such conduct and school.

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal or the Principal's designee shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.

2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he or she is accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.

3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.

Long-Term Suspension

Students may be excluded by the Principal or the Principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of more than five school days but less then twenty school days on (long-term suspension) the conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is hereinafter set forth.

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.

2. **Summer Review**. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion**: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which

the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate. In lieu of other authorized educational programs to which the student may be assigned, such school, class, or program may be offered as a community-centered classroom and may include experiences for the student as an observer or aide in governmental functions, as an on-the-job trainee, and as a participant in specialized tutorial experiences or individually prescribed educational and counseling programs. Such programs shall include an individualized learning program to enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. At the conclusion of the designated period: (1) if the student has satisfactorily participated in the school, class, or program to which such student has been assigned the student shall be reinstated and permitted to return to the school of former attendance or to attend other programs offered by the district, and action to expunge the record of the expulsion action may be taken at the discretion of the Superintendent or his or her designee, or (2) if the student's conduct has been unsatisfactory, the expulsion action shall be enforced. The determination of whether the students' participation and conduct has been satisfactory or not shall be made by Principal or the Principal's designee.

4. **Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation**. Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than nineteen years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal's designee shall meet with the student's probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal's designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may with proper consent, upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.

Other Forms of Student Discipline:

Administrative and teaching personnel may also take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures and a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment:

The following conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, subject to the procedural provisions of the Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-254 through 79-296, when such activity occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event:

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon;
6. Engaging in the possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-

401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (note: the term “under the influence” for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant);

7. Public indecency;
8. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. In addition, if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults, the student is subject to suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment regardless of where the conduct took place. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault shall mean sexual assault in the first degree and sexual assault in the second degree as defined in sections 28-319 and 28-320, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
9. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities;
10. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities;
11. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
12. Dressing in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distractive or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process.
13. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding school district buses.
14. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
15. A repeated violation of any rules and standards validly established by the Board of Education or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes.
16. In addition, a student who engages in the following conduct occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the

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

a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or,

b. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

17. Firearms

a. A student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school, or to have possessed a firearm at school, shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one calendar year. The Superintendent may modify such one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing. The term “to school” or “at school” means on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

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

i. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.

ii. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.

iii. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.

iv. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

Additional Student Conduct Rules:

The following additional student conduct rules are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion, as further specified in these rules. These rules govern student conduct on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.

1. Students must comply with the dress code set forth in the student handbook. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the Principal or Superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school's guidelines, the student should contact the Principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the Principal's office.

   Violations of the dress code will result in disciplinary action. If a dress code violation is also determined to violate other student conduct rules (e.g., public indecency, insubordination, expression of profanity), a first offense of the dress code may result in discipline, up to expulsion.

2. "Bullying" and harassment are prohibited. Students who engage in bullying or harassing behavior are subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

3. Students who violate the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Due Process Procedure

The following procedures shall be followed regarding any long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

1. The Principal shall file a written summary of the alleged violation and the evidence supporting the alleged violation with the Superintendent or his or her designee.

2. If the Principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent or his or her designee, the Principal may suspend the student until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the Superintendent.

3. The Principal or his or her designee shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:

    a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension or expulsion including a summary of the evidence.
    b. The penalties to which the student may be subjected and the penalty that the Principal, or his or her designee has recommended in the charge.
    c. A statement explaining the student's right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
    d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by these policies along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.
    e. A statement that the administrative representative, legal counsel for school, the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony.
    f. A form or a request for hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the Superintendent, the Principal or a designee in person or by registered or certified mail.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.

5. If the Superintendent, Principal, or deisgnee has not received a request for hearing within five school days following receipt of the written notice, the Principal's recommended consequence shall automatically go into effect.

6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the actual receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after actual receipt, the student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.

7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

8. If a hearing is required to be provided, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer.

Hearing Procedure:

1. **Hearing Officer.** The hearing officer shall be any person designated by the Superintendent. The hearing officer shall be an individual who has had no involvement in the charge, will not be a witness at the hearing and who has not brought the charges against the student. It shall be the duty of the hearing officer to remain impartial throughout all deliberations. The hearing officer shall be available prior to any hearing held pursuant to this policy to answer any questions the administrative representative, the student, the student's parents, or guardian, may have regarding the nature and conduct of the hearing.
2. **Administrative Representative.** The Principal may appoint an administrative representative to present the facts and evidence. Such administrative representative may be an attorney or may be represented by an attorney, but any such attorney shall not advise the hearing officer or parties who may review the proceedings as their counsel.
3. **Notice of Hearing.** If a hearing is requested within five school days of receipt of the notice, the hearing officer shall, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents or guardian of the time and place for the hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within a period of five school days after it is requested. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents, or guardian, except with the consent of all of the parties.
4. **Continuance.** Upon written request of the student or the student's parents or guardian, the hearing officer shall have the discretionary authority to continue from time to time the hearing. In addition, the hearing officer may continue the hearing upon any good cause.

5. **Access to Records.** The administrative representative, the student, the student's parent or guardian and the legal counsel of the student shall have the right to examine the records and affidavits and the statements of any witnesses in the possession of the school district at any reasonable time prior to the hearing.
6. **Hearing Procedure.** The hearing shall be attended by the hearing officer, the student, the student's parents, or guardian, the student's representative if any, and the administrative representative. Witnesses shall be present only when they are giving information at the hearing or with the consent of both parties. The student may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing officer at times when the student's psychological evaluation or emotional problems are being discussed. The student or the student's parents or guardian or both may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing examiner may exclude anyone from the hearing when his/her actions substantially disrupt an orderly hearing. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply at the hearing. The administrative representative shall present to the hearing officer statements, in affidavit form, of any person having information about the student's conduct and the student's records, but not unless such statements and records have been made available to the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative prior to the hearing. The information contained in such records shall be explained and interpreted prior to or at the hearing to the student, parents or guardian, or representative at their request, by appropriate school personnel. The student, the student's parents, guardian, or representative, the administrative representative or the hearing officer may ask witnesses to testify at the hearing. Such testimony shall be under oath and the hearing officer shall be authorized to administer the oath. The student, parent, guardian, or representative, administrative representative, or the hearing officer shall have the right to question any witness giving information at the hearing, the student may testify in his/her own defense in which case he/she shall be subject to cross-examination nor will any conclusion be drawn therefrom. Any person giving evidence by written statement or in person at a hearing shall be given the same immunity from liability as a person testifying in a court case. A single hearing may be conducted for more than one student if in the discretion of the hearing examiner a single hearing is not likely to result in confusion or prejudice to the interest of any of the students involved. If during the conduct of such a hearing, the hearing examiner concludes that any of such student's interests will be substantially prejudiced by a group hearing, or that confusion is resulting, the hearing examiner may order a separate hearing for each or any of said students.
7. **Availability of Witnesses**. The hearing officer will have the authority to subpoena any witnesses to the hearing and shall make reasonable efforts

to assist in obtaining the attendance of any witnesses requested by the student, student's parents or guardian or their legal representative.

8. **Record.** The proceedings of the hearing shall be recorded at the expense of the school district.
9. **Findings.** Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare and submit to the Superintendent of schools his/her written findings and recommendation as to disposition. This report shall explain, in terms of the needs of both the student and the school board, the reasons for the particular action recommended. Such recommendation may range from no action, through the entire field of counseling, to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.
10. **Review by Superintendent.** The Superintendent of schools shall review the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and in his/her discretion may also review any of the facts and evidence presented at the hearing and based upon such report and the facts shall determine the sanctions to be imposed. However, the Superintendent may not impose a more severe sanction than that imposed by the hearing officer.
11. **Notice of Determination.** Written notice of the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and the Superintendent's determination shall be made by certified registered mail or by personal delivery to the student, the student's parents or guardian. Upon receipt of such written notice by the student and/or parents and guardian, the Superintendent's determination shall take immediate effect.
12. **Appeal to Board.** The student, student's parents or guardian may, within seven school days following the receipt of the Superintendent's decision, submit to the Superintendent of schools a written request for a hearing before the Board of Education.
13. **Review by Board of Education**. Upon receipt of the request for review of the Superintendent's determination, the Board of Education or a committee of not less than three members shall, within ten school days, hold a hearing on the matter. Such hearing shall be made on the record except that the board may admit new or additional evidence to avoid substantial threat of unfairness. Such new evidence shall be recorded. The Board of Education or committee thereof may withdraw to deliberate privately upon the record and new evidence. Any such deliberation shall be held in the presence only of board members in attendance at the appeal proceeding, but may be held in the presence of legal counsel who has not previously acted as the administrative representative in presenting the school's case before the hearing officer. If any questions arise during such deliberations which require additional evidence, the Board of Education or committee thereof may require the hearing to receive such evidence, subject to the right of all parties to be present. A record of any such new or additional evidence shall be made and shall be considered as a part of the record

and based upon the evidence presented at the hearing before the hearing officer, and such new or additional evidence, the Board of Education or the committee shall make a final disposition of the matter. The board may alter the Superintendent's disposition of the case if it finds his/her decision to be too severe, but it may not impose a more severe sanction. A designated method of giving notice by the Board of Education or committee thereof, if required, for any Board review shall be by posting on the schoolhouse door.

14. **Final Decision of Board of Education.** The final decision of board shall be delivered to the student and parents or legal guardian of the student by personally delivering the same or by mailing the same by certified or registered mail.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6025
Student Cell Phone and Pager Policy

Student Cell Phones, Pagers, and Electronic Communication Devices (OPTION ONE)

Students are prohibited from using cellular phones or pagers while at school, except as provided in this policy.

Students may use cell phones or pagers on the school sidewalks and in the common areas of the school before and after school, so long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption. Students may not have cell phones or pagers while they are in locker rooms, classrooms or restrooms. During school hours students must keep their cell phones or pagers in lockers or a personal vehicle.

Students may not use cell phones or pagers while riding in school vehicles unless they have express permission to do so from the driver of the vehicle.

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and pagers. The district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of a cell phone or any calls made on a cell phone.

Students who violate this policy will have their cell phones or pagers confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student's parent or guardian, 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.

Student Cell Phones, Pagers, and Electronic Communication Devices (OPTION TWO)

Students are prohibited from possessing cell phones, pagers and other electronic communication devices while on school grounds, at school activities or riding in school vehicles. Students who violate this policy will have their cell phones or pagers confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student's parent or guardian 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: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6026
Emergency Dismissal

The superintendent 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: _____
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 prior to being allowed to attend a field trip. A new permission slip must be submitted for each trip.

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. Any chaperone who drives students must possess a valid driver's license. Chaperones who drive students in private vehicles must possess adequate insurance coverage.

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: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6028
The Extracurricular Activities Program

1. General Purpose

a. The extracurricular program includes noncurricular activities which are sponsored by the school district. These actives include sports, speech, plays, Future Farmers of America, Future Business Leaders of America, 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.

4. **Sponsors**

a. Each extracurricular activity must have a sponsor who is a member of the district's certificated staff or a selected community volunteer 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 in 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.

Adopted on: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6029
Activity Trips

Students must travel to and from all 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. The superintendent may prohibit any student who misbehaves while on school-sponsored trips 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: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6030
Public Appearances of School Groups

Community-school relationships are enhanced when student groups appear at community 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. Student groups may not 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: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

6031
Emergency Exclusion Procedure

This procedure shall govern the process of considering the extension of an emergency exclusion (exclusion) of a student for more than five school days. Pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, the principal has the authority to exclude a student from school for 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 considered 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.

Opportunity to Request a Hearing. The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may submit an oral request for a hearing on the proposed extension of the exclusion within two school days of receiving the initial notice. If the initial request for a hearing is oral, they shall confirm the request in writing.

Failure to Request a Hearing. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) do not request a hearing within two school days of receiving oral or written notice, the proposed extension of the exclusion shall automatically go into effect.

Appointment and Qualifications of a Hearing Examiner. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) request a hearing, the superintendent shall appoint a hearing examiner upon receiving a request for a hearing. The hearing examiner may be any person who did not bring charges against the student, is not to be a witness at the hearing, and has no involvement in the charge.

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 five school days after the school district receives the initial oral or written request; 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.

Sworn or Affirmed Testimony. The principal or his or her designee shall present evidence supporting the recommended extension of the exclusion. 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: _____
Revised on: _____
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: _____
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____