

**6000 Series Policies**  
**Policies Regarding Curricular and Academic Matters**

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**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.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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**6003**  
**Instructional Program**

1. The minimum number of instructional hours in the school year will be 1080 for middle school and high school students, 1032 for elementary and kindergarten students, 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: 08/14/2006  
Revised on: 12/11/2017  
Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **6004**

### **Curriculum Development**

The superintendent or his/her designee 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. The standards shall be the same as the measurable model academic content standards adopted by or required by the State Board of Education and shall cover at least the same grade levels required by the State Board. The curriculum shall be articulated to include all programs and grade levels offered within the district, K-12 and, if applicable, shall include a preschool program. The curriculum shall reflect the comprehensive plan of the school district. All professional staff members are responsible for implementing the curriculum.

The superintendent or his/her designee 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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 12/11/2017

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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**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 a transfer student if the student meets the district's graduation requirements.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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**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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **6007**

### **Senior Recognition**

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

The top ranking academic senior student as determined by the formula described in the student handbook shall be designated the Valedictorian of class and the second ranking senior shall be designated the Salutatorian. Every effort is to be made to avoid tie rankings; if possible a series of tie breaking considerations shall be made and students are to be advised of such as soon as the eventuality is apparent.

The district will honor and recognize those seniors of outstanding academic achievement in the following manner: Those students with academic averages qualifying for honors will be so designated with chord or lapel accessories at Commencement.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **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.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **6009**

### **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 requirements 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: 08/14/2006  
Revised on: 12/11/2017  
Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **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: 08/14/2006  
Revised on: 05/11/2009; 12/11/2017  
Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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**6011**  
**Fire Instruction and Prevention**

The school district will provide regular periods of instruction in fire danger and fire prevention.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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**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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 12/11/2017

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## 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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **6014**

### **School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities**

Students must be in attendance the last four periods of the school day in order to participate in school activities such as athletics, athletic practice, club meetings, dances, concerts, etc. This rule also applies to weekend activities. Students must be in attendance the last four periods of the last school day of the week in order to participate in a weekend activity. Special permission may be granted by the principal under extenuating circumstances.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 10/13/2014

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **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 who successfully complete classes offered through the district's summer school program will earn credit toward high school graduation. Students will be allowed to substitute a summer-school grade for a failing grade earned during the regular school year. Students who take summer school courses to replace a passing grade may not use the summer school course to advance their class rank.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 12/11/2017

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **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: 08/14/2014  
Revised on: 12/11/2017  
Reviewed on: 13/13/2014

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## **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.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **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: 08/14/2006  
Revised on: 12/11/2017  
Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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**6020**  
**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 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. The superintendent shall provide the board with a report on the status of the district's multicultural education program annually.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006  
Revised on: 06/12/2017  
Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## 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](http://www.nde.state.ne.us).
2. Those Nebraska providers located within 100 miles of the school district.

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## 6025

### Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices

Students are prohibited from using cellular phones or other electronic devices while at school, except as provided in this policy. "Electronic device" includes beepers, pagers, i-pods, mp-3 players, i-pads and any other device that stores and communicates data by electronic means.

Students in grades K-6 are prohibited from using cell phones during the school day. Students in grades 7-12 are permitted to use cell phones only at the times identified in the student handbook. Cell phones must be turned off and out of sight, but may be carried on the student's person or in their book bag at any time. Cell phones are not permitted between class periods, in locker rooms, restrooms, or in classes except for educational purposes under the direction of the classroom teacher.

By bringing their cell phones and other electronic communication devices to school, students consent to the search of said devices by school staff when the staff determines that such a search is reasonable or necessary.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, e-mailing, 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. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

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 or any calls or downloads.

Students who violate this policy will have their cell phones or electronic devices confiscated immediately and given to the administration. On a student's first offense, the administration will return confiscated devices to the student at the end of the school day. Subsequent violations will result in the administration keeping the device and returning it 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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 10/13/2014

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 12/11/2017

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **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. 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. 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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 07/11/2016

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## 6028

### The Extracurricular Activities Program

#### 1. General Purpose

- a. The extracurricular program includes noncurricular activities which are sponsored by the school district. These activities 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.
- 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 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.

#### 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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 13/13/2014; 12/11/2017

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **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. 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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 10/13/2014; 12/11/2017

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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:

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

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 12/11/2017

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **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**

In the event it is appropriate to consider 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: 08/14/2006

Revised on: 10/13/2014

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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: 08/14/2006

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Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## Restraint and Seclusion of Students

Restraint and seclusion are behavioral interventions, not educational techniques. They are limited to exigent circumstances and situations that necessitate their use to protect the safety of the student, other students, staff and property. When used as safety intervention, they should be used as methods of last resort. When used as behavior intervention, they must be used according to the terms of this policy.

This policy does not cover interventions such as voice control, limited to loud, firm commands; time-limited ignoring of specific behaviors; brief physical prompts to interrupt or prevent a specific behavior; physical interventions which a student's health care provider has indicated are medically necessary for the treatment or protection of the individual; or other similar interventions.

### I. Seclusion

#### A. Definition

1. Seclusion is a last resort emergency safety intervention that provides an opportunity for the student to regain self-control. Seclusion is the confinement of a student in a room or other space from which the student is physically prevented from leaving and which provides for continuous adult observation of the student.
2. A room or area used for seclusion:
  - a. must not be locked;
  - b. must not prevent the student from exiting the area should staff become incapacitated or leave that area;
  - c. must provide for adequate space, lighting, ventilation, viewing, and the safety of the student.

#### B. Timeout

1. Timeout is a behavior intervention in which a student, for a limited and specified time, is placed in an environment where access to positive reinforcement is unavailable.
2. Timeout should not be confused with seclusion because a student's movement in a timeout setting is not physically restricted.
3. Timeout lies within a continuum of procedures that help students self-regulate and control their behavior.

#### C. Seclusion is inappropriate for students who are severely self-injurious or suicidal.

#### D. Time and Duration

1. Emergency seclusion should be used only as long as necessary to allow a student to regain control of his/her behavior, but generally:
  - a) Elementary school students – no longer than 15 minutes; and
  - b) Middle and high school students – no longer than 20 minutes.

- c) If an emergency seclusion lasts longer than the suggested maximum time, the staff member should:
  - (1) summon additional support (e.g., change of staff, introducing a nurse or specialist, obtaining additional expertise); and
  - (2) document the need to explain the extension beyond the time limit.

#### E. Staff Requirements

While using seclusion, staff must:

- 1. involve appropriately-trained key identified personnel to protect the care, welfare, dignity, and safety of the student;
- 2. continually observe the student in seclusion for indications of physical distress and seek medical assistance if there is a concern; and
- 3. document observations.

## II. Restraint

There are three types of restraint: physical, chemical, and mechanical.

A. Physical restraint involves direct physical contact that prevents or significantly restricts a student's movement.

- 1. Restraint is a last resort emergency safety intervention. Restraint is an opportunity for the student to regain self-control.
- 2. This policy on physical restraint is not intended to forbid actions undertaken:
  - a. to break up a fight
  - b. to take a weapon away from a student
  - c. to hold a student briefly in order to calm or comfort
  - d. to escort a student physically from one area to another location within the school building
  - e. to assist a student in completing a task/response if the student does not resist or resistance is minimal in intensity or duration.
  - f. to hold a student briefly in order to prevent an impulsive behavior that threatens the student's immediate safety (e.g., running in front of a car).

B. Chemical restraint is the administration of medication for the purpose of restraint.

- 1. The school district will not, under any circumstances, engage in chemical restraint.
- 2. Chemical restraint does not apply to medication prescribed by and administered in accordance with the directions of a physician.

C. Mechanical restraint means the use of any device or material attached to or adjacent to a student's body that restricts normal freedom of movement and which cannot be easily removed by a student.

- 1. Mechanical restraint does not include:

- a. an adaptive or protective device recommended by a physician or therapist (when it is used as recommended).
- b. safety equipment used by the general student population as intended (for example, seat belts, safety harness on school transportation).

### III. Limitations in Use

- A. Seclusion and/or restraint shall not be used:
  1. for the convenience of staff;
  2. as a substitute for an educational program; or
  3. as a form of discipline/punishment.

### IV. Recurring Behavior

- A. If a pattern of behavior emerges, or is anticipated, which may require the use of emergency seclusion, the school personnel must:
  1. conduct a functional behavioral assessment;
  2. call a meeting of the student's IEP team to develop or revise a positive behavior intervention plan to facilitate the reduction or elimination of the use of seclusion and/or restraint
- B. Given the limited size and training of the school district's staff, students whose behavior routinely requires seclusion and restraint may not be able to be served in the school district and may require a placement out of the school district.

### V. Prohibited Practices

- A. The following are prohibited under all circumstances, including emergency situations:
  1. corporal punishment;
  2. the deprivation of basic needs;
  3. anything that constitutes child abuse;
  4. the seclusion of preschool children; and
  5. the intentional application of any noxious substance(s) or stimuli which result in physical pain or extreme discomfort

Adopted on: 08/14/2006

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: 10/13/2014

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## **6034**

### **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 one of the following on-line courses 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:
  - Heads UP Concussions in Youth Sports
  - Concussion in Sports—What You Need to Know
  - Sports Safety International
  - ConcussionWise
  - ACTive™ Athletic Concussion Training for Coaches; and
- 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 health care professional;
- b. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care 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 health care 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 be the guidance provided by the Nebraska Department of Education entitled "Bridging the Gap from Concussion to the Classroom," and accompanying materials and future supplements. 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: 06/11/2012

Revised on: 10/13/2014

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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