



# CROFTON COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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## 2026 Policy Updates

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| 5052 | Wellness | BOE update required every 3 years | March 2026; March 2029; March 2032<br>Review with School Nurse – Steering Committee – Supt – BOE Policy Committee |
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| 5001 | Attendance | Required –Annual Review of the attendance policy at a Board Meeting | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5001</b><br/> <b>Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism</b></p> <p><b>Required Attendance</b></p> <p>Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.</p> <p><b>Mandatory Attendance Age</b></p> <p>All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.</p> <p><b>Exceptions</b></p> <p>This policy does not apply when attendance is made impossible or impracticable by severe weather conditions or by the mental or physical illness of the student or a child whom the student is parenting.</p> <p>A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child’s parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.</p> <p><b>Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students</b></p> <p>The person seeking to discontinue the enrollment of a student who will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current school year shall submit a signed, written request to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district may request</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>written verification or documentation that the person signing the form has legal or actual charge or control of the student. The school district shall discontinue the enrollment of any student who satisfies these requirements. Any student whose enrollment is discontinued under this subsection shall not be eligible to reenroll in this school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.</p> <p><b>Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students</b></p> <p>Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child’s enrollment shall submit a signed, written request and submit it to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.</p> <p>Only children disenrolling to attend an exempt school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending exempt schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.</p> <p><b>Prohibition on Discontinuing Enrollment – Abuse or Neglect Investigation</b></p> <p>Upon notice from the Department of Health and Human Services, the District shall not facilitate the transfer or disenrollment of a student whose parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker is subject to an active investigation by the Department for fourteen days or until further notice from the Department, whichever occurs first.</p> <p><b>Attendance Officer</b></p> <p>Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.</p> <p><b>Excused Absences – Physical or Mental Illness</b></p> <p>Absences shall be excused by a parent, guardian, or educational decision maker, as defined in section 79-530, of the child for physical or mental illness and as documented by a credentialed health professional, provided the documentation supports such absence. In the instance of chronic illness, documentation shall be reviewed each semester.</p> <p><b>Excused Absences – Others</b></p> <p>The following additional absences will be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student’s parent/guardian:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Severe weather</li></ol> |
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|  |  |  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Medical appointments for the student</li> <li>3. Death or serious illness of the student's family member</li> <li>4. Attending a funeral, wedding or graduation</li> <li>5. Appearance at court or for other legal matters</li> <li>6. College planning visits</li> </ol> <p><b>Excessive Absenteeism</b></p> <p>When a student receives 3 unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any quarter, the Attendance Officer will take one of the following actions: send written notification of the student's total absences to the student's parent or guardian; contact the parent or guardian by phone to discuss the student's attendance record, review attendance expectations, and identify any concerns or barriers affecting the student's regular attendance; or schedule a meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss and address any barriers to the student's attendance.</p> <p>When a student has accrued 20 days of absences or the hourly equivalent and any portion of the absences is unexcused, the district may report the matter to the county attorney in the county where the student resides.</p> |
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| 5054 | Bullying | <p><b>Required –Annual Review by BOE.</b></p> <p><b>No public hearing required</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>5054 Student Bullying</b></p> <p><b>Definition of Bullying.</b> Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as “any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” The school district's administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. These definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.</p> <p><b>Bullying Prohibited.</b> Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying behavior.</p> <p><b>Reporting Bullying.</b> Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.</p> <p><b>Bullying Investigations.</b> School district staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that the district observes for student disciplinary matters. In no</p> |
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|  |  |  | <p>circumstance will school district staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.</p> <p><b>Disciplinary Consequences.</b> The disciplinary consequences for bullying behavior will depend on the frequency, duration, severity and effect of the behavior.</p> <p>A student who engages in bullying behavior on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events may be subject to disciplinary consequences including but not limited to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.</p> <p>Without limiting the foregoing, a student who engages in bullying behavior that materially and substantially interferes with or disrupts the educational environment, the district’s day-to-day operations, or the education process, regardless of where the student is at the time of engaging in the bullying behavior, may be subject to discipline to the extent permitted by law.</p> <p><b>Bullying Based on Protected Class Status.</b> Bullying based on protected class status is unique and may require additional investigation. The appropriate district staff member or coordinator will promptly investigate bullying complaints that violate the district’s antidiscrimination policies.</p> <p><b>Support for Students Who Have Experienced Bullying.</b> Regardless of where the bullying occurred, the district will consider whether victims of bullying are suffering an adverse educational impact and, if appropriate, will refer those students to the district’s student assistance team.</p> <p><b>Bullying Prevention and Education.</b> Students and parents are encouraged to inform teachers or administrators orally or in writing about bullying behavior or suspected bullying behavior. School employees are required to inform the administrator of all such reports. The appropriate administrator shall promptly investigate all such reports. Each building shall engage in activities which educate students about bullying, bullying prevention and digital citizenship.</p> <p><b>Policy Review.</b> The school district shall review this policy annually.</p> |
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| 2008 | <b>Board Meetings</b> | <p><b>New</b></p> <p>Required</p> | <p>Eliminates the requirement to publish notice of meetings in a newspaper. Instead, the board selects the method</p> <p><i>We strongly encourage</i> all schools to provide official notice on the school’s website. You can provide information about meetings in other ways, such as on social media or in your local paper, but this should be voluntary. The law requires your selected method of notice to be published in your meeting minutes, so be sure your minutes include the meeting notice publication method (website) when you implement this change.</p> <p>Instead of newspaper publication for all meeting notices, the law</p> |
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|        |   |                        | adds a “notice of notice” publication requirement. Four times per year, in a newspaper of general circulation in the district,  |
| 3003   | <b>REVISION OF POLICY 3003: BIDDING FOR CONSTRUCTION, REMODELING, REPAIR, OR SITE IMPROVEMENT</b> | Required               | <p>In general, when a school district “expends public funds for the construction, remodeling, or repair of any school-owned building or for site improvements,” the school district is required to advertise for and solicit competitive bids.</p> <p>However, the law provides an exception to this competitive bidding requirement when the “contemplated expenditure for the complete project” will not exceed a specific dollar amount. This statutory dollar amount is subject to adjustment by the State Board of Education every fifth year.</p> <p>In August 2025, the State Board updated the dollar amount of this threshold to \$136,000. Our recommended changes to Policy 3003 reflect this higher dollar amount for the projects that are exempt from the competitive bidding requirements.</p> |
| 3003.1 | <b>BIDDING FOR CONSTRUCTION REMODELING REPAIR OR RELATED PROJECTS FINANCED WITH FEDERAL FUNDS</b> | Required               | Effective October 1, 2025, the federal government updated the dollar thresholds for micro-purchases (from \$10,000 to \$15,000) and for purchases made pursuant to the simplified acquisition procedures (from \$250,000 to \$350,000). This policy has been updated to reflect these new dollar thresholds.  |
| 3004.1 | <b>FISCAL MANAGEMENT FOR PURCHASING AND PROCUREMENT USING FEDERAL FUNDS</b>                       | Required               | The federal government changed the micro-purchase (from \$10,000 to \$15,000) and simplified acquisition (from \$10,000 to \$15,000 and from \$250,000 to \$350,000) dollar amounts. In addition, NDE conducted desk audits and concluded that travel costs must now be included in this policy. The policy has been updated to reflect these changes   |
| 3048   | <b>COMMUNICABLE DISEASE</b>   | Required               | We revised this policy to align better with the admittedly confusing DHHS requirements in the DHHS regulations. The revisions give staff clearer steps to assess and respond to signs and symptoms of communicable disease. These revisions are timely given rising absenteeism rates, falling immunization rates, and more frequent reports of the potential transmission of communicable diseases   |
| 3057   | <b>Title IX</b>   | Required               | The federal regulations (upon which the full version of Policy 3057 is based) define “sexual assault” by reference to a federal statute, which itself references the FBI’s “uniform crime reporting system.” This reporting system was updated in 2025, and the updates modified how certain sex offenses are defined.  |
| 3061   | <b>ACH ORIGINATOR POLICY</b>  | <b>New</b><br>Required | Effective June 19, 2026, NACHA (the organization that governs the ACH network) requires all Originators to have a written fraud monitoring process in place for ACH transactions  |

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| 4017 | <b>RELATIONS WITH EMPLOYEE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING ASSOCIATIONS</b>               | Required              | LB 429 basically requires schools to treat all “professional employee organizations” equally. They must have equal access to things like physical mailboxes, email, and bulletin boards.   |
| 4019 | <b>WORKPLACE INJURY PREVENTION AND SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>                         | Required              | Every public employer subject to the Nebraska Workers’ Compensation Act is required to establish a safety committee that must adopt and maintain an effective written injury prevention program. This requirement has not changed. Previously, schools were required to establish the safety committee through the collective bargaining process. <b>LB 397</b> changes this requirement and now allows, but does not require, that the safety committee be established through the collective bargaining process.   |
| 4032 | <b>PROFESSIONAL GROWTH</b>  | Optional              | Requires 25 points instead of 30 in 5 years time. Steering Committee recommendation  |
| 4056 | <b>RESIGNATION OF CERTIFICATED STAFF</b>  | Required and Optional | <p>This revision replaces an outdated reference to the Professional Practices Commission.</p> <p><b>Side note: Contracts will be due March 16th. Traditionally due by April 1st or April 15th</b></p> <p>March 16th is the earliest we can request teachers to accept employment</p> <p>Contracts auto-renew after 4/15</p>  |
| 5001 | <b>REVISION OF POLICY 5001: COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE AND EXCESSIVE ABSENTEEISM</b> | Required              | provides more concrete processes for the excusal of absences for physical or mental illness.   |
| 5003 | <b>REVISION OF POLICY 5003: ADMISSION OF PART-TIME STUDENTS</b>                 | Required              | <p><b>LB 937</b> revised the part-time enrollment statute, yet again. The law has always allowed part-time enrollment of resident students, including for activity participation. Last year, the law created new enrollment rights for students attending private and exempt schools in other districts. Those rules have not changed.</p> <p>This year, the Unicameral divided sports and activities into 3 buckets, with each bucket having a different number of minimum credit hours required to participate as a part-time enrollee. These are:</p> <p>(1) Activities regulated by an athletic/activities association (like NSAA): 5 credit hours;</p> <p>(2) Activities regulated by some other governing body (like FFA): the number of credit hours the school offers based on what the governing body requires; and</p> |

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|      |   |   | (3) Activities not regulated by any governing body or athletic/activities association (like prom and chess club): the board may require up to 5 credit hours but can require fewer, even 0.  |
| 5004 | <b>Option Enrollment</b>  | <b>New</b><br><br>Optional and Required | <p>LB 653 revised the option enrollment laws. Starting July 17, 2026, the law now requires school districts to “automatically accept” option enrollment applications of “siblings of options students enrolled in the option school district without regard to capacity limitations.” In other words, from a practical standpoint, the only point in time at which a school district can deny an option application for all children who are considered siblings of one another is at the time that the first sibling applies for option enrollment.</p> <p>By doing so, the new laws now make it relevant to a school district evaluating an option application whether granting the application of the individual student applying—or admitting the siblings of any such student now or in the future—will exceed the district’s capacity limitations.</p> <p>We have prepared <i>optional</i> policy revisions. These say that a school district evaluating the application of any individual student can also consider whether admitting the student’s siblings (even if not applying at the moment) will exceed any capacity limitations.</p> |
|      | <b>Option Enrollment—Continued</b>  |   | <p><b>Approve:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Policy</li> <li>2. Supplemental Application</li> <li>3. Updated Resolution in September or October</li> <li>4. Supplemental Denial Letter</li> </ol>  |
| 5035 | <b>REVISION OF POLICY 5035: STUDENT DISCIPLINE</b>                                  | Required                                | Student discipline act. K-1-2 Suspensions update   |
| 5048 | <b>EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO LIFE THREATENING ASTHMA OR SYSTEMIC ALLERGIC REACTIONS</b> | Required                                | <p>LB 457 (2025), now in statute section 79-227, requires schools to implement a policy to address general incidents of anaphylaxis involving students at school.</p> <p>LB 457 required slight tweaks to the policy, including (1) that a general response protocol does take the place of existing self-management plans, 504 plans, or IEPs already in place for specific students;</p> <p>And Every hdbk</p>   |
| 6009 | <b>GRADE PLACEMENT AND ACADEMIC CREDITS OF TRANSFER STUDENTS</b>                    | Optional                                | The revision more explicitly decouples grade placement from credit.  |

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| 6038 | <b>STUDENT USE OF AI TOOLS</b>                  | Optional               | The revised version keeps the rule that has been working—students cannot use AI on an assignment unless the teacher has specifically approved it. The major additions are an explicit list of prohibited uses (AI deepfakes and other AI-generated harassment, nonconsensual intimate images of real people, putting classmates' personal information into AI tools, and using AI to get around accommodations or content filters); a carve-out for AI approved as assistive technology through the IEP or Section 504 process; and authority to reach off-campus AI conduct that disrupts school. |
| 6046 | <b>RIGHT TO ACCESS SCHOOL LIBRARY MATERIALS</b> | <b>NEW</b><br>Required | LB 390 (2025) requires each school board of a public school district to adopt a policy relating to access by a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker to certain school library information. The new policy provides parents, guardians, and educational decision makers the right to access a catalog of all books in the school district's library and the right to opt into certain notifications when their student checks out a library book.   |