

Cozad Community Schools

Board of Education Regular Meeting

Monday, June 14, 2021 7:00 PM

Office of the Superintendent

Mission: The mission of Cozad Community Schools is to prepare students to be lifelong learners and productive, responsible citizens by providing a quality education in cooperation with family and community.

Values - Guiding Principles

Respect - Trust, appreciate, celebrate, value, act with urgency

Integrity - Do the right thing, deliver highest quality instruction and practice full accountability

Teamwork - Teamwork at all levels districtwide, recognize and celebrate, have fun and enjoy

Innovation - Positive attitude, open to new ideas,

Courage - Embrace change and take calculated risk, encourage others, communicate directly with respect

1. BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING 7:00 P.M.

1.1. Call to Order, Roll Call

1.2. Nebraska Open Meeting Law, Publication of Meeting

This meeting has been preceded by advance notice and is hereby declared to be in open session. A current copy of the Nebraska Open Meetings Act is posted on the West wall of the meeting room.

Notice of this meeting was given in advance by publication in the Tri-City Tribune and posted on the Cozad Community Schools website and at the District Office. Notice of this meeting was also given in advance to all members of the Board of Education. The order of agenda items may be changed when deemed necessary.

The board may choose to enter closed (executive) session to discuss any matter for which closed (executive) session is lawful and appropriate.

1.3. Excused/Unexcused Board Member Absence

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Board of Education invites you to offer comments during the public comments portion of the agenda. This is the portion of the meeting when members of the public may speak to the board about matters of public concern.

When you have been recognized, please stand and state your name and come forward to the front of the board table.

The board will generally allow a total of 20 minutes for the presentation of all public comments. Individuals may speak only one time, and must limit comments to around 5 minutes. If there are more than 4 individuals who wish to address the board, the 20 minutes will be divided equally between the number of speakers. These time limits may be changed by a majority vote of the board members in attendance to extend the time for a specific item or speaker.

For additional instructions on public participation, brochures are provided for you to view. A copy of Policy 2009 Public Participation at Board Meetings is available upon request.

3. SENATOR ALBRECHT

4. PRINCIPAL/ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

4.1. Patty Wolfe Report

Technology Board Report
6/14/21
Patty Wolfe - Technology Director

1. New Staff Technology Orientation

- a. June 23rd and June 28th -- 9:00 am to Noon
- b. New staff accounts and devices

2. Summer Projects / Duties

- a. June--State reporting. Adviser Data due on June 30th
- b. End of Year process for PowerSchool and set up new school year
- c. End of Year process for district software (Canvas, Mosyle)
- d. Reimage computer labs in Middle School and High School
- e. Rotation of staff devices (updating out of date staff computers)
- f. Replace Bus Barn link
- g. Replace Core and server switches
- h. Move server from MS to tech closet at Wellness Center (DL Room)
- i. Install and move UPS (back up batteries) on servers

3. Professional Development

- a. Allicap
- b. PowerSchool Conference and workshops
- c. Canvas conference

4.2. William Beckenhauer Report

4.3. Jeremy Yilk Report

Activities Report 6.14.21
Jeremy Yilk

1. Spring Activities Update

a. Boys/Girls State Track

- i. State Qualifiers / Medalists:
 - 1. Brittney Aitken - 100 m (2nd) / 200 m (2nd) / 4x400 Relay
 - 2. Makaia Baker - 100 m (8th) / 400 m (4th) / 4x400 Relay
 - 3. Karyn Burkholder - 400 m / 4x400 Relay
 - 4. Mallory Applegate - 4x400 Relay
 - 5. Jake Lindstedt - Pole Vault
 - 6. Jaden Vollenweider - Discus

2. Other

a. Gym Floor

- i. Demo of old floor is complete - Removal of existing floor
 - 1. Looking at next step to level concrete / remove tar
 - 2. Kurt Nelson of FLR Sanders will be here 6.11.21 or 6.14.21
 - 3. New material has been delivered
- ii. Old Floor Fundraiser was a success
 - 1. Online Auction
 - 2. Sold 4x4 pieces

b. Bleacher improvement project for Haymaker Stadium

- i. Wooden seats have been removed
- ii. Frames adjusted and railings removed for painting
- iii. Install of new seats / railings / ramps will begin around June 17th

c. Coaching Hires

- i. All head coaches / sponsors have been hired
- ii. Still looking for 1 assistant for MS and HS volleyball

4.4. Brian Regelin Report

MS Board Report 6/14/21- Brian Regelin

We have a good start on the agenda for the in-service days for staff to start the school year.

Summer cleaning and projects are underway and the custodial staff is making good progress.

Letters were sent out to all Middle School parents explaining the new Academic Success classes and the decision rules for who will be in the intervention classes and honors classes.

Mr. Shaffer is making good progress on the scheduling for next year and is continuing to work on the social and emotional learning curriculum that we will be starting next school year.

4.5. Dale Henderson Report

Cozad Community Schools
Board of Education
Elementary Report
June 14, 2021

1. AfterZone is in summer session, they are averaging 57 students/day.
2. Summer school is in session, presently math instruction is taking place. We will start reading on May 16th.
3. The elementary is being readied for the academic year. Carpet/classroom cleaning is going on, mowing and painting is being completed. New carpet is scheduled to be installed starting June 21.
4. Ga-Ga Pit; The elementary parent organization purchased a ga-ga pit for our playground. We will be pouring a concrete pad and installing the pit prior to the start of school.

4.6. James Ford Report

CEEC: Program is full and we will only accept new students if someone moves out of the district or if we have a student who is on an IEP who needs special education at the school. We can only take an additional 5 students for the proper ratio of teachers to students.

SPED: All end of the year reports have been finalized. Several reports have been submitted to the state that are due in the summer and we have begun the rollover process for next school year. New Sped teacher will attend Patty's tech training day in the summer.

5. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

Discuss the sub- committee meeting from Thursday June 10th.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1. Approval of the Minutes of Previous Meeting(s)

- Minutes from the May 17th, 2021 Board of Education Regular Meeting

6.2. Congratulations, Condolences, Correspondences

Congratulations to Laura and Jesse Johnson on the birth of her twins, Hendrix and Brixty.

Congratulation to Jordan and Ethan Haarberg on the birth of their son, Jaxen.

Condolences to Kathy Scott on the passing of her mother, Renate.

6.3. Classified Resignations

Kathy Hosick, effective May 18,2021

Lori Fletcher, effective May 20, 2021

6.4. Classified Hires

6.5. Standing Reports

6.5.1. **Sub Reports**

6.5.2. **Nutrition Services SNP Claim for Reimbursement Summary**

6.5.3. **Bus Route Averages**

6.6. Local Sub

Kristen Nieto- Local Sub

Shawney Wellmann- Local Sub

7. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND CLAIMS

7.1. District Treasurer's Report

7.2. District Financial Report

7.3. Check Journal General Fund

7.4. Check Journal Lunch Fund

7.5. Activities Financial Report

7.6. Activities Check Journal

7.7. BANK STATEMENTS

- 7.7.1. **Bond Fund**
- 7.7.2. **Building Fund**
- 7.7.3. **General Fund**
- 7.7.4. **Depreciation Fund**
- 7.7.5. **Employee Benefit**
- 7.7.6. **Student Fees**
- 7.7.7. **Lunch Fund**

7.8. Standing Financial Reports

- 7.8.1. **Bond Fund Taxes Report**
- 7.8.2. **General Fund Taxes Report**
- 7.8.3. **Building Fund Taxes Report**

8. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION OF APPROVAL OF SIGNATURE CARDS TO GO INTO EFFECT AS OF JULY 1ST

9. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON APPROVAL OF COZAD COMMUNITY HEALTH SYSTEM- RANDOM DRUG TESTING PROPOSAL

\$15 per test

Additional \$60 per confirmation test to those who test positive

10. DISCUSS, CONSIDER AND TAKE ACTION ON THE APPROVAL OF RESIGNATION OF CERTIFICATED STAFF AT THE END OF THEIR 2020-2021 CONTRACT YEAR

June 7, 2021

Cozad Community Schools Board of Education
1910 Meridian Ave.
Cozad, NE 69130

Dear Members of the Board of Education:

I hereby resign my employment as a teacher at Cozad Community Schools, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melissa Hartman".

Melissa Hartman

11. ANNUAL NOTICES OR POLICY REVIEWS REQUIRED OF NEBRASKA SCHOOL BOARDS

Attached is a list of notices or policy reviews that are required annually for Nebraska school boards. This information has been provided by KSB

KAREN A. HAASE *NE, IA, WY*
STEVE WILLIAMS *NE*
BOBBY TRUHE *NE, SD*



COADY H. PRUETT *NE, CO*
JORDAN JOHNSON *NE*
TYLER COVERDALE *SD*
SHARI RUSSELL, Paralegal

ANNUAL NOTICES OR POLICY REVIEWS REQUIRED OF NEBRASKA SCHOOL BOARDS

Each year, school boards are required to provide students, parents, and/or the public with notices, many of which must be provided at the beginning of the school year. Similarly, school boards must review certain policies on an annual basis, even if they do not have to provide a separate notice of that review. This list reviews the notices and policy reviews your board should complete before or during the 2020–21 school year.

Required Annual Policy Reviews

Parental Involvement Policy (5018). Although it is confusing, there are two “parental involvement” policies: one required by state law and one by federal law under Title I. State law requires the board to hold a public hearing on its parental involvement policy. After the hearing, the board must either alter and adopt the revised policy or reaffirm it as written. NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-533.

Title I Parental Involvement Policy (5057). In addition to the general parental involvement policy, the district must have a policy on the involvement of parents in its Title I program. The board must “conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served....” 20 U.S.C. § 6318(a)(2)(E) (Elementary and Secondary Education Act § 6318(B)). *Note that NDE has been looking for evidence of parental input in the “annual evaluation” of the policy and programs. We recommend that you provide evidence of input from at least one affected parent, even if that is a staff member of the district, such as recording their input in your board meeting minutes or receiving an e-mail from an affected parent suggesting changes or stating that the policy is good as written.*

Student Fees Policy (5045). The board must review the amount of money collected from students and review the waivers of student fees provided to students under its student fee policy. It must then hold a public hearing on a proposed student fee policy for the following school year. NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-2,134.

Bullying (5054). The board must review its bullying policy. No public hearing is required. NEB. REV. STAT § 79-2,137.

Multicultural Education (6020). The board must receive a report about the district's multicultural education curriculum. Rule 10 § 004.01F5.

Teacher Evaluation (4031). The district must communicate with staff members in writing about the evaluation process. Rule 10 § 007.06A1a. If the district revises its evaluation instrument or process, it must submit the revised policies and procedures to the Nebraska Department of Education for approval. Rule 10 § 007.06A2.

Student Academic Performance. The district must distribute an annual report to patrons about the district's academic performance. Rule 10 § 010.01A and B.

Safety and Security Committee (3040). The district's safety and security committee must meet at least annually to prepare and/or review safety and security plans and procedures. Rule 10 § 011.01C. The district's safety and security plan must be reviewed annually by at least one person who is not on the safety and security committee and is not an employee of the district. Rule 10 § 011.01C.

Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism (5001). The board must annually review its attendance policy at a board meeting. The statute requires that this review be "in collaboration with the county attorney." We interpret the statute to allow an administrator to communicate with the county attorney either before or after the board's annual review of the policy.

SRO Program and Agreement. Section 79-2703(1) requires NDE to develop and distribute a model memorandum of understanding (MOU). NDE's model MOU requires the school, in collaboration with the applicable law enforcement agency, to conduct an annual review of the program and: (a) make modifications as necessary to accomplish stated program goals; and (b) create a report of the review to be provided to both parties and, to the extent permitted by law, made available online. The parties must establish an evaluation process, to include community stakeholders, as part of the regular review of program goals and relevant data, including the specific measures, data points, and metrics included in the report. The first annual report is for the first full school year following the formation of the MOU.

Financial Literacy Act Report. On or before December 31, 2024, and on or before December 31st of each year thereafter, each school district must provide an annual financial literacy status report to its school board, including,

but not limited to, student progress in financial literacy courses and other district determined measures of financial literacy progress from the previous school year.

Required Biennial Policy Reviews

Federal Inventory Review (3004.1). The Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR) regulations require in section 80.32 that “a physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.” If you’ve accepted federal funds to purchase physical items like iPads or kitchen equipment, you’ll need to comply with the biennial inventory requirements. You also will need to tag all non-consumable purchases, like network equipment, and small property such as Chromebooks and tablets that can easily be stolen. Those in charge of grants must ensure that procedures are in place and followed to tag equipment in a visible location and record funding details.

Required Triennial Policy Reviews

Wellness (5052). Under the Healthy and Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 the district is required to assess and review its wellness policy to determine compliance, compare with NDE model wellness policies, and how much progress has been made toward the goals of the policy. Updates or modifications should be made after review as the board deems appropriate.

Required Notices

Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (5016). The Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), requires school districts to provide parents/guardians and adult students annual notice of their rights to inspect and review education records, amend education records, consent to disclose personally identifiable information in education records, and file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education. 34 C.F.R. § 99.7. This information is contained in the FERPA policies we have provided you and should be reproduced in your student handbook.

Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (5015). The Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA) requires school districts to adopt a number of policies regarding surveys, instructional materials, physical examinations, personal information used for marketing, etc. Parents must be notified of these policies at least annually at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable time period after any substantial change is made to the policies. 20 U.S.C. § 1232(h) (c)(2)(A). This information is contained in the PPRA

policy we have provided you and should be reproduced in your student handbook.

Child Nutrition Programs (3012). School districts that participate in the National School Lunch Program, the School Breakfast Program, or the Special Milk Program, must provide both parents and the public information near the beginning of the school year, about free and reduced price meals and/or free milk. 7 C.F.R. § 245.5. Districts must provide parents with an application form. Districts must also notify students and their families of the district's policy for meal purchases by students with negative account balances.

McKinney Vento Act (5014). The McKinney Vento Act requires homeless student liaisons to provide public notice of the education rights of homeless students in places where homeless students receive services under the Act. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6). This information is included in the policy we have provided you.

The McKinney Vento Act also requires homeless student liaisons to provide public notice of the education rights of homeless students disseminated in places where homeless students receive services under the Act including schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens. The notice must be in a "manner and form" understandable to homeless students and their parents/guardians, "including, if necessary and to the extent feasible," in their native language. 42 U.S.C. § 11432(g)(6). The National Center for Homeless Students (funded by the U.S. Department of Education) has created posters (in black and white or color, in English or in Spanish, for parents or for students) that can be ordered here: <http://center.serve.org/nche/products.php#electronic>

Title VI, Section 504, Age Discrimination Act, and Title II of the American with Disabilities Act (4001). A number of federal statutes protect the rights of beneficiaries in programs or activities that receive financial assistance from being discriminated against, and most of these statutes require districts to provide public notice of compliance with these laws. The Notice of Non-Discrimination that we have provided with this policy update should appear in your staff and student handbooks.

Drug-Free Workplace (4002). Your staff handbook should contain a notice to all employees that the school is a drug-free workplace. This is required of all recipients of federal funds pursuant to 41 U.S.C. § 702. Be sure to have your employees sign a receipt confirming that they have reviewed and understand that policy.

Notice of Policy on Opting Out of Assessments (5018). The Every Student Succeeds Act requires school districts receiving Title I funds shall

notify parents that they may request, information regarding any state or local policy addressing student participation in assessments mandated by state and federal law. Schools must provide this information in a timely manner. We have included in the policy service a sample opt-out notice. If a parent requests this information, you should provide them with a copy of Policy 5018 (as amended in the 2017 Annual Updates).

Information on State and Federal Assessments. ESSA also requires all school districts to take steps to ensure that state and federal assessments are administered with transparency. School districts are required to “make widely available through public means” information on required state assessments and, if available and feasible to report, information on assessments required districtwide. This information must include:

- Subject matter assessed
- Purpose for which the assessment is designed and used
- Source of the requirement for the assessment

If the following information is available, the public notice of assessments must also include:

- Amount of time students will spend taking the assessment
- Schedule for the assessment
- Time and format for disseminating results

This information must be posted “in a clear and easily accessible manner” on the district’s website.

Asbestos Management Plan. Federal law requires districts to have an asbestos management plan for all of its buildings—owned or leased—and to update it periodically, among other requirements for inspections and training if staff work in buildings which contain or may contain asbestos. At least once each school year, schools must notify parents, staff, and local associations of the plan and where it can be found.

Notice of Designation for Support. Schools which are designated by NDE as needing “comprehensive support and improvement” or “targeted support and improvement” must “promptly notify the parents” of every student of the school’s identification for support, the reasons for identification, and how parents can become involved in the improvement process.

Annual Training Requirements

Dating Violence. The Lyndsay Ann Burke Act, adopted by Nebraska in 2010, requires “[e]ach school district shall provide dating violence training to staff deemed appropriate by a school district's administration. The dating violence

training shall include, but not be limited to, basic awareness of dating violence, warning signs of dating violence, and the school district's dating violence policy." Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2,141. Notice that this does not have to be an annual training, but you should be able to point to something since 2010 that you have done which counts as "dating violence training."

Concussion Awareness. The school is obligated to make available training approved by the chief medical officer on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury to all coaches of school athletic teams. Again, this doesn't have to be re-done every year, but you should make sure all of your current coaches have had that. You also have to provide concussion and brain injury information to students and their parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition on an annual basis.

Suicide Prevention. The Nebraska Department of Education is required by NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-2,146 to provide annual suicide prevention training to schools. The statute requires that "all public school nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, administrators, school social workers, and any other appropriate personnel shall receive at least one hour of suicide awareness and prevention training each year." It is up to the board to determine who constitutes "other appropriate personnel." The NDE training is web-based and takes 1-2 hours to complete, depending on the individualized responses of the trainee.

Seizure Safe Schools Act. Beginning with the 2022-23 school year:

- Each school must have at least one school employee at each school who has met the training requirements necessary to administer or assist with the self-administration of a seizure rescue medication or medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms as approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and
- *Every* certificated school employee must participate in a minimum of one hour of self-study review of seizure disorder materials at least once in every two school years.

Suggested Annual Reviews and/or Trainings

Although we try hard not to make service on the board of education more onerous than it already is, we think boards would also be well served to review the following policies once per year, whether it be prior to the beginning of the school year, or at the beginning of the calendar year.

Reimbursement and Miscellaneous Expenditures (2007). State statute allows the board of education to provide one recognition dinner each year for the board, employees or volunteers. You may also spend funds on “plaques, certificates of achievement, or items of value awarded to elected or appointed officials, employees, or volunteers.” including persons serving on local government boards or commissions. These expenditures have to be formally authorized by the board “after a public hearing.” You may not amend the policy more than once in any 12-month period after its initial adoption. This is an area that the Nebraska State Auditor has focused on, so we think school boards would be wise to review this policy annually and to have that review recorded in its meeting minutes.

Meetings (2008). Finally, we strongly suggest that your board “repass” this policy or whichever policy you use to designate the method of providing notice of meetings. The Open Meetings Act requires you to use the method designated in your board’s minutes. If you do not have those minutes readily available, repassing the policy and including the methods in your minutes during your next meeting will allow you to comply with that technical requirement.

Data Breach (3047). We recommend that the superintendent, or his/her designee, annually update the data directory. This includes a list of all computing devices purchased by the district, all software installed on district devices, a list of staff members with access to district devices, and a list of staff members with active usernames and passwords for any district software.

Conflict of Interest Training for All Staff Working with Federal Programs. The EDGAR regulations require that each school district has a code of conduct to prevent employees who work in programs funded by federal dollars from engaging in behavior which creates a conflict of interest. Although there is no requirement that you train your staff on this policy, we do not think it is fair to create standards for employees like cooks, special education drivers and Title I paraeducators without providing them with training. We recommend that you train on this issue annually.

Title IX. As of August 14, 2020, the members of your Title IX Team (i.e., Title IX Coordinator, Investigator, Decision-Maker, Appellate Decision-Maker, and Informal Resolution Facilitator) must all receive specific Title IX training. If that hasn’t been completed—of if you have a new member to your Title IX Team who has not received that training—that training must occur as soon as possible. As you have most likely heard us say before, we *strongly* recommend that all district employees and board members also receive basic Title IX training, with an emphasis on the legal definitions of sexual harassment and how to report it to the appropriate people. The federal

regulations do not explicitly require this basic training to occur on an annual basis. However, we are aware that some OCR personnel have taken the position in the past that training must occur at least every three years, while other OCR personnel scrutinize training that does not occur on an annual basis. At a minimum, for new district employees and new board members to the district, we recommend that they complete the basic employee training. For other employees who were trained last year, receiving the basic training near the beginning of the school year is prudent but not required.

12. APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICIES 3058, 6015, 6018 & 6025, AMEND POLICY 6013 & DELETION OF POLICY 3060,4027,4213,4271,5104, 5208 AND 6144

12.1. Policy 3058- Naming School Facilities and Property

Adopting KSB Policy

3058

Naming School Facilities and Property

The purpose of this policy is to establish the criteria and procedures for naming and renaming school district facilities or property.

Authority. The board shall have the authority to name all school district facilities or property. The board reserves the right to refuse to name any facility or piece of property and to make name changes at any time.

Definition. "Facilities or property" means any physical structure owned by the school, including any new, existing, or leased building; a wing of a building; any room; or other significant features or portion thereof such as a fountain, monument, plaza, garden, landscaped area, street, running course, running track, playing field, practice field, playing court, practice court, bench, memorial, or stage.

Committee or Administrative Review. Prior to formal naming action by the board, the matter may be referred to the superintendent or a school committee for consideration, review, and recommendation to the board.

Naming Criteria. The district may name facilities or property after the community, subdivision, or street on which the school is located; the geographic location of the school; or any significant landmark. The district may name facilities or property for an individual, family, or entity meeting at least one of the following criteria:

1. A faculty member, staff member, board member, alumni, volunteer, or other community member who has made an outstanding contribution to education, humanity, or community; or have displayed outstanding leadership; or be a person of historical significance; and who has been deceased for at least five years;
2. Financial donors who make a significant financial contribution to the school generally or to a specific school activity or program; and
3. Financial donors who make a significant financial contribution toward the construction of a new facility/property or facility/property renovation.

The district will not grant a naming right without the informed consent of the named party or his/her/its authorized representative.

Due Diligence Review. The board or its designee shall conduct a due diligence review of any proposed facility or property name to consider whether it is and will continue to be a positive and appropriate reflection on the school,

whether the name conforms with the purpose and mission of the school, and whether there are any conflict of interest issues. The board or its designee shall also consult with district legal counsel to ensure that any proposed name complies with applicable policies, laws, and regulations and to determine if any proposed name would have an adverse impact on existing or future tax-exempt bond issues.

Renaming Facilities. Once established, the name of school district facilities or property generally shall not be changed absent compelling reason to do so as determined by the board. Compelling reasons include, but are not limited to, the person or entity or any of its officers, agents, or employees committing any act or doing anything which might tend to bring the person or entity or any of its officers, agents, or employees into public disrepute, contempt, scandal, or ridicule, or which might tend to reflect unfavorably on the district or if the continued use of the name is contrary to the educational mission of the district. The named party may, without refund of any consideration paid or provided, terminate his/her/its acceptance of the naming rights prior to the scheduled termination date upon request to and approval of the board. If the request is granted, the named party shall be solely responsible for all costs of removal of the names.

Current Facilities or Property. Facility and property names that exist at the time this policy is adopted shall remain in effect, subject to future renaming consistent with this policy.

Adopted on: 6/14/2021
Revised on: _____
Reviewed on: _____

12.2. **Policy 6013- Teaching Controversial Issues**

Revising to add Policy 6144: Administrative Procedures: Controversial Issues to
Policy 6013: Teaching Controversial Issues

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 of any kind through any classroom or a school device. However, a teacher shall not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as the student is encouraged to reach his/her own decision independently.

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

Adopted on: 5/17/2021

Revised on: 6/14/2021

Reviewed on: _____

Administrative Procedures for Policy 6013: Controversial Issues

Controversial Issues

As free objective discussion of controversial issues is the heart of the free process of representative government, freedom of speech and free access to information is among our most cherished traditions. It is the responsibility of the teachers to uphold these traditions, but policy on controversial issues should be defined in terms of the rights of pupils rather than in terms of the right of teachers. With regard to controversial issues in the public schools, the pupil has four rights to be recognized.

1. The right to study any controversial issue which has political, economic or social significance and concerning which (at hi/hers level) he/she should begin to have an opinion.
2. The right to have access to all relevant information, including the materials that circulate freely in the community.
3. The right to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
4. The right to form and express his/her own opinions on controversial issues without thereby jeopardizing his/her relations with his/her teacher or the school.

To guarantee these rights of the pupil, it is therefore the duty of the teacher to see that the area of controversial issues is objective and scholarly, with a minimum emphasis on opinion. The teacher must approach controversial issues in the classroom in an impartial and unprejudiced manner and must refrain from using his/her classroom privileges and prestige to promote a partisan or factional point of view.

Dramatic and Musical Productions

In view of the fact that any play or musical show produced by the schools is interpreted by the community as being approved or sanctioned by the school, it is important in selecting a production, or in choosing acts for a talent show, that good judgment is followed.

Cozad School's dramatic and musical productions are not meant to compete with commercial stage, screen and television shows for the entertainment dollar. Students, teachers, parents, and friends, who are close to school affairs, feel obliged to support school activities. The primary purpose of the school production is to provide opportunities to develop talent among the students. It is also the goal of any stage production to entertain the audience. With these goals in mind, the following points should be used as a guide:

1. Profanity or Swearing—objectionable language should not be used unless it is important in showing the development of the character or is necessary to the understanding of the meaning of the play.
2. Allusions to sex—Allusions or references to sex which seem to convey the approval of promiscuity, perversion, or illicit relations in any sense, should not be included in the play or show. Passionate love scenes or prolonged kissing are also not desirable in a school production.

3. Costumes and Dress—Proper costuming and dress for the parts being played is expected. Nudity shall not be permitted in any performance.
4. Religion—Reference to religion, to any particular religious sect, to divinity of deity should not be made if used disparagingly. Comments, situations, or stage business which would compare, contrast, or weigh in religious faction against another, should be eliminated unless they are used in a true historical setting of the past or show present day real life situations.

In general, it would appear that the school production would have the effect on the players and audience of being morally uplifting. To live our ideals is certainly one of the functions of the total educational program. The school play or musical can, and should make its contribution to this accomplishment.

The final decision for controversial dramatic and musical productions shall rest with the Cozad Board of Education. Such decision shall include discussion and consultation with school officials and anyone else the board may wish to involve.

Selection of Printed Instructional Materials

The Cozad Board of Education, which is responsible for all book and instructional material purchases for the school district, recognizes the student's need for access to many different types of books and materials. The board also recognizes the right of teachers and administrators to select books and other materials in accord with current trends in education and to make them available in the schools. It is, therefore, the policy of this district to require the materials selected for our school to be in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Selection of Books and Other Printed Materials
 - a. Books and other printed matter shall be selected for values of interest and enlightenment of all students in the schools. A book shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political, or religious views of the writer, or of its style and language, except in matters of undue vulgarity and obscenity.
 - b. Every effort will be made to provide materials that present all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local. Books or other reading materials of sound factual authority shall not be prescribed or removed from library shelves or classrooms because of partisan doctrinal or disapproval.
 - c. Censorship of books shall be challenged in order to maintain the school's responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
2. Censorship of Books and Other Printed Materials
 - a. The final decision for controversial reading matter shall rest with the Cozad Board of Education after careful examination and discussion of the book and reading material. Such examination and discussion shall include consultation with school officials and anyone else the board may wish to involve.
 - b. No parent or group of parents shall have the right to determine the reading matter for students other than their own children.

- c. The board recognizes the right of an individual parent to request that his child not have to read a given book. A written request stating the parent's objection shall be made to the appropriate building principal.
- d. Any parent or guardian who wishes to request reconsideration of the use of any book or printed materials in the school, must make such a request in writing on forms provided by the school and available from building principals. The statement must be signed and identified so that a reply may be given. Parents must use the "Cozad Community Schools' Complaint Procedures".
- e. A committee, appointed by the superintendent, consisting of the principal, two teachers, and one librarian: and which may include parents, patrons, and students shall review the questioned material and judge whether it conforms to the previously stated principles and submit its report in writing to the superintendent.
- f. If the matter cannot be resolved at the committee level, then the written complaint along with the committee's evaluation shall be forwarded to the superintendent. If the disposition is not resolved at that level, it shall then be referred to the Cozad Board of Education. The concerned parties shall be notified of the final disposition in writing.

Complaints Concerning Library Materials

The Cozad Board of Education, as established through policy, recognizes procedures for the selection of library books and materials to be placed in the media centers. The Board of Education further recognizes the rights of students to have access to a variety of materials. The Board of Education will strongly challenge censorship of books that have been selected according to prescribed standards.

If patrons of the school district have objections to materials purchased for the media centers of School District #11, they may make formal protests in the following manner:

1. Lodge a written complaint with the principal of the school stating what material is objectionable, why it is objectionable, and suggested solutions for dealing with the materials.
2. After meeting with the media personnel in charge of the center where the objectionable material is located, the principal shall answer the complaint in writing to the objector.
3. If the objector is not satisfied with the answer given by the principal, he/she may appeal his objection to the Superintendent of Schools.
4. If the Superintendent's decision is unsatisfactory, the objector may request a hearing before the Cozad Board of Education at the next regular board meeting.
5. After hearing the objection, the Board of Education, within a reasonable length of time, shall render a decision which will be final

Complaints Concerning Visual Information Material

The Cozad Board of Education recognizes that much of education is a search for truth. In this search students will be exposed to varying philosophies. In order to present broad curricular material, some material might prove to be unacceptable to some individuals. Therefore, the Board of Education has adopted the following

Principles and procedures:

1. That the final decision for controversial instructional matter shall rest with the Board of Education after careful examination and discussion of the instructional matter with school officials, or with anyone else the board may wish to involve.
2. That no parent or group of parents has the right to determine the instructional matter for students other than their own children.
3. The board does, however, recognize the right of an individual parent to request that his child not be required to see a given film, provided a written request stating the parents' reason for objection, is made to the appropriate building principal.
4. Any parent who wishes to request reconsideration of the use of any learning material in the school must make such a request in writing in the form provided through building principals. The form is entitled "Cozad Community Schools' Complaint Procedures".

Revised on 6.14.2021

12.3. Policy 6015-Summer School

New, Adopting KSB Policy

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: 6/14/2021

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

12.4. Policy 6018- Grades

**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: 6/14/2021

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

12.5. Policy 6025- Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices

6025
Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices

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

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

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

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (including things like texting, sexting, 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.

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

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

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

Adopted on: 6/14/2021

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

12.6. Policy 3060- Naming of School Facilities

Policy 3060 – Naming of School Facilities

The purpose of this policy is to establish a process by which the Board of Education can assume its responsibility for naming school district facilities.

From time to time there are requests to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves through their association with Cozad Community Schools as either long time employees, alumni or community member or who have made an outstanding contribution to students, the district, community, state or nation

In fulfilling this responsibility, the Board will make every effort to respect community preferences.

School buildings

Existing school buildings shall retain the name already given them. Any new addition to an existing facility may be eligible for naming under the “Portions of Facilities” section of this policy.

Portions of facilities

The Board of Education shall consider the naming of portions of existing facilities, if, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, such action is warranted. Evidence of such contribution may include, but are not limited to the following:

1. A person, living or dead, for whom a portion of a facility may be named must have made significant contributions to education in the Cozad Community Schools District.
2. Unusually effective and dedicated service to and/or on behalf of the youth in the public schools
3. Persistent efforts to sustain a quality system of public education for all youth and to improve programs and services for them.

Recommendations for naming of facilities shall be made to the superintendent. The superintendent will hold any recommendation for one year from date of submission before it is sent to a committee for consideration. When deemed necessary, the district’s Gift Committee will also be involved in this process.

When a portion of the facility or specific area on campus of the school is to be named, the superintendent will appoint a committee composed of building principal of the facility in question, a member of the board of education, one teacher, one community representative, and one student. Any citizen, board member or school personnel may submit names for consideration to the committee. After allowing for appropriate stakeholder input the committee will submit its recommendations with supporting reasons to the superintendent, who, in turn, when appropriate, present it to the Board of Education for its action.

*Actual signage to be determined by school personnel.

Approved 3-8-2004

Reviewed 9-14-2020

12.7. **Policy 4027- Workplace Privacy**

To be deleted, contained in policy 4046- Internet Searches Regarding Potential Employees

Policy 4027: Workplace Privacy

The District will abide by the Nebraska Workplace Privacy Act and will not:

1. Require or request that an employee or applicant provide or disclose any user name or password or any other related account information in order to gain access to the employee's or applicant's personal Internet account by way of an electronic communication device;
2. Require or request that an employee or applicant log into a personal Internet account by way of an electronic communication device in the presence of the District in a manner that enables the District to observe the contents of the employee's or applicant's personal Internet account or provides the District access to the employee's or applicant's personal Internet account;
3. Require an employee or applicant to add anyone, including the District, to the list of contacts associated with the employee's or applicant's personal Internet account or require or otherwise coerce an employee or applicant to change the settings on the employee's or applicant's personal Internet account which affects the ability of others to view the content of such account;
4. Take adverse action against, fail to hire, or otherwise penalize an employee or applicant for failure to provide or disclose any of the information or to take any of the actions prohibited by the Workplace Privacy Act.
5. Require an employee or applicant to waive or limit any protection granted under the Workplace Privacy Act as a condition of continued employment or of applying for or receiving an offer of employment.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, all employees must abide by the District's technology policies, procedures and guidelines, including the District's Internet Use policy and/or practice. Pursuant to the Workplace Privacy Act, the District may also:

1. Monitor, review, access, or block electronic data stored on an electronic communication device supplied by or paid for in whole or in part by the District or stored on the District's network, to the extent permissible under applicable laws;
2. Access information about an employee or applicant that is in the public domain or is otherwise obtained in compliance with the Workplace Privacy Act;
3. Conduct an investigation or require an employee to cooperate in an investigation if the District has specific information about potentially wrongful activity taking place on the employee's personal Internet account, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with applicable laws, regulatory requirements, or prohibitions against work-related employee misconduct;
4. Any other reason permitted by the Workplace Privacy Act.

Legal Reference: Laws 2016, LB 821

Adopted 7/18/16

4046

Internet Searches Regarding Potential Employees

Members of the administrative team or of a hiring committee (hereinafter "the committee") may conduct internet research about job applicants by using the following protocol, except that no criminal history record information check shall be made until the school district has determined that the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications:

1. The committee may conduct internet searches using candidates' full names and any aliases. The committee may also search candidates' full names and any aliases on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube, and other social networking websites.
2. All applicants or all finalists must have the same research conducted about them. For example, if the committee conducts a search on Google using the name of one applicant in order to determine whether to include that applicant in the list of finalists, the committee must also conduct an identical search of all applicants' names.
3. The committee may not use deception to gain access to applicants' social networking pages, blogs, or other on-line media and will not require applicants for employment to provide the district with their username or password to personal social media accounts.
4. The committee must take reasonable steps to verify the reliability of the information obtained in the search, including consulting with the applicant for confirmation of accuracy, if appropriate.
5. The committee will consider the following information to be relevant in making hiring decisions about an applicant based on information obtained through internet research:
 - a. Disparaging remarks made about current or former co-workers, supervisors, or employers;
 - b. Discriminatory, harassing, or demeaning behavior or comments;
 - c. Unprofessional, lewd, or obscene behavior or remarks;
 - d. Criminal activity;

- e. Information which indicates the applicant will or will not be able to perform the essential functions of the position sought; and
 - f. Information which indicates that the applicant is particularly suited or unsuited to the position sought.
6. The committee will retain documents to demonstrate its compliance with this policy with other documentation relevant to the job search.

Adopted on: 2/18/19

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

12.8. Policy 4213- Privacy of Protected Health Information

To be deleted, policy contained in Policy 4007- Personal Records

4007
Personnel Records

The district shall maintain a personnel file regarding each employee. All materials in a personnel file, except for employment references and information that was gathered in the process of assessing an applicant for hiring, shall be available to the employee for review within a reasonable period of time of the employee's request. Employees (or individuals to whom employees have given written authorization) may inspect the contents of their personnel files only in the presence of an administrator or a person designated by the administration.

An employee may respond to any document(s) in his or her personnel file by submitting a written response to the person responsible for keeping the file, who shall attach the response to file copies of the disputed document.

No person other than school officials engaged in their professional duties shall be granted access to employees' personnel files, and the contents of such files shall not be divulged in any manner to any unauthorized person. An attorney acting on behalf of the board of education or administration is deemed to be a school official.

Adopted on: 9/17/18

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

Policy 4213: Privacy of Protected Health Information

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 protects certain health information. Prior to obtaining or releasing employees' protected health information, employees may be requested to sign an authorization for the disclosure of health information. If protected health information is requested from a third party, the School District will ensure that protected health information is released only as allowed by federal and state law.

Adopted 5-12-03

Reviewed 7.20.2009

Administrative Guidelines for Policy 4213

Cozad Community Schools provides our employees with health insurance through the Educators Health Alliance (EHA), underwritten by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska. Because EHA is a fully insured program, EHA will not seek or maintain any PHI.

Employers are not directly covered by the provisions of the act. However, employers are indirectly covered because it may become necessary, from time to time, for Cozad Community Schools to obtain health information related to the employment policies of Cozad Community Schools and to comply with state and federal law.

For Cozad Community Schools to obtain employment related, health information about an employee from a third party, the employee must provide written authorization for Cozad Community Schools to do so. The appropriate authorization forms are available from Cozad Community Schools.

1. Circumstances in which Cozad Community Schools need health information:
 - a. Enrollment of employees in the BCBS health plan, vision care, dental, and other insurance plans.
 - b. Accounting for sick leave under the Cozad Community sick leave policy.
 - c. Filing worker's compensation claims for employees injured on the job.
 - d. Seeking medical certification for eligibility for short-term or long-term disability insurance.
 - e. Seeking certification for fitness to return to work after a medical leave of absence or a disability leave.
 - f. Medical information necessary for Cozad Community Schools to comply with the Americans with Disability Act.
 - g. Certification for eligibility of leave as provided for in the Pregnancy Discrimination Act.
 - h. Medical information necessitated by compliance with OSHA.
 - i. On other occasions to allow the employer to be assured that the employee is medically capable of performing all of the necessary duties required by Cozad Community Schools, including suspected drug or alcohol abuse.
 - j. For costing out negotiation proposals affecting coverage and single or marital status.
 - k. To comply with state and federal law.
 - l. Other employment related matters.

In order for the employee to be assured of the benefits to which he or she is entitled under the provision of state or federal law and the policies and negotiated agreement of Cozad Community Schools, it will be necessary for the employee to comply with the request for information related to these business purposes; and failure to comply with that request, in a timely fashion as set forth in any written request, may result in forfeiture and/or delay of the benefits at issue.

2. Misuse of Protected Health Information

The inappropriate access to or use of PHI is prohibited by federal law and is punishable by fines and in some instances incarceration. Any misuse of PHI by any employee of Cozad Community Schools in violation of federal law or Cozad Community Schools employment policies jeopardizes the financial interests of the district and may result in job sanctions, including termination of employment.

3. Sick Leave Forms

In order to protect an employee's personal health information, when reporting sick leave or medical/dental appointments, the employee should provide only the information requested on the form (i.e. doctors appointment) and should refrain from providing any specific medical symptoms unless specifically requested by Cozad Community Schools.

4. Employment Forms

Cozad Community Schools will request personal information regarding insurance coverage's, etc. upon initial employment and on those occasions when employment related health information changes, i.e. changing from single to married status.

5. Notification of Injury Under Workman's Compensation

A staff member injured on the job shall notify Cozad Community Schools verbally of any injury as soon as practicable but within the legal requirements of the insurance carrier. That policy and federal law authorizes Cozad Community Schools to disclose that information to the insurance carrier as part of any claim procedure without further authorization from you the employee. The verbal notification is for an employee's convenience, but Cozad Community Schools require an employee to complete a written document relating the nature of the accident and injuries.

An employee that has an accident or injury will be asked to submit to a mandatory drug test.

6. Specific Requests for PHI

Specific requests by an employee or by Cozad Community Schools for an employee's PHI, related to items set forth earlier in this policy, will be in writing and related to the purposes outlined in this policy. An employee will be provided with a copy of any form requesting PHI. Cozad Community Schools will maintain a copy as part of the employer's employment record.

All information acquired under the provisions of this policy will be maintained by Cozad Community Schools as part of the employee's employment record, and a reasonable effort will be made to protect its confidentiality and security.

7. Your Rights Provided by HIPAA

Employees have the following rights regarding medical information Cozad Community Schools may obtain from you or about you:

a. Right to Inspect and Copy

You have a right to inspect and copy medical information Cozad Community Schools maintains in the course of your employment related activities, except any information compiled in anticipation of or for use in any civil, criminal administrative action or proceeding.

b. Right to Amend

If you think that medical information about you is incorrect or incomplete, you may ask to amend the information. The request to amend the information must be in writing. The request must identify the specific information you wish to amend and include information setting forth the reasons you believe the information is inaccurate. The request for amendment, along with the reasons provided, will be filed with your related employment documents.

c. Restrictions or Confidential Communications

You have a right to request restrictions and confidential communications concerning protected health information. Such restrictions or directives must be filed in writing and may not be retroactive in nature. Such restrictions may not be in conflict with necessary business practices or provisions of law.

d. Right to Accounting of Disclosure

Cozad Community Schools has the right to disclose your PHI information acquired in the course of your employment with its management staff, legal counsel, insurance companies, etc., on a business need basis or in order to comply with law. Cozad Community Schools will not disclose any PHI which is part of your employment record under any other circumstances, including disclosure to other family members, unless Cozad Community Schools receives a written request on a form signed by you identifying what information you wish disclosed and to whom. A copy of any request for disclosure will be maintained in your employment file and is subject to your inspection. Cozad Community Schools is not required to maintain such records longer than six (6) years or to maintain any information about disclosures or disclosure requests prior to April 14, 2003.

e. Right to Revocation of Disclosure

If you authorize disclosure of any information, either to Cozad Community Schools and/or to another party, you may revoke that authorization in writing at any time. Revocation of disclosure must be filed with Cozad Community Schools and will be maintained as part of your employment file. However, if the PHI is essential to secure employment benefits, revocation may result in denial of benefits.

f. Complaint Alleging Violation

If you feel that your PHI has been used inappropriately or in violation of this policy, you may file a written complaint with Cozad Community Schools or with the US Department of Health and Human Services.

g. Change of Notice of Health Information Privacy Practices

Cozad Community Schools has the right to amend this notice at any time in the future consistent with law. Until such amendment is made, Cozad Community Schools will abide by the terms of this notice.

Policy 4123: Confirmation of Receipt

You are required to sign and return this copy to the Cozad Community Schools to confirm that you have received a copy of this guideline. You will be provided with a copy for your records as well. The Notice with your signature will be maintained as a part of your employment record.

I _____ acknowledge receipt of this Privacy Notice.

12.9. Policy 4271- Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)

Policy to be deleted, no longer needed

Policy 4271: Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), requires “large employers”¹ to provide full-time employees the opportunity to enroll in “minimum value”² and “affordable”³ health care coverage as provided in the PPACA statutes and regulations.⁴ The School District is a large employer and is therefore subject to the provisions of PPACA.⁵ To give effect to PPACA with regard to non-certificated employees, the Board of Education of the School District adopts the following policies:

1. Definitions: All terms used herein shall be as defined in PPACA and associated regulations, including the definition of a “full-time employee”⁶ (full-time employees under the terms of PPACA statutes and regulations are referred to herein as “PPACA Full-Time Non-Certificated Employees”).
2. Opportunity to Enroll in “Minimum Value” Health Insurance Coverage – PPACA Full-Time Non-Certificated Employees: In each school fiscal year beginning with the fiscal year from September 1, 2016 and ending August 31, 2017,⁷ and each fiscal year thereafter, the School District shall provide all PPACA Full-Time Non-Certificated Employees the opportunity to enroll⁸ in “minimum value”⁹ self-only and dependent health insurance under the School District’s group health and dental insurance provider for such fiscal year to the extent permitted by such provider.
3. Health Insurance Provider and Plan: The Board of Education, in its sole discretion, shall determine the health insurance provider, plan and level of self-only and dependent health

¹ 26 U.S.C. § 4980H(c)(2)(A) (“The term ‘applicable large employer’ means, with respect to a calendar year, an employer who employed an average of at least 50 full-time employees on business days during the preceding calendar year.”).

² As defined generally in 26 U.S.C. § 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) and subsequent regulations (“Coverage must provide minimum value . . . an employee shall not be treated as eligible for minimum essential coverage if such coverage consists of an eligible employer-sponsored plan . . . and the plan’s share of the total allowed costs of benefits provided under the plan is less than 60 percent of such costs.”).

³ As defined generally in 26 U.S.C. § 36B(c)(2)(C)(i)(II) (“Coverage shall be affordable . . . the employee’s required contribution . . . with respect to the plan [must not exceed] 9.5 percent of the applicable taxpayer’s household income.”)

⁴ See generally Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-2(a) (“Section 4980H applies to an applicable large employer and to all of the applicable large employer members that comprise that applicable large employer.”).

⁵ See generally 26 U.S.C. § 4980H (discussing requirements and penalties for applicable large employers).

⁶ Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-1(a)(18) (defining full-time employee as “an employee who is employed an average of at least 30 hours of service per week with an employer.”).

⁷ The School District intends to utilize the “transition relief” rules, as provided in Commentary to Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H.

⁸ See 26 U.S.C. § 4980H(a)(1) & (b)(1) (“any applicable large employer fails to offer to its full-time employees (and their dependents) the opportunity to enroll in minimum essential coverage under an eligible employer-sponsored plan;” “an applicable large employer offers to its full-time employees (and their dependents) the opportunity to enroll in minimum essential coverage under an eligible employer-sponsored plan . . . for any month”); see also, Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-4(b) (“Offer of coverage. An applicable large employer member will not be treated as having made an offer of coverage to a full-time employee for a plan year if the employee does not have an effective opportunity to elect to enroll (or decline to enroll) in the coverage no less than once during the plan year. Whether an employee has an effective opportunity is determined based on all the relevant facts and circumstances, including adequacy of notice of the availability of the offer of coverage, the period of time during which acceptance of the offer of coverage may be made, and any other conditions on the offer.”)

⁹ See, Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-1 (“(24) Minimum value. The term minimum value has the same meaning as provided in section 36B(c)(2)(C)(ii) and any regulations or other administrative guidance thereunder”).

insurance coverage, including benefits and deductible, for each fiscal and plan year. The health insurance plan shall meet all requirements for “minimum essential/value” health insurance coverage as provided in the PPACA statutes and regulations, and other applicable statutes, regulations and rulings.¹⁰ The “Plan Year” shall be from September 1st through the immediately following August 31st.¹¹

4. “Look-Back”, “Administrative” and “Stability” Period: For purposes of determining the PPACA Full-Time Non-Certificated Employee status of the non-certificated employees of the School District under PPACA, the Board of Education establishes the following dates for the “Look-Back”, “Administrative” and “Stability” Periods provided under the PPACA statutes and regulations¹² for each health insurance Plan Year:
 - a. Look-Back Period: August 1st of the calendar year immediately preceding the calendar year in which the first day of the health insurance policy plan year through July 31st immediately following such August 1st consisting of a total period of twelve (12) consecutive months.¹³
 - b. Administrative Period: August 1st through August 31st immediately preceding the first day of the health insurance policy plan year;¹⁴ and,
 - c. Stability Period: September 1st through the immediately following August 31st immediately following such September 1st consisting of a total period of twelve (12) consecutive months.¹⁵

[Example: Look-Back Period = August 1, 2015 to July 31, 2016; Administrative Period = August 1, 2016 to August 31, 2016; and, Stability Period = September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017]

Date of Adoption: 4/18/16

¹⁰ In determining the coverage available and offered, the Board shall plan to comply with Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-5(e)(iii)'s affordability requirements. (“An applicable large employer member satisfies the rate of pay safe harbor with respect to an employee for a calendar month if the employee’s required contribution for the month for the applicable large employer member’s lowest cost self-only coverage that provides minimum value does not exceed 9.5 percent of an amount equal to 130 hours multiplied by the employee’s hourly rate of pay as of the first day of the coverage period (generally the first day of the plan year). For salaried employees, monthly salary is used instead of 130 multiplied by the hourly rate of pay, and, solely for purposes of this paragraph (e)(2)(iii), an applicable large employer member may use any reasonable method for converting payroll periods to monthly salary.”) (emphasis added). See also footnote “p” for full text of “rate of pay” safe harbor provision.

¹¹ Thus, all full-time employees will have the opportunity to enroll in minimum essential coverage from the time the School District will first be subject to the PPACA requirements (under the transition relief rules).

¹² See generally Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-3 (“Determining full-time employees”).

¹³ In compliance with Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-3(c)(1) (“Under the look-back measurement method for ongoing employees, an applicable large employer determines each ongoing employee’s full-time status by looking back at the standard measurement period. The applicable large employer member determines the months in which the standard measurement period starts and ends, provided that the determination must be made on a uniform and consistent basis for all employees in the same category.”).

¹⁴ In compliance with Treas. Reg. § 54.4980H-4(v)(A) (Subject to . . . limits . . . an applicable large employer member is permitted to apply an administrative period in connection with an initial measurement period and before the start of the stability period. This administrative period must not exceed 90 days in total.”) and Treas. Reg. §54.4980H-4(v)(B) (“In addition to the specific limits on the initial measurement period (which must not exceed 12 months) and the administrative period (which must not exceed 90 days), there is a limit on the combined length of the initial measurement period and the administrative period applicable to a new variable hour employee or new seasonal employee. Specifically, the initial measurement period and administrative period together cannot extend beyond the last day of the first calendar month beginning on or after the first anniversary of the employee’s start date.”).

¹⁵ See generally Treas. Reg. §§ 54.4980H-3(c)(3)(ii)&(iii) (“The stability period must be a period of at least six consecutive calendar months that is no shorter in duration than the initial measurement period.” “This stability period for such employees must not be more than one month longer than the initial measurement period and . . . must not exceed the remainder of the standard measurement period (plus any associated administrative period) in which the initial measurement period ends.”)

12.10. Policy 5104- Drug and Substance Use Prevention

To be deleted, contained in Policy 5035- Student Discipline

Policy 5104: Drug and Substance Use Prevention

Drug-Free Schools

The District shall implement regulations and practices which will ensure compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The District's safe and drug-free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects.

Education and Prevention

The District promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which will include in the curriculum the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades of this School District. Further, the District will have proper in-service orientation and training for all employed staff.

Standards of Conduct; Notice to Students and Parents

Students are to be provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the District which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities. It shall be the further policy of the District to keep a file showing receipt of standards of conduct and a statement of disciplinary sanctions that may be taken for violations of such standards of conduct. The receipt shall be signed by both student and parent or guardian and returned to the respective Principal. It shall contain in prominent letters the following language:

"RECEIPT SHALL SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU AS PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT ATTENDING COZAD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF THIS DISTRICT EXPECTED OF STUDENTS CONCERNING THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF ANY OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS DESCRIBED IN BOARD POLICY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION. THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU PURSUANT TO P.L. 101-226 AND 34 C.F.R. PART 86, BOTH FEDERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT TO OBTAIN ANY FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDENTS ATTENDING THIS DISTRICT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT'S POSITION ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS HEREIN ABOVE DESCRIBED AND THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS IS MANDATORY. ANY NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS CAN AND WILL RESULT IN PUNITIVE

MEASURES BEING TAKEN AGAINST ANY STUDENT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS."

Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program of the District Pursuant to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Laws and Regulations

Students are to be provided an age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program. The program educates on the adverse effects of the use of illicit drugs and alcohol, with the primary objective being the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students.

Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs

Students are to be provided information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs within sixty miles of the administrative offices of the District or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the District upon request by the counselor.

In the event of disciplinary proceedings against any student for any District policy pertaining to the prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, appropriate school personnel shall confer with any such student and his or her parents or guardian concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs that appropriate school personnel shall consider to be of benefit to any such student and his or her parent or parents or guardian.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools-- Parental Notice of Right to Withdraw

Parents will be notified that, if upon receipt of information regarding the content of safe and drug free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction a parent objects to the participation of their child in such programs and activities, the parent may notify the School District of such objection in writing. Upon the receipt of such notice the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to the Possession, Use, or Distribution of Illicit Drugs, Alcohol or Tobacco.

These standards are in addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by board policy or administrative regulation. The District's standards prohibit the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco on school premises, in school vehicles, or as a part of any of the school's activities on or off school premises. Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession, use distribution or being under the influence of any controlled substance, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol.
4. Possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
5. Possession, use, or distribution of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
6. Possession, use or distribution of any tobacco product.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Use of Drugs and Alcohol:

1. First Offense: Parents and law enforcement will be contacted immediately upon verification of the violation.
 - a. Consequence: The student will incur a 10 day out-of-school suspension. Any and all days missed will be counted toward the school's attendance policy. The student will be ineligible for participation in, or attendance at all extra-curricular activities for a period of 40 school days, commencing the first day of the out -of-school suspension. Students will be reinstated for activities at 8:15 a.m. on the 41st school day.
 - b. Intervention Option: The student and family participate in a drug and alcohol assessment at their own expense prior to the student's re-admission to classes. The assessment shall be provided at a state approved alcohol/drug agency and conducted by a certified alcoholism/drug abuse counselor. Any and all days missed will be counted toward the school's attendance policy. The student and parents agree to follow the counselor's recommendations satisfactorily. The school requires written confirmation that an assessment has been made. In addition to the assessment the student will incur a 5 day out-of-school suspension and will be ineligible for participation in, or attendance at all extra-curricular activities for a period of 20 school days, commencing the first day of the suspension or treatment program.
 - c. Students will be reinstated for activities at 8:15 a.m. on the 21st school day.
 - d. The following agencies could be utilized:
 - i. Center for Psychological Services – Kearney
 - ii. Richard Young Hospital - Kearney
 - iii. Lutheran Family Services - North Platte
 - iv. South Central Behavioral Services - Kearney
 - e. Students will be expected to complete school work in which the teachers feel is appropriate during suspension and expulsion periods.
2. Second Offense: Parents and law enforcement will be contacted immediately upon verification of the violation.
 - a. Consequence: Expulsion.

- b. Intervention option: The Board of Education will give the student or parents an option to expulsion which would be a mandatory alcohol/drug rehabilitation program acceptable by the school administrators. This program will be at the parent's expense. This rehabilitation shall be provided at a state approved alcohol/drug agency and conducted by a certified alcohol/drug abuse counselor. The student and family agree to follow the counselor's recommendations satisfactorily. The school requires written confirmation that rehabilitation is in progress and a program will be initiated for the student.
 - c. The intervention option would include a 10 day out of school suspension and will require 40 days of exclusion from activities. This discipline may be applied concurrently with the approved rehabilitation services.
3. Third offense: Expulsion
- a. Intervention option: None

All state statutes regarding student expulsion and suspension will be enforced. The Board of Education's protection from liability will be extended to all staff to the extent that they act in accordance with this policy and observe the procedures consistent with it established within their respective buildings.

Each alcohol or drug violation incurred by a student K-8 shall be counted as an offense and will be kept on record through the student's grade school and middle school history. Another and separate record will commence when the student enters the 9th grade, and each violation incurring from the 9th grade forward shall be counted as an offense and shall be kept on record throughout the student's 9th through 12th year school history.

Use of Tobacco:

Students shall not have or use tobacco or tobacco substitutes (cigars, cigarettes, chew, snuff, etc.) while on the school grounds or on school property or under direct supervision of the school.

- 1. First offense: Violation of this policy would result in an in-school suspension for two days.
- 2. Second offense: In-school suspension for four days.
- 3. Third offense: The student shall serve a combination of 4 days in-school and 2 days out-of-school suspension. The tobacco and the container it is in will be confiscated from the student.

[Administration](#)

The administration is authorized to adopt such administrative rules, regulations or practices necessary to properly implement this policy. Such regulations, rules or practices may vary the procedures set forth herein to the extent necessary to fit the circumstances of an individual situation. Such rules, regulations and practices may include administrative forms, such as checklists to be used by staff to record observed behavior and to determine the proper plan of action.

5035 Student Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, 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, referral to restorative justice practices or services, 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. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this policy, references to "Principal" shall include building principals, the principal's designee, or other appropriate school district administrators.

Any statement, notice, recommendation, determination, or similar action specified in this policy shall be effectively given at the time written evidence thereof is delivered personally to or upon receipt of certified or registered mail or upon actual knowledge by a student or his or her parent or guardian.

Any student who is suspended or expelled from school pursuant to this policy may not participate in any school activity during the duration of that exclusion including adjacent school holidays and weekends. The student activity eligibility of a student who is mandatorily reassigned shall be determined on a case-by-case basis by the principal of the building to which the student is reassigned.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal 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 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 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 ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations, under the following conditions: all assignments must be completed upon return to school; students will receive a zero for incomplete assignments.

Emergency Exclusion

Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law.

Weapons and/or Firearms

Students may be disciplined for the possession of weapons and/or firearms pursuant to the board's separate policy on weapons and firearms or state law.

Long-Term Suspension

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

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/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.

Grounds for 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 (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful 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 53-103.02 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 as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person 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 which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;

10. 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
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
 - a. 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;
 - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
 - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
 - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
 - e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
 - f. Possession of pornography;
 - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
 - h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's

willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/newcomers; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;

- i. Bullying which shall include cyberbullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- j. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;
- k. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
- l. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
- m. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation; and
- n. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

Due Process Afforded to Students Facing Long-term Suspension or Expulsion

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

1. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.
2. The Principal 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, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
 - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
 - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment for disciplinary purposes can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges;
 - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
 - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
 - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal 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, 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.

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 a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below.
6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below, except that the time constraints set forth may differ as provided by law and this policy. 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.

In the event a hearing is requested, the hearing, hearing procedures, the student's rights and any appeals or judicial review permitted by law shall be governed by the applicable provisions of the Nebraska Student Discipline Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-254 to 79-294). The school district will provide parents with copies of the relevant statutes upon request.

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

Violations of this section will result in a report to law enforcement if:

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;
2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed solely by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students;
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes;

6. The report is required or requested by law enforcement or the county attorney.

Adopted on: 6/15/2020

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

12.11. Policy 5208- High School Credit for Middle School Courses

Policy to be deleted, already contained in Policy 6005-Academic Credits and Graduation

Policy 5208: High School Credit for Middle School Courses

High school credit may be awarded to students in a middle grades course if the course content and requirements are equivalent to a course offered in the high school.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.003.05B

Date of Adoption: 07/14/2014

6005
Academic Credits and Graduation

To receive a diploma from Cozad Community Schools a student must have passing grades in classes totaling 240 credit hours in grades 9 through 12. Included in the 240 credit hours, a student must have completed and passed the following specified areas:

- English:** 8 semesters and/or at least 40 credit hours
- Science:** 30 credit hours
- Math:** 30 credit hours
- Social Studies:** 35 credit hours
- Physical Education:** 5 credit hours
- Health:** 5 credit hours

Students must be in attendance eight semesters in grades 9 through 12 and receive credit in all classes taken in their final semester of attendance in order to participate in commencement ceremonies.

For a student with an Individualized Educational Plan (IEP) the IEP goals must be successfully completed to meet graduation requirements.

All credits earned outside the Cozad Community Schools must be granted by secondary and/or post-secondary schools, which are fully accredited and/or approved by the Board of Education. Academic credit earned at Interim Program Schools will be accepted and diplomas issued to students transferring from Interim Program Schools who have met the requirements for graduation as per 92 NAC 18. Any variations from the above requirements must be approved by the Board of Education and recommended by the principal.

High school may be awarded to students in a middle grades course if the course content and requirements are equivalent to a course offered in the high school. (NDE Rule 10.003.05B)

Adopted on: 3.15.2021

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

12.12. Policy 6144- Controversial Issues

Policy to be deleted, contained in Policy 6013- Teaching Controversial Issues

Administrative Procedures for Policy 6144: Controversial Issues

Controversial Issues

As free objective discussion of controversial issues is the heart of the free process of representative government, freedom of speech and free access to information is among our most cherished traditions. It is the responsibility of the teachers to uphold these traditions, but policy on controversial issues should be defined in terms of the rights of pupils rather than in terms of the right of teachers. With regard to controversial issues in the public schools, the pupil has four rights to be recognized.

1. The right to study any controversial issue which has political, economic or social significance and concerning which (at hi/hers level) he/she should begin to have an opinion.
2. The right to have access to all relevant information, including the materials that circulate freely in the community.
3. The right to study under competent instruction in an atmosphere free from bias and prejudice.
4. The right to form and express his/her own opinions on controversial issues without thereby jeopardizing his/her relations with his/her teacher or the school.

To guarantee these rights of the pupil, it is therefore the duty of the teacher to see that the area of controversial issues is objective and scholarly, with a minimum emphasis on opinion. The teacher must approach controversial issues in the classroom in an impartial and unprejudiced manner and must refrain from using his/her classroom privileges and prestige to promote a partisan or factional point of view.

Dramatic and Musical Productions

In view of the fact that any play or musical show produced by the schools is interpreted by the community as being approved or sanctioned by the school, it is important in selecting a production, or in choosing acts for a talent show, that good judgment is followed.

Cozad School's dramatic and musical productions are not meant to compete with commercial stage, screen and television shows for the entertainment dollar. Students, teachers, parents, and friends, who are close to school affairs, feel obliged to support school activities. The primary purpose of the school production is to provide opportunities to develop talent among the students. It is also the goal of any stage production to entertain the audience. With these goals in mind, the following points should be used as a guide:

1. Profanity or Swearing—objectionable language should not be used unless it is important in showing the development of the character or is necessary to the understanding of the meaning of the play.
2. Allusions to sex—Allusions or references to sex which seem to convey the approval of promiscuity, perversion, or illicit relations in any sense, should not be included in the play or show. Passionate love scenes or prolonged kissing are also not desirable in a school production.

3. Costumes and Dress—Proper costuming and dress for the parts being played is expected. Nudity shall not be permitted in any performance.
4. Religion—Reference to religion, to any particular religious sect, to divinity of deity should not be made if used disparagingly. Comments, situations, or stage business which would compare, contrast, or weigh in religious faction against another, should be eliminated unless they are used in a true historical setting of the past or show present day real life situations.

In general, it would appear that the school production would have the effect on the players and audience of being morally uplifting. To live our ideals is certainly one of the functions of the total educational program. The school play or musical can, and should make its contribution to this accomplishment.

The final decision for controversial dramatic and musical productions shall rest with the Cozad Board of Education. Such decision shall include discussion and consultation with school officials and anyone else the board may wish to involve.

Selection of Printed Instructional Materials

The Cozad Board of Education, which is responsible for all book and instructional material purchases for the school district, recognizes the student's need for access to many different types of books and materials. The board also recognizes the right of teachers and administrators to select books and other materials in accord with current trends in education and to make them available in the schools. It is, therefore, the policy of this district to require the materials selected for our school to be in accordance with the following procedures:

1. Selection of Books and Other Printed Materials
 - a. Books and other printed matter shall be selected for values of interest and enlightenment of all students in the schools. A book shall not be excluded because of the race, nationality, political, or religious views of the writer, or of its style and language, except in matters of undue vulgarity and obscenity.
 - b. Every effort will be made to provide materials that present all points of view concerning the problems and issues of our times, international, national, and local. Books or other reading materials of sound factual authority shall not be prescribed or removed from library shelves or classrooms because of partisan doctrinal or disapproval.
 - c. Censorship of books shall be challenged in order to maintain the school's responsibility to provide information and enlightenment.
2. Censorship of Books and Other Printed Materials
 - a. The final decision for controversial reading matter shall rest with the Cozad Board of Education after careful examination and discussion of the book and reading material. Such examination and discussion shall include consultation with school officials and anyone else the board may wish to involve.
 - b. No parent or group of parents shall have the right to determine the reading matter for students other than their own children.
 - c. The board recognizes the right of an individual parent to request that his child not have to read a given book. A written request stating the parent's objection shall be made to the appropriate building principal.

- d. Any parent or guardian who wishes to request reconsideration of the use of any book or printed materials in the school, must make such a request in writing on forms provided by the school and available from building principals. The statement must be signed and identified so that a reply may be given. Parents must use the “Cozad Community Schools’ Complaint Procedures”.
- e. A committee, appointed by the superintendent, consisting of the principal, two teachers, and one librarian: and which may include parents, patrons, and students shall review the questioned material and judge whether it conforms to the previously stated principles and submit its report in writing to the superintendent.
- f. If the matter cannot be resolved at the committee level, then the written complaint along with the committee’s evaluation shall be forwarded to the superintendent. If the disposition is not resolved at that level, it shall then be referred to the Cozad Board of Education. The concerned parties shall be notified of the final disposition in writing.

Complaints Concerning Library Materials

The Cozad Board of Education, as established through policy, recognizes procedures for the selection of library books and materials to be placed in the media centers. The Board of Education further recognizes the rights of students to have access to a variety of materials. The Board of Education will strongly challenge censorship of books that have been selected according to prescribed standards.

If patrons of the school district have objections to materials purchased for the media centers of School District #11, they may make formal protests in the following manner:

1. Lodge a written complaint with the principal of the school stating what material is objectionable, why it is objectionable, and suggested solutions for dealing with the materials.
2. After meeting with the media personnel in charge of the center where the objectionable material is located, the principal shall answer the complaint in writing to the objector.
3. If the objector is not satisfied with the answer given by the principal, he/she may appeal his objection to the Superintendent of Schools.
4. If the Superintendent’s decision is unsatisfactory, the objector may request a hearing before the Cozad Board of Education at the next regular board meeting.
5. After hearing the objection, the Board of Education, within a reasonable length of time, shall render a decision which will be final

Complaints Concerning Visual Information Material

The Cozad Board of Education recognizes that much of education is a search for truth. In this search students will be exposed to varying philosophies. In order to present broad curricular material, some material might prove to be unacceptable to some individuals. Therefore, the Board of Education has adopted the following

Principles and procedures:

1. That the final decision for controversial instructional matter shall rest with the Board of Education after careful examination and discussion of the instructional matter with school officials, or with anyone else the board may wish to involve.
2. That no parent or group of parents has the right to determine the instructional matter for students other than their own children.

3. The board does, however, recognize the right of an individual parent to request that his child not be required to see a given film, provided a written request stating the parents' reason for objection, is made to the appropriate building principal.
4. Any parent who wishes to request reconsideration of the use of any learning material in the school must make such a request in writing in the form provided through building principals. The form is entitled "Cozad Community Schools' Complaint Procedures".

Reviewed 6.14.2010

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 of any kind through any classroom or a school device. However, a teacher shall not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as the student is encouraged to reach his/her own decision independently.

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

Adopted on: 5/17/2021

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

13. APPROVAL OF KSB REVISIONS TO POLICIES 2005, 3001, 3003, 3003.1, 3004.1, 3042, 3043, 5063 AND 6036

13.1. Policy 2005- Conflict of Interest

LB 65 amends Section 49-14,103.01, a provision in the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act, relating to local elected officials (including school board members) who have an interest in a contract with their own governing body. LB 65 eliminates the phrase "direct pecuniary fee or commission" and replaces it with "payment, fee or commission." This change is required.

2005 Conflict of Interest

Any member of the board of education who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

a. Business with which a board member is associated shall include the following:

(1) A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.

(2) A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or the board member or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the board member reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.

c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

2. Contracts with the School District.

a. No board member or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in

any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular office hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded. Board members who enter into employment contracts with the school district must also comply with the board's policy on the employment of board members.

- b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the board member has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the board member's interest known, may render a contract null and void.
- c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for the board member to make public notice shall apply when the board member, or his or her immediate family parent, spouse, or child has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a direct pecuniary payment, fee, or commission as a result of the contract.
- d. The prohibition in this section does not apply if the contract is an agenda item approved at a board meeting and the board member:
 - (1) Makes a declaration on the record to the school board regarding the nature and extent of his or her interest prior to official consideration of the contract;
 - (2) Does not vote on the matters of granting the contract, making payments pursuant to the contract, or accepting performance of work under the contract, or similar matters relating to the contract, except that if the number of members of the school board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the board with all members present from securing a quorum on the issue, then all members may vote on the matters; and
 - (3) Does not act for the school board as to inspection or performance under the contract in which he or she has an interest.

3. Contracts with Board Member's Immediate Family.

- a. If a person in a board member's immediate family is an employee of this school district, the board member may vote on all issues of a contract which are generally applicable to:
 - (1) All district employees.
 - (2) All employees within a specific classification but which does not single out the member of his or her immediate family.

4. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

- a. A board member may recommend for employment or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
 - (1) The board member does not abuse his or her position.
 - (2) Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:
 - (i) who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;
 - (ii) for any unreasonably high salary;
 - (iii) who is not required to perform the duties of the position.
 - (3) The board makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.
 - (4) The board member makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board. If the secretary of the board of education would be the individual filing the disclosure statement, the statement shall be filed with the president of the board of education.
 - (5) The board approves the employment or supervisory position.

b. The board has not terminated the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

5. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

a. No board member shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:

(1) a public official, public employee, or candidate.

(2) a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

(3) a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or (2) above is associated.

b. No board member shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the board member would thereby be influenced.

c. A board member shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public office or any confidential information received through the holding of a public office to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.

d. A board member shall not use personnel, resources, property, or funds under his or her official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items, other than compensation provided by law, for personal financial gain.

6. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

a. Except as provided below, the board shall not authorize the use of personnel, property, resources, or funds under its jurisdiction for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or

election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.

- b. This does not prohibit the board from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
- c. This does not prohibit the board from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
- d. This does not prohibit the board, while legally seated as a body, from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
 - (1) The board may designate one or more members of its body, or one or more of its school administrators, to speak on behalf of the board on specific occasions such as public meetings or legislative hearings.
 - (2) Any member of the board may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the board. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

7. Conflict of Interest Statement

- a. Any board member who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her official duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public, shall take the following actions as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should reasonably be aware of such potential conflict, whichever is sooner:

- (1) Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict;
 - (2) Deliver a copy of the statement to the school board secretary who shall enter the statement onto the school district's public records; and
 - (3) Abstain from participating or voting on the matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest.
- b. If the board member would like a formal opinion from the NADC as to whether there is an actual conflict of interest, he/she shall deliver a copy of the statement to the NADC.

8. Recordkeeping

- a. The board secretary shall maintain a separate record of the following information for every contract entered into by the school board in which a board member has an interest and for which disclosure was made pursuant to section 2d of this policy:
 - (1) The names of the contracting parties.
 - (2) The nature of the interest of the board member in question.
 - (3) The date that the contract was approved.
 - (4) The amount of the contract.
 - (5) The basic terms of the contract.
- b. The information supplied relative to the contract shall be provided no later than ten (10) days after the contract has been signed by both parties. The ledger kept by the board secretary shall be available for public inspection during normal working hours of the office in which it is kept.

9. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

2005 Conflict of Interest

Any member of the board of education who meets the conditions set forth in this policy shall be deemed to have a business or financial conflict of interest.

1. Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

a. Business with which a board member is associated shall include the following:

(1) A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a partner, a limited liability company, or serves as a director or an officer.

(2) A business in which the board member or a member of his or her immediate family is a stockholder in a closed corporation with stock worth one thousand dollars or more, or the board member or his or her immediate family owns more than a five percent equity interest or is a stockholder of publicly traded stock worth more than ten thousand dollars or more at fair market value, or which represents more than ten percent equity interest. This shall not apply to publicly traded stock under a trading account if the board member reports the name and address of the company and stockbroker.

b. A business association shall be defined to include an individual as a partner, limited liability company member, director or officer, or a business in which the individual or member of the immediate family is a stockholder.

c. Immediate family member or member of the immediate family shall mean a child residing in an individual's household, a spouse of an individual, or an individual claimed by that individual or that individual's spouse as a dependent for federal income tax purposes.

2. Contracts with the School District.

a. No board member or member of his or her immediate family shall enter into a contract valued at two thousand dollars or more, in

any one year, with this school district unless the contract is awarded through an open and public process that (1) includes prior public notice and (2) allows the public to inspect during the school district's regular office hours the proposals considered and the contract awarded. Board members who enter into employment contracts with the school district must also comply with the board's policy on the employment of board members.

- b. The existence of any conflict of interest in any contract in which the board member has an interest and in which the school district is a party, or the failure to make public the board member's interest known, may render a contract null and void.
- c. The prohibition of a conflict of interest or requirement for the board member to make public notice shall apply when the board member, or his or her parent, spouse, or child has a business association with the business involved in the contract or will receive a payment, fee, or commission as a result of the contract.
- d. The prohibition in this section does not apply if the contract is an agenda item approved at a board meeting and the board member:
 - (1) Makes a declaration on the record to the school board regarding the nature and extent of his or her interest prior to official consideration of the contract;
 - (2) Does not vote on the matters of granting the contract, making payments pursuant to the contract, or accepting performance of work under the contract, or similar matters relating to the contract, except that if the number of members of the school board declaring an interest in the contract would prevent the board with all members present from securing a quorum on the issue, then all members may vote on the matters; and
 - (3) Does not act for the school board as to inspection or performance under the contract in which he or she has an interest.

3. Contracts with Board Member's Immediate Family.

- a. If a person in a board member's immediate family is an employee of this school district, the board member may vote on all issues of a contract which are generally applicable to:
 - (1) All district employees.
 - (2) All employees within a specific classification but which does not single out the member of his or her immediate family.

4. Employing Members of the Immediate Family.

- a. A board member may recommend for employment or supervise the employment of an immediate family member if:
 - (1) The board member does not abuse his or her position.
 - (2) Abuse of official position shall include, but not be limited to, employing an immediate family member:
 - (i) who is not qualified for and able to perform the duties of the position;
 - (ii) for any unreasonably high salary;
 - (iii) who is not required to perform the duties of the position.
 - (3) The board makes a reasonable solicitation and consideration of applications for employment.
 - (4) The board member makes a full disclosure on the record to the governing body of the school district and to the secretary of the board. If the secretary of the board of education would be the individual filing the disclosure statement, the statement shall be filed with the president of the board of education.
 - (5) The board approves the employment or supervisory position.

b. The board has not terminated the employment of another employee so as to make funds or a position available for the purpose of hiring an immediate family member.

5. Gifts, Loans, Contributions, Rewards, or Promises of Future Employment

a. No board member shall offer or give to the following persons anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment, based upon an agreement that a vote, official action, or judgment would be influenced thereby:

(1) a public official, public employee, or candidate.

(2) a member of the immediate family of an individual listed in Subparagraph 'a' above.

(3) a business with which an individual listed in Subparagraph (1) or (2) above is associated.

b. No board member shall solicit or accept anything of value, including a gift, loan, contribution, reward, or promise of future employment based on an agreement that the vote, official action, or judgment of the board member would thereby be influenced.

c. A board member shall not use or authorize the use of his or her public office or any confidential information received through the holding of a public office to obtain financial gain, other than compensation provided by law, for himself or herself, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated.

d. A board member shall not use personnel, resources, property, or funds under his or her official care and control other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures or use such items, other than compensation provided by law, for personal financial gain.

6. Conflict of Interest Relating to Campaigning or Political Issues

a. Except as provided below, the board shall not authorize the use of personnel, property, resources, or funds under its jurisdiction for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or

election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.

- b. This does not prohibit the board from making school district facilities available to a person for campaign purposes if the identity of the candidate or the support for or opposition to the ballot question is not a factor in making the facilities available or a factor in determining the cost or conditions for use.
- c. This does not prohibit the board from discussing and voting upon a resolution supporting or opposing a ballot question.
- d. This does not prohibit the board, while legally seated as a body, from responding to specific inquiries by the press or the public as to the board's opinion regarding a ballot question or from providing information in response to a request for information.
 - (1) The board may designate one or more members of its body, or one or more of its school administrators, to speak on behalf of the board on specific occasions such as public meetings or legislative hearings.
 - (2) Any member of the board may present his or her personal opinion regarding a ballot question or respond to a request for information related to a ballot question; but in so doing, the person should clearly state that the information being presented is his or her personal opinion and is not to be considered as the official position or opinion of the board. However, this shall not be done during a time that the individual is engaged in his or her official duties.

7. Conflict of Interest Statement

- a. Any board member who would be required to take any action or make any decision in the discharge of his or her official duties that may cause financial benefit or detriment to him or her, a member of his or her immediate family, or a business with which he or she is associated, which is distinguishable from the effects of such action on the public generally or a broad segment of the public, shall take the following actions as soon as he or she is aware of such potential conflict or should reasonably be aware of such potential conflict, whichever is sooner:

- (1) Prepare a written statement describing the matter requiring action or decision and the nature of the potential conflict;
 - (2) Deliver a copy of the statement to the school board secretary who shall enter the statement onto the school district's public records; and
 - (3) Abstain from participating or voting on the matter in which he or she has a conflict of interest.
- b. If the board member would like a formal opinion from the NADC as to whether there is an actual conflict of interest, he/she shall deliver a copy of the statement to the NADC.

8. Recordkeeping

- a. The board secretary shall maintain a separate record of the following information for every contract entered into by the school board in which a board member has an interest and for which disclosure was made pursuant to section 2d of this policy:
 - (1) The names of the contracting parties.
 - (2) The nature of the interest of the board member in question.
 - (3) The date that the contract was approved.
 - (4) The amount of the contract.
 - (5) The basic terms of the contract.
- b. The information supplied relative to the contract shall be provided no later than ten (10) days after the contract has been signed by both parties. The ledger kept by the board secretary shall be available for public inspection during normal working hours of the office in which it is kept.

9. Conflict. To the extent that there is a conflict between this policy and the Nebraska Political Accountability and Disclosure Act ("Act"), the Act shall control.

Adopted on: 3/20/2017
Revised on: 6/14/2021
Reviewed on: _____

13.2. Policy 3001- Budget and Property Tax Request

In addition, LB 528 requires the published budget hearing notice to include the following statement: For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: [Insert Internet address for the web site established pursuant to Laws 2021, LB528, section 5]. The district must "prominently display" this statement on the school district web site with an active link to the Internet address for the web site established by the Nebraska Budget Act to allow the public access to the information. LB 644 creates the Property Tax Request Act for the alleged purpose of "increased transparency for impacted political subdivisions to raise their property tax levies." If a school district seeks to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage, the district must: 3 ? Give notice of the public hearing by sending a postcard to all affected property taxpayers, posting notice of the hearing on the home page of the relevant county's website, and publishing notice in a legal newspaper of general circulation within the county; ? Hold a (joint) public hearing that includes a presentation that includes certain statutorily required information; and ? Pass a resolution. The hearing must be held during an evening after 6 p.m., on or after September 17th and before September 28th and before the district files its adopted budget statement. Any member of the public must be allowed a reasonable amount of time to speak. This change is not required but is highly recommended.

3001
Budget and Property Tax Request

The board of education shall adopt a budget each year to support the school district's programs and services for the ensuing fiscal year. The superintendent of schools shall be responsible for developing the budget subject to the direction and decisions of the board. The budget document shall be under continuous development, based upon the requirements of the adopted educational program.

BUDGET PROCEDURES

Proposed Budget. The superintendent shall prepare the proposed budget in accordance with board policies and goals, state statutes, and regulations. As the district's spending plan, the budget will be based on up-to-date revenue estimates, and will reflect the assessed needs and programs approved by the board.

Budget Hearing Notice. Notice of place and time of the hearing, together with a summary of the proposed budget statement, must be published at least four calendar days prior to the date set for hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district. The four calendar days shall include the day of publication but not the day of hearing. The notice shall include the following statement:

For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: [Insert Internet address for the web site established pursuant to Laws 2021, LB528, section 5].

In addition, the district must electronically publish this statement on the school district web site. Such electronic publication must be prominently displayed with an active link to the Internet address for the web site established by the Nebraska Budget Act to allow the public access to the information.

Budget Hearing. The board must conduct a hearing prior to adopting the budget. The hearing must be held separately from any regularly scheduled meeting and may not be limited by time. The board must make a presentation outlining key provisions of the proposed budget statement, including, but not limited to, a comparison with the prior year's budget. Any member of the public desiring to speak on the proposed budget statement shall be allowed to address the board at the hearing and must be given a reasonable amount of time to do so. Five minutes shall generally be considered a reasonable amount

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of time.

Budget Hearing Documents. The board must make at least three copies of the proposed budget statement and at least one copy of all other reproducible written material to be discussed at the hearing available to the public at the hearing.

Budget Adoption. After the budget hearing, the proposed budget statement shall be adopted or amended and adopted as amended. If the adopted budget statement reflects a change from that shown in the published proposed budget statement, a summary of the changes (including the items changed and the reasons for such changes) must be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district within twenty calendar days after its adoption without further hearing.

Certification and Filing. The amount to be received from personal and real property taxation shall be certified to the appropriate levying board as provided by law. The budget shall also be filed with the state auditor.

Purchase Authorization. Except for bids required under the section "Bid Letting and Contracts," the board's adoption of the budget shall authorize the purchases without further board action.

Monthly Report. At each monthly board meeting, the superintendent will provide a report on the current status of the major sections of the budget.

PROPERTY TAX REQUEST PROCEDURES – PROPERTY TAX REQUEST IS EQUAL TO OR LOWER THAN THE ALLOWABLE GROWTH PERCENTAGE

Property Tax Request Hearing. The board must hold a special public hearing called for the purpose of passing a property tax request resolution.

Property Tax Request Hearing Notice. The district must publish a hearing notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district at least four calendar days prior to the hearing. The four calendar days shall include the day of publication but not the day of hearing. The hearing notice must contain the following information: The certified taxable valuation under section 13-509 for the prior year, the certified taxable valuation under section 13-509 for the current year, and the percentage increase or decrease in such valuations from the prior year to the current year; the dollar amount of the prior year's tax request and the property tax rate that was necessary to fund that tax request; the property tax rate that would be necessary to fund last year's tax request if applied to the current year's valuation; the proposed dollar amount of the tax request for the current year and the property tax rate that will be

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necessary to fund that tax request; the percentage increase or decrease in the property tax rate from the prior year to the current year; and the percentage increase or decrease in the total operating budget from the prior year to the current year.

Increase in Total Property Taxes Levied. If the annual assessment of property would result in an increase in the total property taxes levied as determined using the previous year's rate of levy, the district's property tax request for the current year shall be no more than its property tax request in the prior year, and the district's rate of levy for the current year shall be decreased accordingly when such rate is set by the county board of equalization.

Decrease or No Change in Total Property Taxes Levied. If the annual assessment of property would result in no change or a decrease in the total property taxes levied as determined using the previous year's rate of levy, the district's property tax request for the current year shall be no more than its property tax request in the prior year, and the district's rate of levy for the current year shall be adjusted accordingly when such rate is set by the county board of equalization.

Resolution. The board shall pass a resolution to set the amount of its property tax request only after holding the public hearing. The resolution setting the district's property tax request at an amount that exceeds the prior year's property tax request shall include, but not be limited to, the information required by section 77-1601.02(4).

Certification. The resolution setting the property tax request shall be certified and forwarded to the county clerk on or before October 13¹⁵th of the year for which the tax request is to apply.

PROPERTY TAX REQUEST PROCEDURES – PROPERTY TAX REQUEST IS GREATER THAN THE ALLOWABLE GROWTH PERCENTAGE

Property Tax Request Hearing. The board must hold a public hearing called for the purpose of passing a property tax request resolution. If another political subdivision within the county also seeks to exceed the allowable growth percentage, the hearing will be a joint hearing. In the event of a joint hearing, each political subdivision must designate one representative to attend the joint public hearing on behalf of the political subdivision. If a political subdivision includes area in more than one county, the political subdivision shall be deemed to be within the county in which the political subdivision's principal headquarters are located. The hearing agenda will only include discussion on each political subdivision's intent to increase its property

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tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage.

The hearing must be held after 6 p.m. on or after September 17th and before September 28th and before the district files its adopted budget statement. Any member of the public must be allowed a reasonable amount of time to speak at the hearing.

At the joint public hearing, the representative of each political subdivision must give a brief presentation on the political subdivision's intent to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage and the effect of such request on the political subdivision's budget. The presentation must include, at a minimum, all information and statements required by law.

Property Tax Request Hearing Notice. Notice of the joint public hearing must be provided by:

- The County Assessor sending a postcard with all required information to all affected property taxpayers. The postcard shall be sent to the name and address to which the property tax statement is mailed;
- Posting notice of the hearing with all required information on the home page of the relevant county's web site, except that this requirement shall only apply if the county has a population of more than twenty-five thousand inhabitants; **and**
- Publishing notice of the hearing with all required information in a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in the relevant county.

Provide Information to County Clerk. Each political subdivision that participates in the joint public hearing shall provide the following information to the county clerk by September 5th: the date, time, and location for the joint public hearing; a listing of and telephone number for each political subdivision that will be participating in the joint public hearing; and the amount of each participating political subdivision's property tax request.

Resolution. The board shall pass a resolution to set the amount of its property tax request only after holding the public hearing. The resolution setting the district's property tax request at an amount that exceeds the prior year's property tax request, including any increase in excess of the allowable growth percentage shall include, but not be limited to, the information required by law.

Certification. The resolution setting the property tax request shall be certified and forwarded to the county clerk on or before October 15th of the year for which the tax request is to apply.

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

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3001 Budget and Property Tax Request

The board of education shall adopt a budget each year to support the school district's programs and services for the ensuing fiscal year. The superintendent of schools shall be responsible for developing the budget subject to the direction and decisions of the board. The budget document shall be under continuous development, based upon the requirements of the adopted educational program.

BUDGET PROCEDURES

Proposed Budget. The superintendent shall prepare the proposed budget in accordance with board policies and goals, state statutes, and regulations. As the district's spending plan, the budget will be based on up-to-date revenue estimates, and will reflect the assessed needs and programs approved by the board.

Budget Hearing Notice. Notice of place and time of the hearing, together with a summary of the proposed budget statement, must be published at least four calendar days prior to the date set for hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district. The four calendar days shall include the day of publication but not the day of hearing. The notice shall include the following statement:

For more information on statewide receipts and expenditures, and to compare cost per pupil and performance to other school districts, go to: [Insert Internet address for the web site established pursuant to Laws 2021, LB528, section 5].

In addition, the district must electronically publish this statement on the school district web site. Such electronic publication must be prominently displayed with an active link to the Internet address for the web site established by the Nebraska Budget Act to allow the public access to the information.

Budget Hearing. The board must conduct a hearing prior to adopting the budget. The hearing must be held separately from any regularly scheduled meeting and may not be limited by time. The board must make a presentation outlining key provisions of the proposed budget statement, including, but not limited to, a comparison with the prior year's budget. Any member of the public desiring to speak on the proposed budget statement shall be allowed to address the board at the hearing and must be given a reasonable amount of time to do so. Five minutes shall generally be considered a reasonable amount

of time.

Budget Hearing Documents. The board must make at least three copies of the proposed budget statement and at least one copy of all other reproducible written material to be discussed at the hearing available to the public at the hearing.

Budget Adoption. After the budget hearing, the proposed budget statement shall be adopted or amended and adopted as amended. If the adopted budget statement reflects a change from that shown in the published proposed budget statement, a summary of the changes (including the items changed and the reasons for such changes) must be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district within twenty calendar days after its adoption without further hearing.

Certification and Filing. The amount to be received from personal and real property taxation shall be certified to the appropriate levying board as provided by law. The budget shall also be filed with the state auditor.

Purchase Authorization. Except for bids required under the section "Bid Letting and Contracts," the board's adoption of the budget shall authorize the purchases without further board action.

Monthly Report. At each monthly board meeting, the superintendent will provide a report on the current status of the major sections of the budget.

PROPERTY TAX REQUEST PROCEDURES – PROPERTY TAX REQUEST IS EQUAL TO OR LOWER THAN THE ALLOWABLE GROWTH PERCENTAGE

Property Tax Request Hearing. The board must hold a special public hearing called for the purpose of passing a property tax request resolution.

Property Tax Request Hearing Notice. The district must publish a hearing notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the school district at least four calendar days prior to the hearing. The four calendar days shall include the day of publication but not the day of hearing. The hearing notice must contain the following information: The certified taxable valuation under section 13-509 for the prior year, the certified taxable valuation under section 13-509 for the current year, and the percentage increase or decrease in such valuations from the prior year to the current year; the dollar amount of the prior year's tax request and the property tax rate that was necessary to fund that tax request; the property tax rate that would be necessary to fund last year's tax request if applied to the current year's valuation; the proposed dollar amount of the tax request for the current year and the property tax rate that will be

necessary to fund that tax request; the percentage increase or decrease in the property tax rate from the prior year to the current year; and the percentage increase or decrease in the total operating budget from the prior year to the current year.

Increase in Total Property Taxes Levied. If the annual assessment of property would result in an increase in the total property taxes levied as determined using the previous year's rate of levy, the district's property tax request for the current year shall be no more than its property tax request in the prior year, and the district's rate of levy for the current year shall be decreased accordingly when such rate is set by the county board of equalization.

Decrease or No Change in Total Property Taxes Levied. If the annual assessment of property would result in no change or a decrease in the total property taxes levied as determined using the previous year's rate of levy, the district's property tax request for the current year shall be no more than its property tax request in the prior year, and the district's rate of levy for the current year shall be adjusted accordingly when such rate is set by the county board of equalization.

Resolution. The board shall pass a resolution to set the amount of its property tax request only after holding the public hearing. The resolution setting the district's property tax request at an amount that exceeds the prior year's property tax request shall include, but not be limited to, the information required by section 77-1601.02(4).

Certification. The resolution setting the property tax request shall be certified and forwarded to the county clerk on or before October 15th of the year for which the tax request is to apply.

**PROPERTY TAX REQUEST PROCEDURES – PROPERTY TAX REQUEST IS GREATER
THAN THE ALLOWABLE GROWTH PERCENTAGE**

Property Tax Request Hearing. The board must hold a public hearing called for the purpose of passing a property tax request resolution. If another political subdivision within the county also seeks to exceed the allowable growth percentage, the hearing will be a joint hearing. In the event of a joint hearing, each political subdivision must designate one representative to attend the joint public hearing on behalf of the political subdivision. If a political subdivision includes area in more than one county, the political subdivision shall be deemed to be within the county in which the political subdivision's principal headquarters are located. The hearing agenda will only include discussion on each political subdivision's intent to increase its property

tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage.

The hearing must be held after 6 p.m. on or after September 17th and before September 28th and before the district files its adopted budget statement. Any member of the public must be allowed a reasonable amount of time to speak at the hearing.

At the joint public hearing, the representative of each political subdivision must give a brief presentation on the political subdivision's intent to increase its property tax request by more than the allowable growth percentage and the effect of such request on the political subdivision's budget. The presentation must include, at a minimum, all information and statements required by law.

Property Tax Request Hearing Notice. Notice of the joint public hearing must be provided by:

- The County Assessor sending a postcard with all required information to all affected property taxpayers. The postcard shall be sent to the name and address to which the property tax statement is mailed;
- Posting notice of the hearing with all required information on the home page of the relevant county's web site, except that this requirement shall only apply if the county has a population of more than twenty-five thousand inhabitants; ***and***
- Publishing notice of the hearing with all required information in a legal newspaper in or of general circulation in the relevant county.

Provide Information to County Clerk. Each political subdivision that participates in the joint public hearing shall provide the following information to the county clerk by September 5th: the date, time, and location for the joint public hearing; a listing of and telephone number for each political subdivision that will be participating in the joint public hearing; and the amount of each participating political subdivision's property tax request.

Resolution. The board shall pass a resolution to set the amount of its property tax request only after holding the public hearing. The resolution setting the district's property tax request at an amount that exceeds the prior year's property tax request, including any increase in excess of the allowable growth percentage shall include, but not be limited to, the information required by law.

Certification. The resolution setting the property tax request shall be certified and forwarded to the county clerk on or before October 15th of the year for which the tax request is to apply.

Adopted on: 10/19/2020

Revised on: 6/14/2021

Reviewed on: _____

13.3. Policy 3003- Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Site Improvement

State law requires the State Board of Education, once every five years, to adjust the dollar amount threshold that requires schools to solicit bids for construction, remodeling, repair, or site improvements. In December, the threshold amount was raised from \$100,000 to \$109,000. Similarly, state law requires the State of Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects, once every five years, to adjust the dollar amount threshold for projects that require schools to retain the services of an architect or engineer. The board adjusted this amount from \$100,000 to \$118,000. That's right - now you get to remember two different numbers! These changes are required.

3003

Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Site Improvement

I. Applicability of this policy.

Construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds, whether those funds are derived directly from the federal government (e.g. award of a federal grant) or are derived by pass-through awards from the Nebraska Department of Education (e.g. special education funds, school lunch funds, Title I funds) are subject to the policy on Construction with Federal Funds, which is found elsewhere in this section.

This policy applies to all other purchases and contracts made by the school district for construction, remodeling, repair and other site improvements.

II. Projects with an Estimated Cost of Less than ~~\$100~~109,000

- A. The school district will solicit quotes and/or estimates for all projects with an estimated cost of less than ~~\$100~~109,000.
- B. Prior to solicitation of the quotes and/or estimates, the superintendent will determine whether the district will accept oral submissions.
- C. Quotes and/or estimates may be solicited by the superintendent or his/her designee without board action.
- D. The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.
- E. The district may use a Nebraska state-wide cooperative purchasing program in lieu of obtaining quotes or bids under this policy to the extent such a bid or quote is not otherwise independently required by law.
- F. Nothing in this subsection prohibits or requires the use of the formal bidding procedures. If the district is going to solicit formal bids for projects of less than ~~\$100~~109,000 they must follow the formal procedures outlined in this policy.

III. Formal Bidding for Major Purchases and Construction

- A. Pursuant to section 73-106 of the Nebraska statutes, the board will advertise for bids when the contemplated expenditure of the project

exceeds \$~~100~~109,000 for the construction, remodeling or repair of a school-owned building or for site improvement.

- B. In projects that involve professional engineering or architecture, the board will have a registered professional engineer or architect prepare the plans, specifications, and estimates when the anticipated cost of the project exceeds \$~~100~~118,000.

C. Advertising for Bids

1. The superintendent or designee will arrange to advertise for bids under this section by publishing notice in any newspaper of general circulation within the school district at least 7 calendar days prior to the date on which bids are due.
2. Nothing in this policy shall prevent the superintendent or designee from advertising in additional media outlets or for a longer period of time.

D. Bid Documents

1. The bid documents shall identify the day upon which the bids shall be returned, received or opened and shall identify the hour at which the bids will close or be received or opened.
2. The invitation for bids will be sufficiently certain and specific, will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, and will define the items or services in order to allow the bidder to properly respond.
3. The bid documents shall also provide that such bids shall be opened simultaneously in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.
4. Bids received after the date and time specified in the bid documents shall be returned to the bidder unopened.
5. If bids are being opened on more than one contract, the board, in its discretion, may award each contract as the bids are opened.
6. Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time

stated in the bid form. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.

7. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications.

E. Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason

F. The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

3003

Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Site Improvement

I. Applicability of this policy.

Construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds, whether those funds are derived directly from the federal government (e.g. award of a federal grant) or are derived by pass-through awards from the Nebraska Department of Education (e.g. special education funds, school lunch funds, Title I funds) are subject to the policy on Construction with Federal Funds, which is found elsewhere in this section.

This policy applies to all other purchases and contracts made by the school district for construction, remodeling, repair and other site improvements.

II. Projects with an Estimated Cost of Less than \$109,000

- A. The school district will solicit quotes and/or estimates for all projects with an estimated cost of less than \$109,000.
- B. Prior to solicitation of the quotes and/or estimates, the superintendent will determine whether the district will accept oral submissions.
- C. Quotes and/or estimates may be solicited by the superintendent or his/her designee without board action.
- D. The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.
- E. The district may use a Nebraska state-wide cooperative purchasing program in lieu of obtaining quotes or bids under this policy to the extent such a bid or quote is not otherwise independently required by law.
- F. Nothing in this subsection prohibits or requires the use of the formal bidding procedures. If the district is going to solicit formal bids for projects of less than \$109,000 they must follow the formal procedures outlined in this policy.

III. Formal Bidding for Major Purchases and Construction

- A. Pursuant to section 73-106 of the Nebraska statutes, the board will advertise for bids when the contemplated expenditure of the project

exceeds \$109,000 for the construction, remodeling or repair of a school-owned building or for site improvement.

- B. In projects that involve professional engineering or architecture, the board will have a registered professional engineer or architect prepare the plans, specifications, and estimates when the anticipated cost of the project exceeds \$118,000.

C. Advertising for Bids

1. The superintendent or designee will arrange to advertise for bids under this section by publishing notice in any newspaper of general circulation within the school district at least 7 calendar days prior to the date on which bids are due.
2. Nothing in this policy shall prevent the superintendent or designee from advertising in additional media outlets or for a longer period of time.

D. Bid Documents

1. The bid documents shall identify the day upon which the bids shall be returned, received or opened and shall identify the hour at which the bids will close or be received or opened.
2. The invitation for bids will be sufficiently certain and specific, will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, and will define the items or services in order to allow the bidder to properly respond.
3. The bid documents shall also provide that such bids shall be opened simultaneously in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.
4. Bids received after the date and time specified in the bid documents shall be returned to the bidder unopened.
5. If bids are being opened on more than one contract, the board, in its discretion, may award each contract as the bids are opened.
6. Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time

stated in the bid form. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.

7. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications.

E. Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason

F. The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.

Adopted on: 6/19/2017

Revised on: 6/14/2021

Reviewed on: _____

13.4. Policy 3003.1- Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects Financed with Federal Funds

State law requires the State Board of Education, once every five years, to adjust the dollar amount threshold that requires schools to solicit bids for construction, remodeling, repair, or site improvements. In December, the threshold amount was raised from \$100,000 to \$109,000. Similarly, state law requires the State of Nebraska Board of Engineers and Architects, once every five years, to adjust the dollar amount threshold for projects that require schools to retain the services of an architect or engineer. The board adjusted this amount from \$100,000 to \$118,000. That's right - now you get to remember two different numbers! These changes are required.

During a recent round of federal fiscal review, NDE determined that it wants even more information in your federal purchasing/procurement policies and procedures, especially as it relates to internal controls and grant compliance. We have added a Financial Management section to both policies as well as incorporated some provisions in 3004.1 into 3003.1 to address these concerns. These changes are required.

3003.1
Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects
Financed with Federal Funds

I. Applicability of the Policy

This policy applies only to construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control.

The District will also comply with the requirements of the public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106) when the contemplated expenditure for the complete project exceeds \$~~100~~109,000, the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 13-2901 through 13-2914), energy financing contracts (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 66-1062 through 66-1066), other applicable state laws, and the board's general policy on Bidding for Construction and Related Projects. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

II. All projects undertaken pursuant to this policy will be subject to the following bond requirements

- A.** A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.
- B.** A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.
- C.** A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons

supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

III. Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost of Under \$250,000

A. Methods of Bidding/Soliciting Quotations or Estimates

The type of procedures required depends on the anticipated cost of the project.

1. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of up to \$10,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means a purchase of supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed \$10,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

To the extent practicable, the District distributes micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. The District will follow its standard policy on purchasing.

2. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of between \$10,000 and \$250,000 (Small Purchase Procedures)

For construction projects subject to this policy, small purchases are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, is more than \$10,000 and less than \$250,000 annually. For small purchases, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts.

B. Construction Projects with an estimated cost of between \$~~100~~109,000 and \$249,999 will be made pursuant to the District's Policy on Bid Letting and Contracts.

Pursuant to Nebraska law, construction projects which have an anticipated aggregate cost of \$~~100~~109,000 or more are subject to state

public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106). The board will follow its standard policy on bid letting and contracts for construction projects financed with federal funds which have an anticipated aggregate cost of between \$~~100~~109,000 and \$250,000.

IV. Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost Over \$250,000

A. Sealed Bids: All constructions projects subject to this policy with an anticipated cost of \$250,000 or more will be publicly solicited using the sealed bid method

1. Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for state, local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be ~~publically~~publicly advertised;
2. The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;
3. Sealed bids will be ~~publically~~publicly opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.
4. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
 - a) Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest.
 - b) Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of.
 - c) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.
5. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on

the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.

6. The board will generally complete its review of bids and select a vendor within 30 days of bid submission.

B. Advertising for Bids.

1. The superintendent or designee will arrange to advertise for bids by publishing notice in any newspaper of general circulation within the school district at least 7 calendar days prior to the date on which bids are due.

2. Nothing shall prevent the superintendent or designee from advertising in additional media outlets or for a longer period of time.

C. Bid Documents

1. The bid documents shall identify the day upon which the bids shall be returned, received, or opened and shall identify the hour at which the bids will close or be received or opened.

2. The bid documents shall also provide that such bids shall be opened simultaneously in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

3. Bids received after the date and time specified in the bid documents shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

4. If bids are being opened on more than one contract, the board, in its discretion, may award each contract as the bids are opened.

5. Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.

6. Bids will be reviewed by the Superintendent and/or designee and submitted to the board for approval.

7. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the

lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.

8. The board will generally complete its review of bids and select a vendor within 30 days of bid submission.

D. The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.

V. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible and consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in the U.S. or processed in the U.S. substantially using agricultural commodities produced in the U.S.

C. Full and Open Competition

The district's procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 C.F.R §200.319.

D. Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed

procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

The District may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over \$25,000 the District verifies that the vendor with whom the District intends to do business with is not excluded or disqualified. 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II(1) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 180.300.

The District will verify debarment or suspension by revising the excluded parties list on SAM.gov, collecting a certification through the bidding process, and/or by including a debarment and suspension provision in the bid and contract documents. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for such verification.

E. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Contract

The District alone is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the District of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

F. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

- a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

- b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding construction projects for a minimum of five (5) years after the sale or demolition of the building. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.
 - c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.
2. Maintenance of Construction Records for Projects Financed with Federal Funds
- a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all construction projects financed with federal funds. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of construction, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.
 - b) Retention of construction records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

VI. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

- A.** Board and staff member conflicts of interest are governed by the district's conflict of interest policies.
- B.** Contracts covered by this policy are subject to the following additional provisions.
 1. Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.
 2. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.
 3. The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

C. Favors and Gifts

The officers, employees, and agents of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, with the limited exception of unsolicited items of nominal value.

D. Enforcement

Disciplinary Actions will be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the District at the board's discretion.

VII. Financial Management

A. Identification.

The District will identify, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal program and award identification include, as applicable, the CFDA title and

number, federal award identification number and year, name of the federal agency, and, if applicable, name of the pass-through entity.

B. Financial Reporting

The District will make an accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

C. Accounting Records

The District maintains records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for federally-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

D. Internal Controls

The Superintendent or his/her designee must maintain effective control and accountability for all funds, real and personal property, and other assets through board review and approval of claims, an annual audit of the district's finances pursuant to the applicable Nebraska Department of Education and federal rules and regulations, and comparison of expenditures and outlays to budgeted amounts. The District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes. -

E. Budget Control

Actual expenditures or outlays will be compared with budgeted amounts for each federal award at least annually and more often as required by law or deemed prudent by the board or administrative staff.

F. Payment Methods

The District will comply with applicable methods and procedures for payment that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the District, in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act at 31 CFR Part 205. Generally, the District receives payment from the Nebraska Department of Education on a reimbursement basis. 2 CFR § 200.305. However, if the District receives an advance in

federal grant funds, the District will remit interest earned on the advanced payment quarterly to the federal agency. The District may retain interest amounts up to \$500 per year for administrative expenses. 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(9).

Consistent with state and federal requirements, the District will maintain source documentation supporting the federal expenditures (invoices, time sheets, payroll stubs, etc.) and will make such documentation available for the Nebraska Department of Education to review upon request.

G. Allowability of Costs

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the state-approved budget and grant application need prior approval.

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

VIII. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses,

women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in US or processed in US substantially using agricultural commodities produced in US.

C. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding federal awards for a minimum of six (6) years. Consequently, the District shall retain records for a minimum of six (6) years from the date on which the final Financial Status Report is submitted, unless otherwise notified in writing to extend the retention period by the awarding agency, cognizant agency for audit, oversight agency for audit, or cognizant agency for indirect costs. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings

involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.

2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.

b) Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

D. Privacy

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

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

3003.1
Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair, or Related Projects
Financed with Federal Funds

I. Applicability of the Policy

This policy applies only to construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control.

The District will also comply with the requirements of the public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106) when the contemplated expenditure for the complete project exceeds \$109,000, the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 13-2901 through 13-2914), energy financing contracts (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 66-1062 through 66-1066), other applicable state laws, and the board's general policy on Bidding for Construction and Related Projects. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

II. All projects undertaken pursuant to this policy will be subject to the following bond requirements

- A.** A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.
- B.** A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.
- C.** A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons

supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.

III. Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost of Under \$250,000

A. Methods of Bidding/Soliciting Quotations or Estimates

The type of procedures required depends on the anticipated cost of the project.

1. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of up to \$10,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means a purchase of supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed \$10,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

To the extent practicable, the District distributes micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. The District will follow its standard policy on purchasing.

2. Construction with an Anticipated Cost of between \$10,000 and \$250,000 (Small Purchase Procedures)

For construction projects subject to this policy, small purchases are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, is more than \$10,000 and less than \$250,000 annually. For small purchases, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts.

B. Construction Projects with an estimated cost of between \$109,000 and \$249,999 will be made pursuant to the District's Policy on Bid Letting and Contracts.

Pursuant to Nebraska law, construction projects which have an

anticipated aggregate cost of \$109,000 or more are subject to state public lettings laws (NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 73-101 through 73-106). The board will follow its standard policy on bid letting and contracts for construction projects financed with federal funds which have an anticipated aggregate cost of between \$109,000 and \$250,000.

IV. Construction Projects with an Anticipated Cost Over \$250,000

A. Sealed Bids: All constructions projects subject to this policy with an anticipated cost of \$250,000 or more will be publicly solicited using the sealed bid method

1. Bids must be solicited from an adequate number of known suppliers, providing them sufficient response time prior to the date set for opening the bids, for state, local, and tribal governments, the invitation for bids must be publicly advertised;
2. The invitation for bids, which will include any specifications and pertinent attachments, must define the items or services in order for the bidder to properly respond;
3. Sealed bids will be publicly opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.
4. The contract will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
 - a) Where specified in bidding documents, factors such as discounts, transportation cost, and life cycle costs must be considered in determining which bid is lowest.
 - b) Payment discounts will only be used to determine the low bid when prior experience indicates that such discounts are usually taken advantage of.
 - c) Any or all bids may be rejected if there is a sound documented reason.
5. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on

the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.

6. The board will generally complete its review of bids and select a vendor within 30 days of bid submission.

B. Advertising for Bids.

1. The superintendent or designee will arrange to advertise for bids by publishing notice in any newspaper of general circulation within the school district at least 7 calendar days prior to the date on which bids are due.

2. Nothing shall prevent the superintendent or designee from advertising in additional media outlets or for a longer period of time.

C. Bid Documents

1. The bid documents shall identify the day upon which the bids shall be returned, received, or opened and shall identify the hour at which the bids will close or be received or opened.

2. The bid documents shall also provide that such bids shall be opened simultaneously in the presence of the bidders or their representatives.

3. Bids received after the date and time specified in the bid documents shall be returned to the bidder unopened.

4. If bids are being opened on more than one contract, the board, in its discretion, may award each contract as the bids are opened.

5. Sealed bids will be opened in a place and at the specific time stated in the bid solicitation. Bidders shall be notified of the opening and invited to be present.

6. Bids will be reviewed by the Superintendent and/or designee and submitted to the board for approval.

7. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the

lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its equipment and facilities, honesty, integrity, skills, business judgment, experience, equipment, facilities, financial stability, past performance, and other relevant factors.

8. The board will generally complete its review of bids and select a vendor within 30 days of bid submission.

D. The terms of any construction project undertaken pursuant to this policy will be memorialized in a written contract which has been reviewed by the district's legal counsel and approved by the board.

V. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible and consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in the U.S. or processed in the U.S. substantially using agricultural commodities produced in the U.S.

C. Full and Open Competition

The district's procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 C.F.R §200.319.

D. Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed

procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

The District may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over \$25,000 the District verifies that the vendor with whom the District intends to do business with is not excluded or disqualified. 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II(1) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 180.300.

The District will verify debarment or suspension by revising the excluded parties list on SAM.gov, collecting a certification through the bidding process, and/or by including a debarment and suspension provision in the bid and contract documents. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for such verification.

E. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Contract

The District alone is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the District of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

F. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

- a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

- b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding construction projects for a minimum of five (5) years after the sale or demolition of the building. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.
 - c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.
2. Maintenance of Construction Records for Projects Financed with Federal Funds
- a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all construction projects financed with federal funds. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of construction, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.
 - b) Retention of construction records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

VI. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

- A.** Board and staff member conflicts of interest are governed by the district's conflict of interest policies.
- B.** Contracts covered by this policy are subject to the following additional provisions.
 1. Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.
 2. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.
 3. The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

C. Favors and Gifts

The officers, employees, and agents of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, with the limited exception of unsolicited items of nominal value.

D. Enforcement

Disciplinary Actions will be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the District at the board's discretion.

VII. Financial Management

A. Identification.

The District will identify, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal program and award identification include, as applicable, the CFDA title and

number, federal award identification number and year, name of the federal agency, and, if applicable, name of the pass-through entity.

B. Financial Reporting

The District will make an accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

C. Accounting Records

The District maintains records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for federally-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

D. Internal Controls

The Superintendent or his/her designee must maintain effective control and accountability for all funds, real and personal property, and other assets through board review and approval of claims, an annual audit of the district's finances pursuant to the applicable Nebraska Department of Education and federal rules and regulations, and comparison of expenditures and outlays to budgeted amounts. The District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

E. Budget Control

Actual expenditures or outlays will be compared with budgeted amounts for each federal award at least annually and more often as required by law or deemed prudent by the board or administrative staff.

F. Payment Methods

The District will comply with applicable methods and procedures for payment that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the District, in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act at 31 CFR Part 205. Generally, the District receives payment from the Nebraska Department of Education on a reimbursement basis. 2 CFR § 200.305. However, if the District receives an advance in federal grant funds, the District will remit interest earned on the advanced payment

quarterly to the federal agency. The District may retain interest amounts up to \$500 per year for administrative expenses. 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(9).

Consistent with state and federal requirements, the District will maintain source documentation supporting the federal expenditures (invoices, time sheets, payroll stubs, etc.) and will make such documentation available for the Nebraska Department of Education to review upon request.

G. Allowability of Costs

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the state-approved budget and grant application need prior approval.

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

VIII. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in US or processed in US substantially using agricultural commodities produced in US.

C. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and § 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding federal awards for a minimum of six (6) years. Consequently, the District shall retain records for a minimum of six (6) years from the date on which the final Financial Status Report is submitted, unless otherwise notified in writing to extend the retention period by the awarding agency, cognizant agency for audit, oversight agency for audit, or cognizant agency for indirect costs. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.

2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.

b) Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

D. Privacy

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

Adopted on: 4/16/2018

Revised on: 6/14/2021

Reviewed on: _____

13.5. Policy 3004.1 Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Dollars

During a recent round of federal fiscal review, NDE determined that it wants even more information in your federal purchasing/procurement policies and procedures, especially as it relates to internal controls and grant compliance. We have added a Financial Management section to both policies as well as incorporated some provisions in 3004.1 into 3003.1 to address these concerns. These changes are required.

3004.1
Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds

I. Applicability of Policy

This policy applies only to non-construction related purchases undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control.

All other non-construction purchases will be governed by the Board's general purchasing policy, which can be found earlier in this subsection. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

This procurement policy shall govern all purchasing activities that relate to any aspect of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The district's goal is to fully implement all required procurement rules, regulations and policies set forth in 2 CFR 200, 7 CFR parts 210, 3016 and 3019, and by the Nebraska Department of Education.

II. Procurement System

The District maintains the following purchasing procedures.

A. Responsibility for Purchasing

The authority to make purchases shall be governed by the District's purchasing policy, which can be found elsewhere in this section. Except as otherwise provided in the District's purchasing policy, the acquisition of services, equipment, and supplies shall be centralized in the administration office under the supervision of the superintendent of schools, who shall be responsible for developing and administering the purchasing program of the school district. Purchases or commitments of district funds that are not authorized by this policy will be the responsibility of the person making the commitment.

B. Methods of Purchasing

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The type of purchase procedures required depends on the cost of the item(s) being purchased.

1. Purchases up to \$10,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means a purchase of supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed \$10,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

To the extent practicable, the District distributes micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. The District will follow its standard policy on purchasing, which can be found earlier in this subsection.

2. Purchases between \$10,000 and \$250,000 (Small Purchase Procedures)

Small purchases are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, is more than \$10,000 and less than \$250,000 annually. For small purchases, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts, which can be found earlier in this subsection.

3. Purchases Over \$250,000

a) Sealed Bids (Formal Advertising)

For purchases over \$250,000, the district will generally follow the bidding process outlined in the board's policy on Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair or Site Improvement.

b) Contract/Price Analysis

The District performs a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of \$250,000, including contract modifications. The district will make an independent estimate of costs prior to receiving bids or proposals.

4. Noncompetitive Proposals (Sole Sourcing)

a) Procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from

only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- 1) The item is available only from a single source;
 - 2) The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;
 - 3) The federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the District; or
 - 4) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.
- b) Noncompetitive proposals may only be solicited with the approval of the superintendent or the board. Sufficient and appropriate documentation that justifies the sole sourcing decision must be maintained by the superintendent or designee.
- c) A cost or price analysis will be performed for noncompetitive proposals when the price exceeds \$250,000.

C. Use of Purchase (Debit & Credit) Cards

District use of purchase cards is subject to the policy on purchase cards which can be found elsewhere in this subsection.

D. Federal Procurement System Standards

The district's procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 C.F.R §200.319.

The District will maintain and follow general procurement standards consistent with 2 C.F.R. §200.318.

E. Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed

procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

The District may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over \$25,000 the District verifies that the vendor with whom the District intends to do business with is not excluded or disqualified. 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II(1) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 180.300.

The District will verify debarment or suspension by revising the excluded parties list on SAM.gov, collecting a certification through the bidding process, and/or by including a debarment and suspension provision in the bid and contract documents. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for such verification.

F. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Procurements

The District alone is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the District of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

III. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

A. Board and staff member conflicts of interest are governed by the district's conflict of interest policies.

B. Purchases covered by this policy are subject to the following additional provisions.

- 1.** Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.
- 2.** Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or

other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

3. The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

C. Favors and Gifts

The officers, employees, and agents of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, except that this provision does not prohibit the receipt of unsolicited items of nominal value. For purposes of this policy, "nominal value" means a fair market value of \$25 or less.

D. Enforcement

Disciplinary Actions including, but not limited to, counseling, oral reprimand, written reprimand, suspensions without pay, or termination of employment, will be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the District.

IV. Property Management Systems

A. Property Classifications

1. Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000.
2. Supplies means all tangible personal property other than those described in §200.33 Equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. 2 C.F.R. §200.94.
3. Computing Devices means machines used to acquire, store, analyze, process, and publish data and other information electronically, including accessories (or "peripherals") for printing, transmitting and receiving, or storing electronic information. 2 C.F.R. §200.20.

4. Capital Assets means tangible or intangible assets used in operations having a useful life of more than one year which are capitalized in accordance with GAAP. Capital assets include:

- a) Land, buildings (facilities), equipment, and intellectual property (including software) whether acquired by purchase, construction, manufacture, lease-purchase, exchange, or through capital leases; and
- b) Additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life (not ordinary repairs and maintenance). 2 C.F.R. §200.12.

B. Inventory Procedure

Newly purchased property shall be received and inspected by the staff member who ordered it to ensure that that it matches the purchase order, invoice, or contract and that it is in acceptable condition.

Equipment, Computing Devices, and Capital Assets must be tagged with an identification number, manufacturer, model, name of individual who tagged the item, and date tagged).

C. Inventory Records

For equipment, computing devices, and capital assets purchased with federal funds, the following information is maintained in the property management system:

- 1.** Serial number;
- 2.** District identification number;
- 3.** Manufacturer;
- 4.** Model;
- 5.** Date tagged and individual who tagged it;
- 6.** Source of funding for the property;
- 7.** Who holds title;
- 8.** Acquisition date and cost of the property;
- 9.** Percentage of federal participation in the project costs for the federal award under which the property was acquired;
- 10.** Location, use and condition of the property; and
- 11.** Any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property.

The inventory list shall be adjusted by the superintendent of schools or his/her designee for property that is sold, lost, stolen, cannot be repaired, or that cannot be located.

D. Physical Inventory

1. A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.
2. The Superintendent or his/her designee will ensure that the physical inventory is performed. The physical inventory will generally occur during the months of June or July, but may be conducted during other time periods with the approval of the superintendent.

E. Maintenance

In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 313(d)(4), the District maintains adequate maintenance procedures to ensure that property is kept in good condition.

F. Lost or Stolen Items

The District maintains a control system that ensures adequate safeguards are in place to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property.

G. Use of Equipment

Equipment must be used in the program or project for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by the federal award, and the District will not encumber the property for any non-federal program use without prior approval of the federal awarding agency and the pass-through entity.

H. Disposal of Equipment

When it is determined that original or replacement equipment acquired under a federal award is no longer needed for the original project or program or for other activities currently or previously supported by a federal awarding agency, the Superintendent or his/her designee will contact the awarding agency (or pass-through for a state-administered grant) for disposition instructions.

If the item has a current FMV of \$5,000 or less, it may be retained, sold, or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the federal awarding agency.

V. Financial Management

A. Identification

~~In its accounts~~ The District will identify, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal program and award identification include, as applicable, the CFDA title and number, federal award identification number and year, name of the federal agency, and, if applicable, name of the pass-through entity.

B. Financial Reporting

The District will make an accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

C. Accounting Records

The District maintains records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for federally-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

D. Internal Controls

The Superintendent or his/her designee must maintain effective control and accountability for all funds, real and personal property, and other assets through board review and approval of claims, an annual audit of the district's finances pursuant to the applicable Nebraska Department of Education and federal rules and regulations, and comparison of expenditures and outlays to budgeted amounts. The District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

E. Budget Control

Actual expenditures or outlays will be compared with budgeted amounts for each federal award at least annually and more often as required by law or deemed prudent by the board or administrative staff.

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F. Payment Methods

The District will comply with applicable methods and procedures for payment that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the District, in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act at 31 CFR Part 205. Generally, the District receives payment from the Nebraska Department of Education on a reimbursement basis. 2 CFR § 200.305. However, if the District receives an advance in federal grant funds, the District will remit interest earned on the advanced payment quarterly to the federal agency. The District may retain interest amounts up to \$500 per year for administrative expenses. 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(9).

Consistent with state and federal requirements, the District will maintain source documentation supporting the federal expenditures (invoices, time sheets, payroll stubs, etc.) and will make such documentation available for the Nebraska Department of Education to review upon request.

G. Allowability of Costs

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the state-approved budget and grant application need prior approval.

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

V-VI. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

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The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in US or processed in US substantially using agricultural commodities produced in US.

C. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

- a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.
- b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding federal awards for a minimum of six (6) years. Consequently, the District shall retain records for a minimum of six (6) years from the date on which the final

Financial Status Report is submitted, unless otherwise notified in writing to extend the retention period by the awarding agency, cognizant agency for audit, oversight agency for audit, or cognizant agency for indirect costs. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

- c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.

2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

- a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.
- b) Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

D. Privacy

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

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

3004.1

Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds

I. Applicability of Policy

This policy applies only to non-construction related purchases undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations (EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control.

All other non-construction purchases will be governed by the Board's general purchasing policy, which can be found earlier in this subsection. In the event of a conflict between state and federal law, the more stringent requirement shall apply.

This procurement policy shall govern all purchasing activities that relate to any aspect of the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. The district's goal is to fully implement all required procurement rules, regulations and policies set forth in 2 CFR 200, 7 CFR parts 210, 3016 and 3019, and by the Nebraska Department of Education.

II. Procurement System

The District maintains the following purchasing procedures.

A. Responsibility for Purchasing

The authority to make purchases shall be governed by the District's purchasing policy, which can be found elsewhere in this section. Except as otherwise provided in the District's purchasing policy, the acquisition of services, equipment, and supplies shall be centralized in the administration office under the supervision of the superintendent of schools, who shall be responsible for developing and administering the purchasing program of the school district. Purchases or commitments of district funds that are not authorized by this policy will be the responsibility of the person making the commitment.

B. Methods of Purchasing

The type of purchase procedures required depends on the cost of the item(s) being purchased.

1. Purchases up to \$10,000 (Micro-Purchases)

Micro-purchase means a purchase of supplies or services using simplified acquisition procedures, the annual aggregate amount of which does not exceed \$10,000. Micro-purchases may be made or awarded without soliciting competitive quotations, to the extent district staff determine that the cost of the purchase is reasonable. For purposes of this policy "reasonable" means the purchase is comparable to market prices for the geographic area.

To the extent practicable, the District distributes micro-purchases equitably among qualified suppliers. The District will follow its standard policy on purchasing, which can be found earlier in this subsection.

2. Purchases between \$10,000 and \$250,000 (Small Purchase Procedures)

Small purchases are purchases that, in the aggregate amount, is more than \$10,000 and less than \$250,000 annually. For small purchases, price or rate quotes shall be obtained in advance from a reasonable number of qualified sources as detailed in the district's standard policies on purchasing and on bid letting and contracts, which can be found earlier in this subsection.

3. Purchases Over \$250,000

a) Sealed Bids (Formal Advertising)

For purchases over \$250,000, the district will generally follow the bidding process outlined in the board's policy on Bidding for Construction, Remodeling, Repair or Site Improvement.

b) Contract/Price Analysis

The District performs a cost or price analysis in connection with every procurement action in excess of \$250,000, including contract modifications. The district will make an independent estimate of costs prior to receiving bids or proposals.

4. Noncompetitive Proposals (Sole Sourcing)

a) Procurement by noncompetitive proposals is procurement through solicitation of a proposal from

only one source and may be used only when one or more of the following circumstances apply:

- 1) The item is available only from a single source;
 - 2) The public exigency or emergency for the requirement will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation;
 - 3) The federal awarding agency or pass-through entity expressly authorizes noncompetitive proposals in response to a written request from the District; or
 - 4) After solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.
- b) Noncompetitive proposals may only be solicited with the approval of the superintendent or the board. Sufficient and appropriate documentation that justifies the sole sourcing decision must be maintained by the superintendent or designee.
- c) A cost or price analysis will be performed for noncompetitive proposals when the price exceeds \$250,000.

C. Use of Purchase (Debit & Credit) Cards

District use of purchase cards is subject to the policy on purchase cards which can be found elsewhere in this subsection.

D. Federal Procurement System Standards

The district's procurement transactions will be conducted in a manner providing full and open competition consistent with 2 C.F.R §200.319.

The District will maintain and follow general procurement standards consistent with 2 C.F.R. §200.318.

E. Debarment and Suspension

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed

procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

The District may not subcontract with or award subgrants to any person or company who is debarred or suspended. For all contracts over \$25,000 the District verifies that the vendor with whom the District intends to do business with is not excluded or disqualified. 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix II(1) and 2 C.F.R. §§ 180.220 and 180.300.

The District will verify debarment or suspension by revising the excluded parties list on SAM.gov, collecting a certification through the bidding process, and/or by including a debarment and suspension provision in the bid and contract documents. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for such verification.

F. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Procurements

The District alone is responsible, in accordance with good administrative practice and sound business judgment, for the settlement of all contractual and administrative issues arising out of procurements. These issues include, but are not limited to, source evaluation, protests, disputes, and claims. These standards do not relieve the District of any contractual responsibilities under its contracts. Violations of law will be referred to the local, state, or federal authority having proper jurisdiction.

III. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct

A. Board and staff member conflicts of interest are governed by the district's conflict of interest policies.

B. Purchases covered by this policy are subject to the following additional provisions.

- 1.** Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.
- 2.** Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or

other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

3. The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

C. Favors and Gifts

The officers, employees, and agents of the District may neither solicit nor accept gratuities, favors, or anything of monetary value from contractors or parties to subcontracts, except that this provision does not prohibit the receipt of unsolicited items of nominal value. For purposes of this policy, "nominal value" means a fair market value of \$25 or less.

D. Enforcement

Disciplinary Actions including, but not limited to, counseling, oral reprimand, written reprimand, suspensions without pay, or termination of employment, will be applied for violations of such standards by officers, employees, or agents of the District.

IV. Property Management Systems

A. Property Classifications

1. Equipment means tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000.
2. Supplies means all tangible personal property other than those described in §200.33 Equipment. A computing device is a supply if the acquisition cost is less than the lesser of the capitalization level established by the District for financial statement purposes or \$5,000, regardless of the length of its useful life. 2 C.F.R. §200.94.
3. Computing Devices means machines used to acquire, store, analyze, process, and publish data and other information electronically, including accessories (or "peripherals") for printing, transmitting and receiving, or storing electronic information. 2 C.F.R. §200.20.

4. Capital Assets means tangible or intangible assets used in operations having a useful life of more than one year which are capitalized in accordance with GAAP. Capital assets include:
 - a) Land, buildings (facilities), equipment, and intellectual property (including software) whether acquired by purchase, construction, manufacture, lease-purchase, exchange, or through capital leases; and
 - b) Additions, improvements, modifications, replacements, rearrangements, reinstallations, renovations or alterations to capital assets that materially increase their value or useful life (not ordinary repairs and maintenance). 2 C.F.R. §200.12.

B. Inventory Procedure

Newly purchased property shall be received and inspected by the staff member who ordered it to ensure that that it matches the purchase order, invoice, or contract and that it is in acceptable condition.

Equipment, Computing Devices, and Capital Assets must be tagged with an identification number, manufacturer, model, name of individual who tagged the item, and date tagged).

C. Inventory Records

For equipment, computing devices, and capital assets purchased with federal funds, the following information is maintained in the property management system:

1. Serial number;
2. District identification number;
3. Manufacturer;
4. Model;
5. Date tagged and individual who tagged it;
6. Source of funding for the property;
7. Who holds title;
8. Acquisition date and cost of the property;
9. Percentage of federal participation in the project costs for the federal award under which the property was acquired;
10. Location, use and condition of the property; and
11. Any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property.

The inventory list shall be adjusted by the superintendent of schools or his/her designee for property that is sold, lost, stolen, cannot be repaired, or that cannot be located.

D. Physical Inventory

- 1.** A physical inventory of the property must be taken and the results reconciled with the property records at least once every two years.
- 2.** The Superintendent or his/her designee will ensure that the physical inventory is performed. The physical inventory will generally occur during the months of June or July, but may be conducted during other time periods with the approval of the superintendent.

E. Maintenance

In accordance with 2 C.F.R. 313(d)(4), the District maintains adequate maintenance procedures to ensure that property is kept in good condition.

F. Lost or Stolen Items

The District maintains a control system that ensures adequate safeguards are in place to prevent loss, damage, or theft of the property.

G. Use of Equipment

Equipment must be used in the program or project for which it was acquired as long as needed, whether or not the project or program continues to be supported by the federal award, and the District will not encumber the property for any non-federal program use without prior approval of the federal awarding agency and the pass-through entity.

H. Disposal of Equipment

When it is determined that original or replacement equipment acquired under a federal award is no longer needed for the original project or program or for other activities currently or previously supported by a federal awarding agency, the Superintendent or his/her designee will contact the awarding agency (or pass-through for a state-administered grant) for disposition instructions.

If the item has a current FMV of \$5,000 or less, it may be retained, sold, or otherwise disposed of with no further obligation to the federal awarding agency.

V. Financial Management

A. Identification.

The District will identify, in its accounts, all federal awards received and expended and the federal programs under which they were received. Federal program and award identification include, as applicable, the CFDA title and number, federal award identification number and year, name of the federal agency, and, if applicable, name of the pass-through entity.

B. Financial Reporting

The District will make an accurate, current, and complete disclosure of the financial results of each federal award or program in accordance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in the Education Department General Administrative Regulations (EDGAR).

C. Accounting Records

The District maintains records which adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for federally-assisted activities. These records must contain information pertaining to grant or subgrant awards, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, expenditures, income and interest and be supported by source documentation.

D. Internal Controls

The Superintendent or his/her designee must maintain effective control and accountability for all funds, real and personal property, and other assets through board review and approval of claims, an annual audit of the district's finances pursuant to the applicable Nebraska Department of Education and federal rules and regulations, and comparison of expenditures and outlays to budgeted amounts. The District adequately safeguards all such property and assures that it is used solely for authorized purposes.

E. Budget Control

Actual expenditures or outlays will be compared with budgeted amounts for each federal award at least annually and more often as required by law or deemed prudent by the board or administrative staff.

F. Payment Methods

The District will comply with applicable methods and procedures for payment that minimize the time elapsing between the transfer of funds and disbursement by the District, in accordance with the Cash Management Improvement Act at 31 CFR Part 205. Generally, the District receives payment from the Nebraska Department of Education on a reimbursement basis. 2 CFR § 200.305. However, if the District receives an advance in federal grant funds, the District will remit interest earned on the advanced payment quarterly to the federal agency. The District may retain interest amounts up to \$500 per year for administrative expenses. 2 CFR § 200.305(b)(9).

Consistent with state and federal requirements, the District will maintain source documentation supporting the federal expenditures (invoices, time sheets, payroll stubs, etc.) and will make such documentation available for the Nebraska Department of Education to review upon request.

G. Allowability of Costs

Expenditures must be aligned with approved budgeted items. Any changes or variations from the state-approved budget and grant application need prior approval.

When determining how the District will spend its grant funds, the Superintendent or his/her designee will review the proposed cost to determine whether it is an allowable use of federal grant funds before obligating and spending those funds on the proposed good or service. All costs supported by federal education funds must meet the standards outlined in EDGAR, 2 CFR Part 3474 and 2 CFR Part. The Superintendent or his/her designee must consider these factors when making an allowability determination.

The Superintendent or his/her designee will consider Part 200's cost guidelines when federal grant funds are expended. The Superintendent or his/her designee will also consider whether all state - and District-level requirements and policies regarding expenditures have been followed.

VI. Other Contract Matters.

A. Required Terms

The non-Federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions required by section 200.326 and described in Appendix II to Part 200—Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts Under Federal Awards.

B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

Pursuant to the standards contained in 2 C.F.R. § 200.321, the District will take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms are used when possible consistent with state law.

To the maximum extent practicable, the school food program shall purchase domestic commodities or products produced in US or processed in US substantially using agricultural commodities produced in US.

C. Record Keeping

1. Record Retention

- a) The District maintains all records that fully show (1) the amount of funds under the grant or subgrant; (2) how the subgrantee uses those funds; (3) the total cost of each project; (4) the share of the total cost of each project provided from other sources; (5) other records to facilitate an effective audit; and (6) other records to show compliance with federal program requirements. 34 C.F.R. §§ 76.730-.731 and §§ 75.730-.731. The District also maintains records of significant project experiences and results. 34 C.F.R. § 75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.
- b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records

regarding federal awards for a minimum of six (6) years. Consequently, the District shall retain records for a minimum of six (6) years from the date on which the final Financial Status Report is submitted, unless otherwise notified in writing to extend the retention period by the awarding agency, cognizant agency for audit, oversight agency for audit, or cognizant agency for indirect costs. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

- c) Records will be destroyed in compliance with Schedule 10, Schedule 24, and State law. This includes the completion of a Records Disposition Report.

2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

- a) The District must maintain records sufficient to detail the history of all procurements. These records will include, but are not necessarily limited to the following: rationale for the method of procurement, selection of contract type, contractor selection or rejection, the basis for the contract price (including a cost or price analysis), and verification that the contractor is not suspended or debarred.
- b) Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

D. Privacy

The District has protections in place to ensure that the personal information of both students and employees is protected. These include the use of passwords that are changed on a regular basis; staff training on the requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and State confidentiality requirements; and training on identifying whether an individual requesting access to records has the right to the documentation.

Adopted on: 10/19/2020

Revised on: 6/14/2021

Reviewed on: _____

13.6. Policy 3042- Construction Management at Risk Contracts

LB 414 amends the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act to allow schools to use the design-build or construction management at risk contracts for a project that includes water, wastewater, utility, or sewer construction. Using these methods for these purposes was previously prohibited. However, before the school may use either of these construction methods for any of these construction purposes, the board must pass a resolution that includes a statement that the school district has made a determination that the design-build contract or construction management at risk contract delivery system is in the public interest based, at a minimum, on one of the following criteria: (a) savings in cost or time or (b) requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for the design-build contract or construction management at risk contract delivery system. These changes are required.

3042 Construction Management at Risk Contracts

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2901 through § 13-2914).

The board shall adopt a resolution by a two-thirds affirmative vote selecting the construction management at risk contract delivery system prior to proceeding with any of the steps involved with solicitation or execution of any construction contract. For a project authorized under subsection (3) of section 13-2914, the resolution shall include a statement that the political subdivision has made a determination that the construction management at risk contract delivery system is in the public interest based, at a minimum, on one of the following criteria: (a) Savings in cost or time or (b) requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for the construction management at risk contract delivery system.

Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

1. Construction management at risk contract means a contract by which a construction manager (a) assumes the legal responsibility to deliver a construction project within a contracted price to the school district, (b) acts as a construction consultant to the school district during the design development phase of the project when the school district's architect or engineer designs the project, and (c) is the builder during the construction phase of the project;
2. Construction manager means the legal entity which proposes to enter into a construction management at risk contract pursuant to the Act;
3. Proposal means an offer in response to a request for proposals by a construction manager to enter into a construction management at risk contract for a project pursuant to the act;
4. Request for proposals means the documentation by which a school district solicits proposals; and
5. School district means _____ Public Schools.

Procedures.

1. Procedures for the preparation and content of requests for proposals shall include the following:

- A. At least thirty days prior to the deadline for receiving and opening proposals, notice of the request for proposals shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district and filed with the State Department of Education. The request for proposals shall contain, at a minimum, the following elements:
1. The identity of the school district for which the project will be built and the school district that will execute the contract;
 2. Policies adopted by the school district pursuant to the Act;
 3. The proposed terms and conditions of the contract, including any terms and conditions which are subject to further negotiation. The proposed general terms and conditions shall be consistent with nationally recognized model general terms and conditions which are standard in the design and construction industry in Nebraska. The proposed terms and conditions may set forth an initial determination of the manner by which the construction manager selects any subcontractor and may require that any work subcontracted be awarded by competitive bidding;
 4. Any bonds and insurance required by law or as may be additionally required by the school district;
 5. General information about the project which will assist the school district in its selection of the construction manager, including a project statement which contains information about the scope and nature of the project, the project site, the schedule, and the estimated budget;
 6. The criteria for evaluation of proposals and the relative weight of each criterion; and
 7. A description of any other information which the school district chooses to require.
2. Procedures for the preparation and submission of proposals by the

construction manager shall be determined on a project-by-project basis and included within the requests for proposals.

3. Procedures for evaluating requests for proposals submitted to the school district by a construction manager shall include the following:
 - A. The school district shall refer the proposals for recommendation to a selection committee. The selection committee shall be a group of at least five persons designated by the school district. Members of the selection committee shall include (1) members of the school board, (2) members of the school administration or staff, (3) the school's architect or engineer (4) any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a construction manager under the Act, and (5) a resident of the school district other than an individual included in subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection. A member of the selection committee designated under subdivision (4) or (5) of this subsection shall not be employed by or have a financial or other interest in a construction manager who has a proposal being evaluated and shall not be employed by the school district or the school's architect or engineer.
 - B. The selection committee and the school district shall evaluate proposals taking into consideration the criteria enumerated in subdivisions (1) through (7) of this subsection with the maximum percentage of total points for evaluation which may be assigned to each criterion set forth following the criterion. The following criteria shall be evaluated, when applicable:
 - (1) The financial resources of the construction manager to complete the project **(up to ten percent)**;
 - (2) The ability of the proposed personnel of the construction manager to perform **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (3) The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the construction manager **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (4) The quality of performance on previous projects **(up**

to thirty percent);

- (5) The ability of the construction manager to perform within the time specified **(up to thirty percent);**
- (6) The previous and existing compliance of the construction manager with laws relating to the contract **(up to ten percent);** and
- (7) Such other information as may be secured having a bearing on the selection **(up to twenty percent).**

NOTE TO BE DELETED: The percentages listed above must be modified so that they add up to 100%. This can be done directly in the policy, at the time the school board designates the CM@R method for a specific project, or at a later time but before the RFP is published and sent out.

The records of the selection committee in evaluating proposals and making recommendations shall be considered public records for purposes of NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-712.01.

- C. The school district shall then evaluate and rank each proposal on the basis of best meeting the criteria in the request for proposals and taking into consideration the recommendation of the selection committee.
4. Procedures for negotiations between the school district and the construction managers submitting proposals prior to the acceptance of a proposal if any such negotiations are contemplated shall include the following:
- A. The school district may attempt to negotiate a construction management at risk contract with the highest ranked construction manager and may enter into a construction management at risk contract after negotiations.
 - B. The negotiations shall include a final determination of the manner by which the construction manager selects a subcontractor.
 - C. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the highest ranked construction manager, the school district may terminate negotiations with that construction manager. The school district may then undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked

- construction manager and may enter into a construction management at risk contract after negotiations.
- D. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the second highest ranked construction manager, the school district may undertake negotiations with the third highest ranked construction manager, if any, and may enter into a construction management at risk contract after negotiations.
 - E. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the ranked construction managers, the school district may either revise the request for proposals and solicit new proposals or cancel the construction management at risk process under the act.
 - F. If the school district is able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with a construction manager, the school district shall file a copy of all construction management at risk contract documents with the State Department of Education within thirty days after their full execution. Within thirty days after completion of the project, the construction manager shall file a copy of all contract modifications and change orders with the State Department of Education.
5. Procedures for filing and acting on formal protests relating to the solicitation or execution of construction management at risk contracts shall include the following:
- A. Definitions.
 - (1) Interested party shall mean an actual or prospective bidder whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of a contract by the school district to another party or by the failure of the school district to award a contract to such actual or prospective bidder.
 - (2) Protest shall mean a written objection by an interested party on any phase of the bidding process, including specification, preparation, bid solicitation, and intent to award.
 - B. Right to Protest. An interested party may protest to the Superintendent. The protest shall be submitted in writing on company letterhead within five working days after public notice of the bid. Protests based on alleged apparent

improprieties in a solicitation or other request for proposals must be filed before bid opening or the closing date for receipt of proposals. In all other cases, the protest must be filed within five working days following the selection of the construction manager. To expedite handling of protests, the envelope containing the protest should be clearly labeled "Protest". The written protest shall include as a minimum the following:

- (1) The name and address of the interested party;
- (2) Appropriate identification of the relevant solicitation, and if a bid has been opened, its number, and date of opening;
- (3) A detailed statement of reasons for the protest;
- (4) Supporting, exhibits, evidence, or documents to substantiate any claims unless not available within the filing time, in which case the expected availability date shall be indicated; and a list of all persons who have knowledge of facts relevant to the protest; and
- (5) The action(s) the protestor desires the school district to take to resolve the protest.

The Superintendent will immediately decide upon receipt of the protest whether or not the award of a contract shall be delayed, or if the protest is timely received after the award, whether the performance of the contract should be suspended. The school district shall not proceed further with the solicitation or with the award of the contract and shall suspend performance under the contract, if awarded, unless the Superintendent makes a written determination that the protest is clearly without merit or that award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect the substantial interests of the school district.

- C. Authority to Resolve Protests. Prior to the commencement of an administrative review by the Board concerning any protest, the Superintendent shall attempt to resolve any protest filed by an interested party concerning any solicitation. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement, the Superintendent shall create and deliver a

Decision to the protestor within a reasonable time after the written protest was received. The Decision shall include a written summary of the Superintendent's investigation and a recommendation regarding the outcome of the protest. The Decision shall (1) state the reasons for the action taken, and (2) inform the interested party of their right to the administrative review by the Board. A copy of the Decision shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the interested party and any other party intervening protestor and all other bidders. If not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, any interested party protestor may appeal to the Board, but the decision shall be final unless the interested party protestor files a timely appeal with the Board.

D. Board Appeal Procedures. Any interested party protestor, within five working days of receipt of a decision of the Superintendent, may file with the Superintendent a written notice of appeal for an administrative review before the Board. The Notice of Appeal must clearly state the action protested and the basis of appeal. The Board will conduct an administrative review at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting. The school district board of education shall consider the Decision of the Superintendent and shall make the final decision on the protest. The school district board of education's decision shall be final.

6. A construction management at risk contract may be conditioned upon later refinements in scope and price and may permit the school district in agreement with the construction manager to make changes in the project without invalidating the contract. Later refinements shall not exceed the scope of the project statement contained in the request for proposals.

Prohibitions. The school district shall not use a construction management at risk contract for any construction project excluded by NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2914 or any other applicable law.

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

3042
Construction Management at Risk Contracts

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2901 through § 13-2914).

The board shall adopt a resolution by a two-thirds affirmative vote selecting the construction management at risk contract delivery system prior to proceeding with any of the steps involved with solicitation or execution of any construction contract. For a project authorized under subsection (3) of section 13-2914, the resolution shall include a statement that the political subdivision has made a determination that the construction management at risk contract delivery system is in the public interest based, at a minimum, on one of the following criteria: (a) Savings in cost or time or (b) requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for the construction management at risk contract delivery system.

Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

1. Construction management at risk contract means a contract by which a construction manager (a) assumes the legal responsibility to deliver a construction project within a contracted price to the school district, (b) acts as a construction consultant to the school district during the design development phase of the project when the school district's architect or engineer designs the project, and (c) is the builder during the construction phase of the project;
2. Construction manager means the legal entity which proposes to enter into a construction management at risk contract pursuant to the Act;
3. Proposal means an offer in response to a request for proposals by a construction manager to enter into a construction management at risk contract for a project pursuant to the act;
4. Request for proposals means the documentation by which a school district solicits proposals; and
5. School district means Cozad Community Schools.

Procedures.

1. Procedures for the preparation and content of requests for proposals shall include the following:

- A. At least thirty days prior to the deadline for receiving and opening proposals, notice of the request for proposals shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the school district and filed with the State Department of Education. The request for proposals shall contain, at a minimum, the following elements:
 1. The identity of the school district for which the project will be built and the school district that will execute the contract;
 2. Policies adopted by the school district pursuant to the Act;
 3. The proposed terms and conditions of the contract, including any terms and conditions which are subject to further negotiation. The proposed general terms and conditions shall be consistent with nationally recognized model general terms and conditions which are standard in the design and construction industry in Nebraska. The proposed terms and conditions may set forth an initial determination of the manner by which the construction manager selects any subcontractor and may require that any work subcontracted be awarded by competitive bidding;
 4. Any bonds and insurance required by law or as may be additionally required by the school district;
 5. General information about the project which will assist the school district in its selection of the construction manager, including a project statement which contains information about the scope and nature of the project, the project site, the schedule, and the estimated budget;
 6. The criteria for evaluation of proposals and the relative weight of each criterion; and
 7. A description of any other information which the school district chooses to require.
2. Procedures for the preparation and submission of proposals by the

construction manager shall be determined on a project-by-project basis and included within the requests for proposals.

3. Procedures for evaluating requests for proposals submitted to the school district by a construction manager shall include the following:

A. The school district shall refer the proposals for recommendation to a selection committee. The selection committee shall be a group of at least five persons designated by the school district. Members of the selection committee shall include (1) members of the school board, (2) members of the school administration or staff, (3) the school's architect or engineer (4) any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a construction manager under the Act, and (5) a resident of the school district other than an individual included in subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection. A member of the selection committee designated under subdivision (4) or (5) of this subsection shall not be employed by or have a financial or other interest in a construction manager who has a proposal being evaluated and shall not be employed by the school district or the school's architect or engineer.

B. The selection committee and the school district shall evaluate proposals taking into consideration the criteria enumerated in subdivisions (1) through (7) of this subsection with the maximum percentage of total points for evaluation which may be assigned to each criterion set forth following the criterion. The following criteria shall be evaluated, when applicable:

(1) The financial resources of the construction manager to complete the project **10%**;

(2) The ability of the proposed personnel of the construction manager to perform **up to 30%**;

(3) The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the construction manager **up to 30%**;

(4) The quality of performance on previous projects **up to 30%**;

- (5) The ability of the construction manager to perform within the time specified **up to 30%**;
- (6) The previous and existing compliance of the construction manager with laws relating to the contract **up to 10%**; and
- (7) Such other information as may be secured having a bearing on the selection **up to 20%**.

The percentages listed above must be modified so that they add up to 100%. This can be done directly in the policy, at the time the school board designates the CM@R method for a specific project, or at a later time but before the RFP is published and sent out.

The records of the selection committee in evaluating proposals and making recommendations shall be considered public records for purposes of NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-712.01.

- C. The school district shall then evaluate and rank each proposal on the basis of best meeting the criteria in the request for proposals and taking into consideration the recommendation of the selection committee.
4. Procedures for negotiations between the school district and the construction managers submitting proposals prior to the acceptance of a proposal if any such negotiations are contemplated shall include the following:
 - A. The school district may attempt to negotiate a construction management at risk contract with the highest ranked construction manager and may enter into a construction management at risk contract after negotiations.
 - B. The negotiations shall include a final determination of the manner by which the construction manager selects a subcontractor.
 - C. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the highest ranked construction manager, the school district may terminate negotiations with that construction manager. The school district may then undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked construction manager and may enter into a construction

- management at risk contract after negotiations.
- D. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the second highest ranked construction manager, the school district may undertake negotiations with the third highest ranked construction manager, if any, and may enter into a construction management at risk contract after negotiations.
 - E. If the school district is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the ranked construction managers, the school district may either revise the request for proposals and solicit new proposals or cancel the construction management at risk process under the act.
 - F. If the school district is able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with a construction manager, the school district shall file a copy of all construction management at risk contract documents with the State Department of Education within thirty days after their full execution. Within thirty days after completion of the project, the construction manager shall file a copy of all contract modifications and change orders with the State Department of Education.
5. Procedures for filing and acting on formal protests relating to the solicitation or execution of construction management at risk contracts shall include the following:
- A. Definitions.
 - (1) Interested party shall mean an actual or prospective bidder whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of a contract by the school district to another party or by the failure of the school district to award a contract to such actual or prospective bidder.
 - (2) Protest shall mean a written objection by an interested party on any phase of the bidding process, including specification, preparation, bid solicitation, and intent to award.
 - B. Right to Protest. An interested party may protest to the Superintendent. The protest shall be submitted in writing on company letterhead within five working days after public notice of the bid. Protests based on alleged apparent improprieties in a solicitation or other request for proposals

must be filed before bid opening or the closing date for receipt of proposals. In all other cases, the protest must be filed within five working days following the selection of the construction manager. To expedite handling of protests, the envelope containing the protest should be clearly labeled "Protest". The written protest shall include as a minimum the following:

- (1) The name and address of the interested party;
- (2) Appropriate identification of the relevant solicitation, and if a bid has been opened, its number, and date of opening;
- (3) A detailed statement of reasons for the protest;
- (4) Supporting, exhibits, evidence, or documents to substantiate any claims unless not available within the filing time, in which case the expected availability date shall be indicated; and a list of all persons who have knowledge of facts relevant to the protest; and
- (5) The action(s) the protestor desires the school district to take to resolve the protest.

The Superintendent will immediately decide upon receipt of the protest whether or not the award of a contract shall be delayed, or if the protest is timely received after the award, whether the performance of the contract should be suspended. The school district shall not proceed further with the solicitation or with the award of the contract and shall suspend performance under the contract, if awarded, unless the Superintendent makes a written determination that the protest is clearly without merit or that award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect the substantial interests of the school district.

- C. Authority to Resolve Protests. Prior to the commencement of an administrative review by the Board concerning any protest, the Superintendent shall attempt to resolve any protest filed by an interested party concerning any solicitation. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement, the Superintendent shall create and deliver a Decision to the protestor within a reasonable time after the

written protest was received. The Decision shall include a written summary of the Superintendent's investigation and a recommendation regarding the outcome of the protest. The Decision shall (1) state the reasons for the action taken, and (2) inform the interested party of their right to the administrative review by the Board. A copy of the Decision shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the interested party and any other party intervening protester and all other bidders. If not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, any interested party protester may appeal to the Board, but the decision shall be final unless the interested party protester files a timely appeal with the Board.

D. Board Appeal Procedures. Any interested party protester, within five working days of receipt of a decision of the Superintendent, may file with the Superintendent a written notice of appeal for an administrative review before the Board. The Notice of Appeal must clearly state the action protested and the basis of appeal. The Board will conduct an administrative review at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting. The school district board of education shall consider the Decision of the Superintendent and shall make the final decision on the protest. The school district board of education's decision shall be final.

6. A construction management at risk contract may be conditioned upon later refinements in scope and price and may permit the school district in agreement with the construction manager to make changes in the project without invalidating the contract. Later refinements shall not exceed the scope of the project statement contained in the request for proposals.

Prohibitions. The school district shall not use a construction management at risk contract for any construction project excluded by NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2914 or any other applicable law.

Adopted on: 3/16/2020

Revised on: 6/14/2021

Reviewed on: _____

13.7. **Policy 3043- Design-Build Contracts**

LB 414 amends the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act to allow schools to use the design-build or construction management at risk contracts for a project that includes water, wastewater, utility, or sewer construction. Using these methods for these purposes was previously prohibited. However, before the school may use either of these construction methods for any of these construction purposes, the board must pass a resolution that includes a statement that the school district has made a determination that the design-build contract or construction management at risk contract delivery system is in the public interest based, at a minimum, on one of the following criteria: (a) savings in cost or time or (b) requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for the design-build contract or construction management at risk contract delivery system. These changes are required.

3043 Design-Build Contracts

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2901 through § 13-2914).

The board shall adopt a resolution by a two-thirds affirmative vote selecting the design-build contract delivery system prior to proceeding with any of the steps involved with solicitation or execution of any construction contract. [For a project authorized under subsection \(3\) of section 13-2914, the resolution shall include a statement that the political subdivision has made a determination that the design-build contract delivery system is in the public interest based, at a minimum, on one of the following criteria: \(a\) Savings in cost or time or \(b\) requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for the design-build contract delivery system.](#)

Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

1. Board means the District's Board of Education.
2. Department means the Nebraska Department of Education.
3. Design-Build Contract (DB Contract) means a contract which is subject to qualification-based selection between the District and a Design-Builder to furnish (a) architectural, engineering, and related design services for a project pursuant to the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (Act) and (b) labor, materials, supplies, equipment, and construction services for a project pursuant to the Act.
4. Design-Builder means a legal entity which proposes to enter into a DB Contract which is subject to qualification-based selection pursuant to the Act.
5. District means _____ Public Schools.
6. NEARA means the Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act.
7. Performance-Criteria Developer (PCD) means any person licensed or any organization issued a certificate of authorization to practice architecture or engineering pursuant to the NEARA who is selected by the District pursuant to this policy to assist the District in the development of Project Performance Criteria, Requests For Proposals, evaluation of Proposals, evaluation of construction under

a DB Contract to determine adherence to the Project Performance Criteria, and any additional services requested by the District to represent its interests in relation to a project.

8. Project Performance Criteria means the performance requirements of the project suitable to allow the Design-Builder to make a Proposal. Performance requirements include the following, if required by the project: capacity, durability, standards, ingress and egress requirements, description of the site, surveys, soil and environmental information concerning the site, interior space requirements, material quality standards, design and construction schedules, site development requirements, provisions for utilities, storm weather retention and disposal, parking requirements, applicable governmental code requirements, and other criteria for the intended use of the project.
9. Proposal means an offer in response to a Request For Proposals ("RFP") by a Design-Builder to enter into a DB Contract for a project pursuant to the Act.
10. Act means the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act.
11. Request for Proposals (RFP) means the documentation by which the District solicits Proposals.
12. Superintendent means the District's Superintendent of Schools.

Procedures. The District shall follow the procedures below in connection with any DB Contract.

1. Rules and Procedures for Selecting and Hiring a PCD for a Specific Project.

A. The District shall encourage eligible persons or organizations who desire to provide services to the District as a PCD to submit a statement of qualifications and performance data to the District. At least thirty days prior to selecting and hiring a PCD, the District shall publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the District that it is seeking a PCD for a design-build project. The notice shall include the following:

- (1) A general description of the Design-Build project;

- (2) Directions regarding how interested persons or organizations can apply for consideration by the District;
 - (3) The date by which persons or organizations must submit their applications; and
 - (4) A statement that any person or organization applying for consideration by the District must obtain a copy of the District's Design-Build Contract Policy from the Superintendent.
- B. To apply to be the District's PCD, applicants must submit a current statement of qualifications and performance data to the District. The statement of qualifications must include evidence that the applicant is licensed or certified to practice architecture or engineering pursuant to the NEARA. Applicants must update any information provided to the District to reflect any changed conditions of the applicant.
- C. Applicants shall first be certified by the Superintendent as qualified to act as a PCD for the District. In order to certify an applicant, the Superintendent shall make a finding that a PCD is fully qualified to render the required service. Factors to be considered in making this finding shall include capabilities to perform, adequacy of personnel, past record and performance, and experience; and may also include consideration of recent, current, and projected workloads; experience; equipment and facilities; promptness, and the quality of work previously done by applicant; suitability to the particular task; willingness to meet time and budget requirements; and such other qualities as are found necessary to consider in order to determine whether or not, if awarded the contract, the applicant could perform it strictly in accordance with its terms capabilities to perform.
- D. The Board shall evaluate each qualified applicant's current statement of qualifications and performance data. The Board shall conduct discussions with, and may require public presentations by no less than three applicants regarding their qualifications, approach to the project, ability to furnish the required service, and other factors identified above.
- E. The Board shall select, in order of preference, at least three applicants deemed to be most highly qualified to perform the required services after considering the factors outlined above.

- F. The Board shall negotiate a contract with the most qualified applicant for compensation which the Board determines is fair and reasonable. In making this determination, the Board shall conduct a detailed analysis of the cost of the professional services required in addition to considering their scope and complexity. For all lump-sum or cost-plus-a-fixed-fee professional service contracts, the Board shall require the applicant receiving the award to execute a certificate stating that wage rates and other factual unit costs supporting the compensation are accurate, complete, and current at the time of contracting. Any contract under which such a certificate is required shall contain a provision that the original contract price and any additions thereto shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which the Board determines the contract price had been increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or noncurrent wage rates and other factual unit costs. All such contract adjustments shall be made within one year following the end of the contract.
- G. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the applicant considered to be the most qualified at a price the Board determines to be fair and reasonable, it shall terminate negotiations with that applicant. The Board may then undertake negotiations with the second most qualified applicant. If the Board fails to reach an agreement with the second most qualified applicant, it shall terminate negotiations with that applicant. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the third most qualified applicant.
- H. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected applicants, it shall either select additional applicants in order of their competence and qualification and continue negotiations in accordance with this policy until an agreement is reached or review the agreement under negotiation to determine the possible cause for failure to achieve a negotiated agreement.
- I. The Board may designate a committee to carry out any or all of the Board's duties under the PCD selection section of this policy, provided that the Board must approve any agreement with an applicant prior to its execution. Any such committee must have among its membership at least one person who is licensed to practice architecture or engineering pursuant to the NEARA.

- J. The public shall not be excluded from the meetings or proceedings under this section of this policy in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
- K. The contract between the District and the PCD shall contain a prohibition against contingent fees as follows: "The PCD warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the PCD, to solicit or secure this agreement and that the PCD has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the PCD, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or the making of this agreement." Upon violation of such provision, the District shall have the right to terminate the agreement without liability and, at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, or consideration.
- L. The PCD is ineligible to be included as a provider of any services in a Proposal for the project on which it has acted as a PCD.
- M. A PCD may not be employed by or may not have a financial or other interest in a Design-Builder that will submit a Proposal.

2. Procedures and standards to be used to prequalify Design-Builders.

- A. The District, with the help of the PCD, shall prepare a request for letters of interest. The request for letters of interest shall:
 - (1) Describe the project in sufficient detail to permit a Design-Builder to submit a letter of interest;
 - (2) Be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District at least 30 days prior to the deadline for receiving letters of interest; and
 - (3) Be sent by first-class mail to any Design-Builder upon request.
- B. Letters of interest shall be reviewed by the District in consultation with the PCD. The District and the PCD will evaluate prospective Design-Builders based on the information submitted to the District in response to the request for letters of interest.

- C. The District shall select at least three prospective Design-Builders, except that if only two Design-Builders have submitted letters of interest, the District shall select at least two prospective Design-Builders. Such selected Design-Builders shall be considered prequalified and eligible to receive and respond to the RFP.
- D. The District and PCD shall use the following standards when selecting which prospective Design-Builders to prequalify: capabilities to perform, adequacy of personnel, past record and performance, and experience; and may also include consideration of recent, current, and projected workloads; experience; equipment and facilities; promptness, and the quality of work previously done by applicant; suitability to the particular task; willingness to meet time and budget requirements; and such other qualities as are found necessary to consider in order to determine whether or not, if awarded the contract, the applicant could perform it strictly in accordance with its terms capabilities to perform.

3. Procedures for the preparation and content of RFPs.

- A. The District, with the help of the PCD, shall prepare the RFP, which shall contain:
 - (1) The identity of the school district for which the project will be built and will execute the Design-Build Contract;
 - (2) A copy of this Design-Build Contract Policy and all other policies adopted by the District relating to the DB Contract;
 - (3) The proposed terms and conditions of the DB Contract, including any terms and conditions which are subject to further negotiation. The proposed general terms and conditions shall be consistent with nationally recognized model general terms and conditions which are standard in the design and construction industry in Nebraska. The proposed terms and conditions may set forth an initial determination of the manner by which the Design-Builder selects any subcontractor and may require that any work subcontracted be awarded by competitive bidding;
 - (4) A project statement which contains information about the scope and nature of the project;
 - (5) Project Performance Criteria;
 - (6) Budget parameters for the project;

- (7) Any bonds or insurance required by law or as may be additionally required by the District;
- (8) The criteria for evaluation of Proposals and the relative weight of each criterion;
- (9) A requirement that the Design-Builder provide a written statement of its proposed approach to the design and construction of the project, which may include graphic materials illustrating the proposed approach to design and construction but shall not include price proposals;
- (10) A requirement that the Design-Builder agree to the following conditions:
 - (i) An architect or engineer licensed to practice in Nebraska will participate substantially in those aspects of the offering which involve architectural or engineering services;
 - (ii) At the time of the design-build offering, the Design-Builder will furnish to the Board a written statement identifying the architect or engineer who will perform the architectural or engineering work for the design-build project;
 - (iii) The architect or engineer engaged by the Design-Builder to perform the architectural or engineering work with respect to the design-build project will have direct supervision of such work and may not be removed by the Design-Builder prior to the completion of the project without the written consent of the Board;
 - (iv) A Design-Builder offering design-build services with its own employees who are design professionals licensed to practice in Nebraska will: (a) comply with the NEARA by procuring a certificate of authorization to practice architecture or engineering and (b) submit proof of sufficient professional liability insurance; and
 - (v) The rendering of architectural or engineering services by a licensed architect or engineer employed by the Design-Builder will conform to the NEARA and rules and regulations adopted under the Act; and
- (11) Other information the District chooses to require.

- B. At least 30 days prior to the deadline for receiving and opening Proposals, the notice of the RFP shall be:
 - (1) Published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District;
 - (2) Filed with the Department; and
 - (3) Sent by first-class mail to the prequalified Design-Builders only.

4. Procedures for preparing and submitting Proposals.

- A. Prequalified Design-Builders shall prepare and submit Proposals as required by the RFP.
- B. All Proposals shall be sealed. Proposals shall not be opened until expiration of the time established for making Proposals as set forth in the RFP.
- C. Proposals may be withdrawn at any time prior to acceptance.
- D. The District has the right to reject any and all Proposals except for the purpose of evading the law. The District may thereafter solicit new Proposals using the same or a different Project Performance Criteria.

5. Procedures for evaluating Proposals.

- A. The District may only proceed to negotiate and enter into a DB Contract if there are at least two proposals from prequalified Design-Builders.
- B. The District shall refer the proposals for recommendation to a selection committee. The selection committee shall be a group of at least five persons designated by the District. Members of the selection committee shall include (1) members of the school board, (2) members of the school administration or staff, (3) the school's architect or engineer (4) any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a design-builder under the Act, and (5) a resident of the District other than an individual included in subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection. A member of the selection committee designated under subdivision (4) or (5) of this subsection shall not be employed by or have a financial or other interest in a design-builder who has a proposal being evaluated and shall not be employed by the District or the school's architect or engineer.

- C. The selection committee and the District shall evaluate proposals taking into consideration the criteria enumerated in subdivisions (1) through (7) of this subsection with the maximum percentage of total points for evaluation which may be assigned to each criterion set forth following the criterion. The following criteria shall be evaluated, when applicable:
- (1) The financial resources of the design-builder to complete the project **(up to ten percent)**;
 - (2) The ability of the proposed personnel of the design-builder to perform **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (3) The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the design-builder **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (4) The quality of performance on previous projects **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (5) The ability of the design-builder to perform within the time specified **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (6) The previous and existing compliance of the design-builder with laws relating to the contract **(up to ten percent)**; and
 - (7) Such other information as may be secured having a bearing on the selection **(up to twenty percent)**.

NOTE TO BE DELETED: The percentages listed above must be modified so that they add up to 100%. This can be done directly in the policy, at the time the school board designates the Design-Build method for a specific project, or at a later time but before the RFP is published and sent out.

The records of the selection committee in evaluating proposals and making recommendations shall be considered public records for purposes of NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-712.01.

- D. The District shall then evaluate and rank each proposal on the basis of best meeting the criteria in the request for

proposals and taking into consideration the recommendation of the selection committee.

6. Procedures for Negotiations between the District and Design-Builders Submitting Proposals Prior to the District's Acceptance of a Proposal.

- A. The District may attempt to negotiate a DB Contract with the highest ranked Design-Builder selected by the Board and may enter into a DB Contract after negotiations.
- B. The negotiations shall include a final determination of the manner by which the design-builder selects a subcontractor.
- C. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory DB Contract with the highest ranked Design-Builder, it may terminate negotiations with that Design-Builder. The District may then undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked Design-Builder and may enter into a DB Contract with that Design-Builder after negotiations.
- D. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory DB Contract with the second highest ranked Design-Builder, it may terminate negotiations with that Design-Builder. The District may then undertake negotiations with the third highest ranked Design-Builder, if any, and may enter into a DB Contract with that Design-Builder after negotiations.
- E. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory DB Contract with any of the ranked Design-Builders, it may either revise the RFP and solicit new Proposals or cancel the design-build process.
- F. If the District is able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with a design-builder, the District shall file a copy of all design-build contract documents with the State Department of Education within thirty days after their full execution. Within thirty days after completion of the project, the design-builder shall file a copy of all contract modifications and change orders with the State Department of Education.

7. Procedures for Filing and Acting on Formal Protests Relating to the Solicitation or Execution of DB Contracts.

- A. Definitions.
 - (1) Interested party shall mean an actual or prospective bidder whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of a contract by the District to another party

or by the failure of the District to award a contract to such actual or prospective bidder.

- (2) Protest shall mean a written objection by an interested party on any phase of the bidding process, including specification, preparation, bid solicitation, and intent to award.

B. Right to Protest. An interested party may protest to the Superintendent. The protest shall be submitted in writing on company letterhead within five working days after public notice of the bid. Protests based on alleged apparent improprieties in a solicitation or other request for proposals must be filed before bid opening or the closing date for receipt of proposals. In all other cases, the protest must be filed within five working days following the selection of the design-builder. To expedite handling of protests, the envelope containing the protest should be clearly labeled "Protest". The written protest shall include as a minimum the following:

- (1) The name and address of the interested party;
- (2) Appropriate identification of the relevant solicitation, and if a bid has been opened, its number, and date of opening;
- (3) A detailed statement of reasons for the protest;
- (4) Supporting, exhibits, evidence, or documents to substantiate any claims unless not available within the filing time, in which case the expected availability date shall be indicated; and a list of all persons who have knowledge of facts relevant to the protest; and
- (5) The action(s) the protestor desires the school district to take to resolve the protest.

The Superintendent will immediately decide upon receipt of the protest whether or not the award of a contract shall be delayed, or if the protest is timely received after the award, whether the performance of the contract should be suspended. The school district shall not proceed further with the solicitation or with the award of the contract and shall suspend performance under the contract, if awarded, unless the Superintendent makes a written determination that the protest is clearly without merit or that award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect the substantial interests of the District.

- C. Authority to Resolve Protests. Prior to the commencement of an administrative review by the Board concerning any protest, the Superintendent shall attempt to resolve any protest filed by an interested party concerning any solicitation. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement, the Superintendent shall create and deliver a Decision to the protestor within a reasonable time after the written protest was received. The Decision shall include a written summary of the Superintendent's investigation and a recommendation regarding the outcome of the protest. The Decision shall (1) state the reasons for the action taken, and (2) inform the interested party of their right to the administrative review by the Board. A copy of the Decision shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the interested party and any other party intervening protester and all other bidders. If not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, any interested party protester may appeal to the Board, but the decision shall be final unless the interested party protester files a timely appeal with the Board.
- D. Board Appeal Procedures. Any interested party protester, within five working days of receipt of a decision of the Superintendent, may file with the Superintendent a written notice of appeal for an administrative review before the Board. The Notice of Appeal must clearly state the action protested and the basis of appeal. The Board will conduct an administrative review at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting. The school district board of education shall consider the Decision of the Superintendent and shall make the final decision on the protest. The school district board of education's decision shall be final.

8. Refinements and Changes. A DB Contract may be conditioned upon later refinements in scope and price and may permit the District, in agreement with the Design-Builder, to make changes in the project without invalidating the DB Contract. Later refinements shall not, however, exceed the scope of the project statement contained in the RFP.

9. Projects Excluded. The District shall not use a design-build contract for any construction project excluded by NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2914 or any other applicable law.

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

3043 Design-Build Contracts

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2901 through § 13-2914).

The board shall adopt a resolution by a two-thirds affirmative vote selecting the design-build contract delivery system prior to proceeding with any of the steps involved with solicitation or execution of any construction contract. For a project authorized under subsection (3) of section 13-2914, the resolution shall include a statement that the political subdivision has made a determination that the design-build contract delivery system is in the public interest based, at a minimum, on one of the following criteria: (a) Savings in cost or time or (b) requirement of specialized or complex construction methods suitable for the design-build contract delivery system.

Definitions. For purposes of this policy:

1. Board means the District's Board of Education.
2. Department means the Nebraska Department of Education.
3. Design-Build Contract (DB Contract) means a contract which is subject to qualification-based selection between the District and a Design-Builder to furnish (a) architectural, engineering, and related design services for a project pursuant to the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act (Act) and (b) labor, materials, supplies, equipment, and construction services for a project pursuant to the Act.
4. Design-Builder means a legal entity which proposes to enter into a DB Contract which is subject to qualification-based selection pursuant to the Act.
5. District means Cozad Community Schools.
6. NEARA means the Nebraska Engineers and Architects Regulation Act.
7. Performance-Criteria Developer (PCD) means any person licensed or any organization issued a certificate of authorization to practice architecture or engineering pursuant to the NEARA who is selected by the District pursuant to this policy to assist the District in the development of Project Performance Criteria, Requests For Proposals, evaluation of Proposals, evaluation of construction under

a DB Contract to determine adherence to the Project Performance Criteria, and any additional services requested by the District to represent its interests in relation to a project.

8. Project Performance Criteria means the performance requirements of the project suitable to allow the Design-Builder to make a Proposal. Performance requirements include the following, if required by the project: capacity, durability, standards, ingress and egress requirements, description of the site, surveys, soil and environmental information concerning the site, interior space requirements, material quality standards, design and construction schedules, site development requirements, provisions for utilities, storm weather retention and disposal, parking requirements, applicable governmental code requirements, and other criteria for the intended use of the project.
9. Proposal means an offer in response to a Request For Proposals ("RFP") by a Design-Builder to enter into a DB Contract for a project pursuant to the Act.
10. Act means the Nebraska Political Subdivisions Construction Alternatives Act.
11. Request for Proposals (RFP) means the documentation by which the District solicits Proposals.
12. Superintendent means the District's Superintendent of Schools.

Procedures. The District shall follow the procedures below in connection with any DB Contract.

- 1. Rules and Procedures for Selecting and Hiring a PCD for a Specific Project.**
 - A. The District shall encourage eligible persons or organizations who desire to provide services to the District as a PCD to submit a statement of qualifications and performance data to the District. At least thirty days prior to selecting and hiring a PCD, the District shall publish notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the District that it is seeking a PCD for a design-build project. The notice shall include the following:

- (1) A general description of the Design-Build project;

- (2) Directions regarding how interested persons or organizations can apply for consideration by the District;
 - (3) The date by which persons or organizations must submit their applications; and
 - (4) A statement that any person or organization applying for consideration by the District must obtain a copy of the District's Design-Build Contract Policy from the Superintendent.
- B. To apply to be the District's PCD, applicants must submit a current statement of qualifications and performance data to the District. The statement of qualifications must include evidence that the applicant is licensed or certified to practice architecture or engineering pursuant to the NEARA. Applicants must update any information provided to the District to reflect any changed conditions of the applicant.
- C. Applicants shall first be certified by the Superintendent as qualified to act as a PCD for the District. In order to certify an applicant, the Superintendent shall make a finding that a PCD is fully qualified to render the required service. Factors to be considered in making this finding shall include capabilities to perform, adequacy of personnel, past record and performance, and experience; and may also include consideration of recent, current, and projected workloads; experience; equipment and facilities; promptness, and the quality of work previously done by applicant; suitability to the particular task; willingness to meet time and budget requirements; and such other qualities as are found necessary to consider in order to determine whether or not, if awarded the contract, the applicant could perform it strictly in accordance with its terms capabilities to perform.
- D. The Board shall evaluate each qualified applicant's current statement of qualifications and performance data. The Board shall conduct discussions with, and may require public presentations by no less than three applicants regarding their qualifications, approach to the project, ability to furnish the required service, and other factors identified above.
- E. The Board shall select, in order of preference, at least three applicants deemed to be most highly qualified to perform the required services after considering the factors outlined above.

- F. The Board shall negotiate a contract with the most qualified applicant for compensation which the Board determines is fair and reasonable. In making this determination, the Board shall conduct a detailed analysis of the cost of the professional services required in addition to considering their scope and complexity. For all lump-sum or cost-plus-a-fixed-fee professional service contracts, the Board shall require the applicant receiving the award to execute a certificate stating that wage rates and other factual unit costs supporting the compensation are accurate, complete, and current at the time of contracting. Any contract under which such a certificate is required shall contain a provision that the original contract price and any additions thereto shall be adjusted to exclude any significant sums by which the Board determines the contract price had been increased due to inaccurate, incomplete, or noncurrent wage rates and other factual unit costs. All such contract adjustments shall be made within one year following the end of the contract.
- G. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with the applicant considered to be the most qualified at a price the Board determines to be fair and reasonable, it shall terminate negotiations with that applicant. The Board may then undertake negotiations with the second most qualified applicant. If the Board fails to reach an agreement with the second most qualified applicant, it shall terminate negotiations with that applicant. The Board shall then undertake negotiations with the third most qualified applicant.
- H. If the Board is unable to negotiate a satisfactory contract with any of the selected applicants, it shall either select additional applicants in order of their competence and qualification and continue negotiations in accordance with this policy until an agreement is reached or review the agreement under negotiation to determine the possible cause for failure to achieve a negotiated agreement.
- I. The Board may designate a committee to carry out any or all of the Board's duties under the PCD selection section of this policy, provided that the Board must approve any agreement with an applicant prior to its execution. Any such committee must have among its membership at least one person who is licensed to practice architecture or engineering pursuant to the NEARA.

- J. The public shall not be excluded from the meetings or proceedings under this section of this policy in accordance with the Open Meetings Act.
- K. The contract between the District and the PCD shall contain a prohibition against contingent fees as follows: "The PCD warrants that it has not employed or retained any company or person, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the PCD, to solicit or secure this agreement and that the PCD has not paid or agreed to pay any person, company, corporation, individual, or firm, other than a bona fide employee working solely for the PCD, any fee, commission, percentage, gift, or any other consideration contingent upon or resulting from the award or the making of this agreement." Upon violation of such provision, the District shall have the right to terminate the agreement without liability and, at its discretion, to deduct from the contract price, or otherwise recover, the full amount of such fee, commission, percentage, or consideration.
- L. The PCD is ineligible to be included as a provider of any services in a Proposal for the project on which it has acted as a PCD.
- M. A PCD may not be employed by or may not have a financial or other interest in a Design-Builder that will submit a Proposal.

2. Procedures and standards to be used to prequalify Design-Builders.

- A. The District, with the help of the PCD, shall prepare a request for letters of interest. The request for letters of interest shall:
 - (1) Describe the project in sufficient detail to permit a Design-Builder to submit a letter of interest;
 - (2) Be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District at least 30 days prior to the deadline for receiving letters of interest; and
 - (3) Be sent by first-class mail to any Design-Builder upon request.
- B. Letters of interest shall be reviewed by the District in consultation with the PCD. The District and the PCD will evaluate prospective Design-Builders based on the information submitted to the District in response to the request for letters of interest.

- C. The District shall select at least three prospective Design-Builders, except that if only two Design-Builders have submitted letters of interest, the District shall select at least two prospective Design-Builders. Such selected Design-Builders shall be considered prequalified and eligible to receive and respond to the RFP.
- D. The District and PCD shall use the following standards when selecting which prospective Design-Builders to prequalify: capabilities to perform, adequacy of personnel, past record and performance, and experience; and may also include consideration of recent, current, and projected workloads; experience; equipment and facilities; promptness, and the quality of work previously done by applicant; suitability to the particular task; willingness to meet time and budget requirements; and such other qualities as are found necessary to consider in order to determine whether or not, if awarded the contract, the applicant could perform it strictly in accordance with its terms capabilities to perform.

3. Procedures for the preparation and content of RFPs.

- A. The District, with the help of the PCD, shall prepare the RFP, which shall contain:
 - (1) The identity of the school district for which the project will be built and will execute the Design-Build Contract;
 - (2) A copy of this Design-Build Contract Policy and all other policies adopted by the District relating to the DB Contract;
 - (3) The proposed terms and conditions of the DB Contract, including any terms and conditions which are subject to further negotiation. The proposed general terms and conditions shall be consistent with nationally recognized model general terms and conditions which are standard in the design and construction industry in Nebraska. The proposed terms and conditions may set forth an initial determination of the manner by which the Design-Builder selects any subcontractor and may require that any work subcontracted be awarded by competitive bidding;
 - (4) A project statement which contains information about the scope and nature of the project;
 - (5) Project Performance Criteria;
 - (6) Budget parameters for the project;

- (7) Any bonds or insurance required by law or as may be additionally required by the District;
- (8) The criteria for evaluation of Proposals and the relative weight of each criterion;
- (9) A requirement that the Design-Builder provide a written statement of its proposed approach to the design and construction of the project, which may include graphic materials illustrating the proposed approach to design and construction but shall not include price proposals;
- (10) A requirement that the Design-Builder agree to the following conditions:
 - (i) An architect or engineer licensed to practice in Nebraska will participate substantially in those aspects of the offering which involve architectural or engineering services;
 - (ii) At the time of the design-build offering, the Design-Builder will furnish to the Board a written statement identifying the architect or engineer who will perform the architectural or engineering work for the design-build project;
 - (iii) The architect or engineer engaged by the Design-Builder to perform the architectural or engineering work with respect to the design-build project will have direct supervision of such work and may not be removed by the Design-Builder prior to the completion of the project without the written consent of the Board;
 - (iv) A Design-Builder offering design-build services with its own employees who are design professionals licensed to practice in Nebraska will: (a) comply with the NEARA by procuring a certificate of authorization to practice architecture or engineering and (b) submit proof of sufficient professional liability insurance; and
 - (v) The rendering of architectural or engineering services by a licensed architect or engineer employed by the Design-Builder will conform to the NEARA and rules and regulations adopted under the Act; and
- (11) Other information the District chooses to require.

- B. At least 30 days prior to the deadline for receiving and opening Proposals, the notice of the RFP shall be:
 - (1) Published in a newspaper of general circulation within the District;
 - (2) Filed with the Department; and
 - (3) Sent by first-class mail to the prequalified Design-Builders only.

4. Procedures for preparing and submitting Proposals.

- A. Prequalified Design-Builders shall prepare and submit Proposals as required by the RFP.
- B. All Proposals shall be sealed. Proposals shall not be opened until expiration of the time established for making Proposals as set forth in the RFP.
- C. Proposals may be withdrawn at any time prior to acceptance.
- D. The District has the right to reject any and all Proposals except for the purpose of evading the law. The District may thereafter solicit new Proposals using the same or a different Project Performance Criteria.

5. Procedures for evaluating Proposals.

- A. The District may only proceed to negotiate and enter into a DB Contract if there are at least two proposals from prequalified Design-Builders.
- B. The District shall refer the proposals for recommendation to a selection committee. The selection committee shall be a group of at least five persons designated by the District. Members of the selection committee shall include (1) members of the school board, (2) members of the school administration or staff, (3) the school's architect or engineer (4) any person having special expertise relevant to selection of a design-builder under the Act, and (5) a resident of the District other than an individual included in subdivisions (1) through (4) of this subsection. A member of the selection committee designated under subdivision (4) or (5) of this subsection shall not be employed by or have a financial or other interest in a design-builder who has a proposal being evaluated and shall not be employed by the District or the school's architect or engineer.

- C. The selection committee and the District shall evaluate proposals taking into consideration the criteria enumerated in subdivisions (1) through (7) of this subsection with the maximum percentage of total points for evaluation which may be assigned to each criterion set forth following the criterion. The following criteria shall be evaluated, when applicable:
- (1) The financial resources of the design-builder to complete the project **(up to ten percent)**;
 - (2) The ability of the proposed personnel of the design-builder to perform **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (3) The character, integrity, reputation, judgment, experience, and efficiency of the design-builder **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (4) The quality of performance on previous projects **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (5) The ability of the design-builder to perform within the time specified **(up to thirty percent)**;
 - (6) The previous and existing compliance of the design-builder with laws relating to the contract **(up to ten percent)**; and
 - (7) Such other information as may be secured having a bearing on the selection **(up to twenty percent)**.

NOTE TO BE DELETED: The percentages listed above must be modified so that they add up to 100%. This can be done directly in the policy, at the time the school board designates the Design-Build method for a specific project, or at a later time but before the RFP is published and sent out.

The records of the selection committee in evaluating proposals and making recommendations shall be considered public records for purposes of NEB. REV. STAT. § 84-712.01.

- D. The District shall then evaluate and rank each proposal on the basis of best meeting the criteria in the request for

proposals and taking into consideration the recommendation of the selection committee.

6. Procedures for Negotiations between the District and Design-Builders Submitting Proposals Prior to the District's Acceptance of a Proposal.

- A. The District may attempt to negotiate a DB Contract with the highest ranked Design-Builder selected by the Board and may enter into a DB Contract after negotiations.
- B. The negotiations shall include a final determination of the manner by which the design-builder selects a subcontractor.
- C. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory DB Contract with the highest ranked Design-Builder, it may terminate negotiations with that Design-Builder. The District may then undertake negotiations with the second highest ranked Design-Builder and may enter into a DB Contract with that Design-Builder after negotiations.
- D. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory DB Contract with the second highest ranked Design-Builder, it may terminate negotiations with that Design-Builder. The District may then undertake negotiations with the third highest ranked Design-Builder, if any, and may enter into a DB Contract with that Design-Builder after negotiations.
- E. If the District is unable to negotiate a satisfactory DB Contract with any of the ranked Design-Builders, it may either revise the RFP and solicit new Proposals or cancel the design-build process.
- F. If the District is able to negotiate a satisfactory contract with a design-builder, the District shall file a copy of all design-build contract documents with the State Department of Education within thirty days after their full execution. Within thirty days after completion of the project, the design-builder shall file a copy of all contract modifications and change orders with the State Department of Education.

7. Procedures for Filing and Acting on Formal Protests Relating to the Solicitation or Execution of DB Contracts.

- A. Definitions.
 - (1) Interested party shall mean an actual or prospective bidder whose direct economic interest would be affected by the award of a contract by the District to another party

or by the failure of the District to award a contract to such actual or prospective bidder.

- (2) Protest shall mean a written objection by an interested party on any phase of the bidding process, including specification, preparation, bid solicitation, and intent to award.

B. Right to Protest. An interested party may protest to the Superintendent. The protest shall be submitted in writing on company letterhead within five working days after public notice of the bid. Protests based on alleged apparent improprieties in a solicitation or other request for proposals must be filed before bid opening or the closing date for receipt of proposals. In all other cases, the protest must be filed within five working days following the selection of the design-builder. To expedite handling of protests, the envelope containing the protest should be clearly labeled "Protest". The written protest shall include as a minimum the following:

- (1) The name and address of the interested party;
- (2) Appropriate identification of the relevant solicitation, and if a bid has been opened, its number, and date of opening;
- (3) A detailed statement of reasons for the protest;
- (4) Supporting, exhibits, evidence, or documents to substantiate any claims unless not available within the filing time, in which case the expected availability date shall be indicated; and a list of all persons who have knowledge of facts relevant to the protest; and
- (5) The action(s) the protestor desires the school district to take to resolve the protest.

The Superintendent will immediately decide upon receipt of the protest whether or not the award of a contract shall be delayed, or if the protest is timely received after the award, whether the performance of the contract should be suspended. The school district shall not proceed further with the solicitation or with the award of the contract and shall suspend performance under the contract, if awarded, unless the Superintendent makes a written determination that the protest is clearly without merit or that award of the contract without delay is necessary to protect the substantial interests of the District.

- C. Authority to Resolve Protests. Prior to the commencement of an administrative review by the Board concerning any protest, the Superintendent shall attempt to resolve any protest filed by an interested party concerning any solicitation. If the protest is not resolved by mutual agreement, the Superintendent shall create and deliver a Decision to the protestor within a reasonable time after the written protest was received. The Decision shall include a written summary of the Superintendent's investigation and a recommendation regarding the outcome of the protest. The Decision shall (1) state the reasons for the action taken, and (2) inform the interested party of their right to the administrative review by the Board. A copy of the Decision shall be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the interested party and any other party intervening protester and all other bidders. If not satisfied with the decision of the Superintendent, any interested party protester may appeal to the Board, but the decision shall be final unless the interested party protester files a timely appeal with the Board.
- D. Board Appeal Procedures. Any interested party protester, within five working days of receipt of a decision of the Superintendent, may file with the Superintendent a written notice of appeal for an administrative review before the Board. The Notice of Appeal must clearly state the action protested and the basis of appeal. The Board will conduct an administrative review at its next regularly scheduled meeting or at a special meeting. The school district board of education shall consider the Decision of the Superintendent and shall make the final decision on the protest. The school district board of education's decision shall be final.

8. Refinements and Changes. A DB Contract may be conditioned upon later refinements in scope and price and may permit the District, in agreement with the Design-Builder, to make changes in the project without invalidating the DB Contract. Later refinements shall not, however, exceed the scope of the project statement contained in the RFP.

9. Projects Excluded. The District shall not use a design-build contract for any construction project excluded by NEB. REV. STAT. § 13-2914 or any other applicable law.

Adopted on: 3/16/2020

Revised on: 6/14/2021

Reviewed on: _____

13.8. **Policy 5063- Audio and Video Recordings**

Remote learning opportunities necessitated by the pandemic led us to revisit our policies regarding audio and video recordings. This policy was revised to broaden the limiting language regarding the use of audio and video recordings. The revised language continues to prohibit inappropriate uses of recordings while permitting appropriate uses consistent with administrative discretion. This change is required.

5063 Audio and Video Recording

Students and their parents or guardians should assume that any class in which students are enrolled may be recorded by the school district or other students for legitimate educational purposes. Recordings permitted pursuant to this policy may only be used ~~by students for personal academic~~ for authorized purposes and may not be republished without additional, written consent from a school administrator. For purposes of this policy “recording” includes still photographs, video, audio, and other similar data captured in any medium.

Recordings Made by The District. The district may use cameras or other devices for purposes of making security, safety, or other recordings without a specific purpose or for a specific purpose when such recordings are deemed necessary or appropriate by the administration. The district will not maintain the recordings unless the recording is purposefully copied and saved, and the recordings will only be available for review for a limited time based on the district’s then-current recording capacity. The district administrators estimate that this is approximately **10** days but may change at any time.

Classroom Recordings by Staff. Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator.

Prohibited Recordings by Students. Unless otherwise authorized by this policy or law, students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, unless the recording is made in a manner permitted by the school for members of the public. In such an instance, the students remain subject to the district’s appropriate use and student discipline policies.

For example, this policy does not prohibit students from making recordings of an athletic event for their personal use similar to a parent or other patron, subject to other applicable board policy. However, this policy generally prohibits students from using smart-speakers or other devices which actively or passively create or transmit audio or video recordings, including Google Home, Amazon Alexa, Apple HomePod, and AngelSense devices.

Permitted Classroom Recordings by Students. Students may make audio or video recordings of classroom lectures or discussions:

- (1) For their convenience after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher’s permission;
- (2) For the benefit of another student who is absent after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher’s permission;
- (3) If recording is necessary to accommodate the student’s disability and is required by the student’s Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Staff may revoke permission to record if the recording distracts from or disrupts the classroom environment, unless the recording is necessary to accommodate a student’s disability.

Permitted Non-classroom Recordings. Students may make audio or video recordings otherwise prohibited by this policy outside the classroom only with the permission of a teacher or school administrator, provided that such recordings otherwise comply with any applicable state and federal laws and district policy. In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

5063 Audio and Video Recording

Students and their parents or guardians should assume that any class in which students are enrolled may be recorded by the school district or other students for legitimate educational purposes. Recordings permitted pursuant to this policy may only be used for authorized purposes and may not be republished without additional, written consent from a school administrator. For purposes of this policy “recording” includes still photographs, video, audio, and other similar data captured in any medium.

Recordings Made by The District. The district may use cameras or other devices for purposes of making security, safety, or other recordings without a specific purpose or for a specific purpose when such recordings are deemed necessary or appropriate by the administration. The district will not maintain the recordings unless the recording is purposefully copied and saved, and the recordings will only be available for review for a limited time based on the district’s then-current recording capacity. The district administrators estimate that this is approximately 10 days but may change at any time.

Classroom Recordings by Staff. Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator.

Prohibited Recordings by Students. Unless otherwise authorized by this policy or law, students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, unless the recording is made in a manner permitted by the school for members of the public. In such an instance, the students remain subject to the district’s appropriate use and student discipline policies.

For example, this policy does not prohibit students from making recordings of an athletic event for their personal use similar to a parent or other patron, subject to other applicable board policy. However, this policy generally prohibits students from using smart-speakers or other devices which actively or passively create or transmit audio or video recordings, including Google Home, Amazon Alexa, Apple HomePod, and AngelSense devices.

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- (1) For their convenience after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher's permission;
- (2) For the benefit of another student who is absent after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher's permission;
- (3) If recording is necessary to accommodate the student's disability and is required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Staff may revoke permission to record if the recording distracts from or disrupts the classroom environment, unless the recording is necessary to accommodate a student's disability.

Permitted Non-classroom Recordings. Students may make audio or video recordings otherwise prohibited by this policy outside the classroom only with the permission of a teacher or school administrator, provided that such recordings otherwise comply with any applicable state and federal laws and district policy. In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Adopted on: 7/15/2019

Revised on: 6/14/2021

Reviewed on: _____

13.9. **Policy 6036- Reading Instruction and Intervention Services**

LB 528 mostly made grammar and style changes to the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act. However, one substantive change to note is that you now have the first 45 calendar days that school is in session to administer the first approved reading assessment to kindergartners. The deadline for administering the assessment to first, second, and third grades remains the first 30 calendar days that school is in session. This change is required.

6036

Reading Instruction and Intervention Services

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

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

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

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

The first assessment for kindergarten students must occur within the first ~~30~~ 45 calendar days of the school year that school is in session of each school year. For all other grades, the first assessment must occur within the first 30 calendar days that school in in session of each school year.

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

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

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

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

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

The supplemental reading intervention program may also include:

- Reading intervention ~~techniques that are based on scientific research and best practices~~ that are evidence-based;
- Diagnostic assessments to identify specific skill-based strengths and weaknesses a student may have;
- ~~Frequent~~ frequently monitoring of student progress throughout the school year ~~and adjust~~ with instruction adjusted accordingly;
- Intensive intervention using strategies selected from the following list to match the weaknesses identified in the diagnostic assessment:
 - Development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension;
 - Explicit and systematic instruction with detailed explanations, extensive opportunities for guided practice, and opportunities for error corrections and feedback; or
 - Daily targeted individual or small-group reading intervention based on student needs as determined by diagnostic assessment data subject to planned extracurricular school activities;

- Strategies and resources to assist with reading skills at home, including parent-training workshops and suggestions for parent-guided home reading; or
- Access to before-school or after-school supplemental reading intervention with a teacher or tutor who has specialized training in reading intervention.

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

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

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

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6036

Reading Instruction and Intervention Services

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

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

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

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

The first assessment for kindergarten students must occur within the first 45 calendar days that school is in session of each school year. For all other grades, the first assessment must occur within the first 30 calendar days that school is in session of each school year.

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

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

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

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

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

The supplemental reading intervention program may also include:

- Reading intervention practices that are evidence-based;
- Diagnostic assessments to identify specific skill-based strengths and weaknesses a student may have;
- Frequent monitoring of student progress throughout the school year with instruction adjusted accordingly;
- Intensive intervention using strategies selected from the following list to match the weaknesses identified in the diagnostic assessment:
 - Development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension;
 - Explicit and systematic instruction with detailed explanations, extensive opportunities for guided practice, and opportunities for error corrections and feedback; or
 - Daily targeted individual or small-group reading intervention based on student needs as determined by diagnostic assessment data subject to planned extracurricular school activities;

- Strategies and resources to assist with reading skills at home, including parent-training workshops and suggestions for parent-guided home reading; or
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Reading Improvement Plan. Any student who is identified as having a reading deficiency will receive an individualized reading improvement plan, that shall include a supplemental reading intervention program, no later than 30 days after the identification of the reading deficiency. The reading improvement plan may be created by the teacher, the principal, other pertinent school personnel, and the parents or guardians of the student and shall describe the reading intervention services the student will receive through the supplemental reading intervention program to remedy the reading deficiency. The student must receive reading intervention services through the supplemental reading intervention program until the student is no longer identified as having a reading deficiency.

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

Adopted on: 7/15/2019

Revised on: 6/14/2021

Reviewed on: _____

14. AGENDA SETTING AND FUTURE MEETINGS

- Monday, July 19, 2021- Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7pm
- Monday, August 16, 2021- Regular Board of Education Meeting, 7pm
- Monday, August 23, 2021- Special Board of Education Meeting, 12pm

Cozad Community Schools

Angela Simpson, Superintendent of Schools
1910 Meridian Avenue
Cozad, Nebraska 69130-1159
Phone 308-784-2745 Fax 308-217-4504
angela.simpson@cozadschools.net

Corey Fisher.....High School Principal (308) 784-2744
Brian Regelin.....Middle School Principal (308) 784-2746
Dale Henderson.....Elementary Principal (308) 784-3462
Jeremy Yilk.....Activities Director (308) 784-2744
James Ford.....Special Education Director (308) 784-3381

Board of Education

Michele Starman.....President
Joel Carlson.....Vice-President
Ann Burkholder.....Secretary
Judy Eggleston.....Member
Kiley Goff.....Member
John Peden.....Member

Cozad Creates

The Cozad Board of Education Regular Meeting Dates for the 2021-2022 School Year

Monday, August 16th - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, August 23rd – Special Board Meeting 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 8th – Budget Hearing 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 8th – Tax Hearing 6:30 p.m.

Monday, September 13th – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, October 18th - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 15th - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 13th - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, January 17th - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, February 14th - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, March 14th - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, April 18th - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 16th – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, June 13th - 7:00 p.m.

Monday, July 18th – 7:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

* **Closed Session:** If, during the course of the meeting, discussion of any item on the agenda should be held in a closed meeting, the board will conduct a closed meeting in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Law.

****Sequence of Agenda:** The sequence of agenda topics is subject to change at the discretion of the board. Please arrive at the beginning of the meeting.

*****Action Item:** The board reserves the right to take action on any item on the board agenda.