

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, July 14, 2025 6:00 PM
Boardroom at Central Office
1700 14th Ave
Nebraska City, NE 68410

1. Call to Order
 - 1.1. Roll Call
 - 1.2. Pledge of Allegiance
 - 1.3. Requests from Board Members to be Absent from this meeting
 - 1.4. Welcome to Visitors and Public
 - 1.5. Approval of Agenda
 - 1.6. Public Comment Time
 - 1.7. Approval of Minutes
 - 1.8. Claims and Accounts
 - 1.9. Financial Report
2. Reports
 - 2.1. Committee Reports
 - 2.1.1. Education, Americanism and Civics
 - 2.1.2. Buildings and Grounds
 - 2.1.3. Finance
 - 2.1.4. Policy
 - 2.2. Superintendent's Report
3. Business
 - 3.1. Non-Action Items
 - 3.1.1. Policy Cycle Reviews
 - 3.1.2. Federal Funding Update
 - 3.2. Action Items
 - 3.2.1. Policy
 - 3.2.1.1. Policy Revisions-Second Reading
 - 3.2.1.2. Policy Revisions per Legal Counsel
 - 3.2.1.3. Policy Adoptions per Legal Counsel
 - 3.2.2. Title IX Coordinator
 - 3.2.3. Meyer Memorial Scholarship Transfer Resolution
 - 3.2.4. Supplemental Rates
 - 3.2.5. Middle School Art Room Lights
 - 3.2.6. Central Office HVAC
 - 3.2.7. Activity Fund Band Accounts
 - 3.2.8. Designate 2% Joint County Hearing Representative
 - 3.2.9. Handbooks
 - 3.2.9.1. Staff Handbooks
 - 3.2.9.1.1. Classified Staff Handbook
 - 3.2.9.1.2. Certified Staff Handbook
 - 3.2.9.2. Student Handbooks

- 3.2.9.2.1. Student Handbooks
- 3.2.9.2.2. Chromebook Handbook

3.3. Personnel

- 3.3.1. Resignation
- 3.3.2. Hiring

4. Adjournment

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

INSTRUCTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WHO WISH TO SPEAK:
This is the portion of the meeting when members of the public may speak to the board about matters of public concern.

- **Getting Started:** When you have been recognized, please stand and state your name.
- **Time Limit:** The board will generally allow a total of 30 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 6 individuals who wish to address the board, the 30 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.
- **Personnel or Student Topic:** If you are planning to speak about a personnel or a student matter involving an individual, please understand that the district has a complaint policy and/or procedures to resolve such complaints and concerns. The Board requests that you follow the policy and procedures before addressing these matters with the Board. Board members will generally not respond to any questions you ask or comments about individual staff members or students.
- **General Rules:** This is a public meeting for the conduct of business. Comments from the audience while others are speaking will not be tolerated. Lewd, obscene, profane, slanderous, threatening and hostile conduct or statements and fighting words (words whose mere utterance entails a call to violence) will not be tolerated.
- **No Action by the Board:** The board will not act on any matter unless it is on the published agenda.

Public Participation at Board Meetings Form
Nebraska City Public Schools Board of Education

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The purpose of “Public Participation” is for the Board of Education to hear comments from the public. Since comments are not on the published agenda the Board will not discuss and/or answer questions during “Public Comments.”

The board will generally allow a total of 30 minutes for the presentation of all public comments. Individuals may only speak one time per topic and must limit comments to around five (5) minutes. In the event more than six individuals wish to address the board, the 30 minutes will be divided equally between the number of speakers. At the discretion of the Board President or Chair, speakers may be allotted additional time.

PLEASE PRINT

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Subject of Public Comment: _____

UNAPPROVED MINUTES
Board of Education Regular Meeting
Monday, June 9, 2025
Boardroom at Central Office, 1700 14th Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410

The Nebraska City News Press and B103 were notified.

Notice was published in the Nebraska City News Press on Friday, May 30, 2025 and on the Nebraska City Public Schools website on Thursday, May 15, 2025 stating the time and place of the meeting and stating that the known subjects on the agenda were on file and available for public inspection at the District Central Office, 1700 14th Avenue, Nebraska City, Nebraska. Copies of the postings from Friday, May 30, 2025 and Thursday, May 15, 2025 are attached to these minutes.

This meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Law and Availability of the Agenda pursuant to Nebr. Rev. Stat. Chapter 84, Article 1412(8). A current copy of the Open Meeting Act is posted in the meeting room and the agenda is available.

1. Call to Order

Board President, Lisa Chaney, called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

1.1. Roll Call

Kent Blum: Present
Lisa Chaney: Present
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Present
Stacie Higgins: Present
Jim Nemec: Present
Sally Schreiner: Present
Brent Shanholtz: Present
Rob Elson: Present
Present: 8, Absent: 1

1.2. Pledge of Allegiance

1.3. Requests from Board Members to be Absent from this meeting

Order #17349-Motion Passed: Motion to approve the request to be absent from this meeting on June 9, 2025 from Patricia Lant passed with a motion by Stacie Higgins and a second by Jim Nemec. No discussion.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

1.4. Welcome to Visitors and Public

President Chaney welcomed visitors and the public to the meeting.

1.5. Approval of Agenda

Order #17350-Motion Passed: Motion to approve the agenda for June 9, 2025 passed with a motion by Kent Blum and a second by Brent Shanholtz. No discussion.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea

Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

1.6. Public Comment Time

No one addressed the board during Public Comment Time.

1.7. Approval of Minutes

Order #17351-Motion Passed: Motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on May 12, 2025 and the Work Session on May 19, 2025 passed with a motion by Jim Nemec and a second by Rob Elson. No discussion.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

1.8. Claims and Accounts

Order #17352-Motion Passed: Motion to approve the claims and accounts as presented passed with a motion by Brent Shanholtz and a second by Stacie Higgins. Mr. Shanholtz reviewed the bills this month and found everything to be in order. He clarified information regarding notable items in the bill listing from Facility Advocates and First Student.

General Fund: \$239,286.48; **Payroll Fund:** \$1,312,919.26; **Payroll Benefits Fund:** \$231,011.44; **School Nutrition Fund:** \$96,599.19; **OCPUF:** \$69.51; **Bond Fund:** \$149,958.75; **Depreciation Fund:** \$94,838.49

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

1.9. Financial Report

Order #17353-Motion Passed: Motion to approve the financial report as presented passed with the current balance in the treasury being \$7,382,141.10 with a motion by Brent Shanholtz and a second by Kent Blum. Brent Shanholtz gave the financial report that included a review of the revenue and expenditures and fund balances. The district is ahead in grant reimbursement and tax receipts this year so balances are high in comparison to last year. Revenue should even out closer to the end of the fiscal year. Expenditures are on track. He noted the board will have some decisions to make at year-end regarding financial planning for next year.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

2. Reports

2.1. Committee Reports

2.1.1. Education, Americanism and Civics

Stacie Higgins gave the report of the committee highlighting the information shared with them from Kate Sherwin and the Counselor Team. Kate also gave an update on the status of a literacy grant she submitted. Recipients will not be announced until August.

2.1.2. Buildings and Grounds

Rob Elson gave the report of the committee highlighting updates on all the indoor and outdoor summer projects that are underway.

2.1.3. Finance

Kent Blum gave the report of the committee highlighting discussion regarding the end of the fiscal year and budgeting plans for next year. The change in how and when we receive tax receipts and the reduction of state aid will have an impact on how the Board can plan and make decisions that are best for the District now and in future years.

2.1.4. Policy

Jim Nemec gave the report of the committee highlighting the report from Jason Hippen and the many legislative updates that affect policy changes.

2.2. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Fritch shared information regarding a recap of the State of the Schools presentations, plans for researching attendance-leadership book club and partnership with UNL, June 19 new staff onboarding at Central Office, GNS is scheduled for June 23-24, Summer projects update and the sale of sentimental property of limited value.

3.0 Business

3.1. Non-Action Items

3.1.1. Policy Cycle Reviews

Administration and the Policy Committee recommended the review of these policies from the three-year review cycle.

4010-Inclement Weather

4011-Employee Leave Under the Family and Medical Leave Act-FMLA

4011.1-Nebraska Family Military Leave Act

5022-Investigations, Arrests and Other Student Contact by Law Enforcement and DHHS

5037-Student Internet and Computer Access

5052-School Wellness

5055-Enrollment in Kindergarten

6038-Artificial Intelligence

3.1.2. Required Policy Review per Legal Counsel, 6025-Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices

The Board discussed whether the District has met the requirements of LB 140 and determined no action was needed at this time.

3.2. Action Items

3.2.1. Policy

3.2.1.1. Required Policy Revisions per Legal Counsel

Order #17354-Motion Passed: Motion to approve the revisions to Policies 1002, 2006, 3003, 3004.1, 3023, 3026, 3036, 3043, 4051, 4059, 5016, and 5031 on first and final reading per legal counsel passed with a motion by Jim Nemec and a second by Sally Schreiner. The Policy Committee recommended that these policies need to be revised after recent legislation.

Kent Blum: Yea

Lisa Chaney: Yea

Pattie Lant: Absent

John Hodges: Yea

Stacie Higgins: Yea

Jim Nemec: Yea

Sally Schreiner: Yea

Brent Shanholtz: Yea

Rob Elson: Yea

Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

3.2.1.2. Required Policy Revocation per Legal Counsel

Order #17355-Motion Passed: Motion to approve the revocation of Policy 5034 on first and final reading per legal counsel passed with a motion by Stacie Higgins and a second by Kent Blum. This policy was combined with another and is no longer needed.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

3.2.1.3. Policy Revisions per Legal Counsel-First Reading

Order #17356-Motion Passed: Motion to approve on first reading and advance to second reading at the July Regular Meeting Policy 3047 Data Breach Response and Policy 3057 Title IX passed with a motion by Stacie Higgins and a second by Brent Shanholtz. The Policy Committee recommended that these policies be revised after recent legislation.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

3.2.2. Designate Federal Funds

Order #17357-Motion Passed: Motion to approve to approve Mark Fritch as the District Representative to receive Federal Funds for the 2025-2026 school year passed with a motion by Kent Blum and a second by Brent Shanholtz. No discussion.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

3.2.3. Personnel

3.2.3.1. Endorsements of High Demand, Student Teacher Stipend

Order #17358-Motion Passed: Motion to approve all endorsements to be considered areas of high demand for the 2025-2026 school year passed with a motion by Sally Schreiner and a second by Stacie Higgins. Mr. Fritch noted that endorsed areas are now in high demand and hard to fill if positions become available.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

3.2.3.2. Resignations

Order #17359-Motion Passed: Motion to accept the letter of resignation from Crystal Dinovo, Second Grade Teacher, effective immediately passed with a motion by Stacie Higgins and a second by Kent Blum. The Board discussed this request that was received after the deadline as written in policy and the negotiated agreement. Concerns for accepting and denying the request were shared and considered.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Nay
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 7, Nay: 1, Absent: 1

3.2.3.3. Hirings

Order #17360-Motion Passed: Motion to approve the hiring of Leigh Calfee, 8th Grade ELA Teacher; David Hellman, HW and HS Librarian/Media Specialist; Tiffany Walker, 6th Grade SPED Teacher; Charles Bom, High School Math Teacher; and Brittany Andersen, Second Grade Teacher for the 2025-2026 school year passed with a motion by Stacie Higgins and a second by Rob Elson. No discussion.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

4.0. Adjournment

Order #17361-Motion Passed: Motion to adjourn at 7:17 PM passed with a motion by Kent Blum and a second by Sally Schreiner. No discussion.

Kent Blum: Yea
Lisa Chaney: Yea
Pattie Lant: Absent
John Hodges: Yea
Stacie Higgins: Yea
Jim Nemec: Yea
Sally Schreiner: Yea
Brent Shanholtz: Yea
Rob Elson: Yea
Yea: 8, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Mark Fritch, Secretary



NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING-JUNE 9, 2025

Carla Zaroban

May 13, 2025

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Education of Otoe County School District 111, in the State of Nebraska, will be held at **6:00 o'clock P.M., June 9, 2025 at Central Office, 1700 14th Avenue, Nebraska City, Nebraska**, in the Boardroom, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such meetings, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent. Agenda is not final until 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Mark Fritch

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of Florida, County of Orange, ss:

I, Ankit Sachdeva, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath depose and say that I am an agent of Column Software, PBC, duly appointed and authorized agent of the Publisher of Nebraska City News Press, a publication that is a "legal newspaper" as that phrase is defined for the city of Nebraska City, for the County of Otoe, in the state of Nebraska, that this affidavit is Page 1 of 1 with the full text of the sworn-to notice set forth on the pages that follow, and that the attachment hereto contains the correct copy of what was published in said legal newspaper in consecutive issues on the following dates.

Publication Dates:

- May 30, 2025

Notice ID: GM8FJ78VqVImpIdM2znZ

Notice Name: June Meeting Notice 2025

Publication Fee: \$12.90

Ankit Sachdeva

Agent

VERIFICATION

State of Florida
County of Orange

Signed or attested before me on this: 05/30/2025

J. Thompson

Notary Public

Notarized remotely online using communication technology via Proof.

**NOTICE OF MEETING
OTOE COUNTY SCHOOL
DISTRICT 111 IN THE STATE OF
NEBRASKA**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Regular Meeting** of the Board of Education of Otoe County School District 111, in the State of Nebraska, will be held at **6:00 o'clock P.M., June 9, 2025** at **Central Office, 1700 14th Avenue**, Nebraska City, Nebraska, in the Boardroom, which meeting will be open to the public. An agenda for such meetings, kept continuously current, is available for public inspection at the office of the Superintendent. Agenda is not final until 24 hours prior to the meeting.

Mark Fritch
Superintendent of Schools
Published in the Nebraska City
News Press on May 30, 2025.
3479100 ZNEZ

Jun-25

Vendor Name	Description	Check Total
Checking Account ID	1 Fund Number	01 General Fund
ACCO BRANDS USA LLC	COOP SUPPLIES	354.06
AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES	MISC SUPPLIES	2,272.84
AMERICAN NATIONAL BANK	LOAN PAYMENT	2,995.50
APACE	CONTRACTED SERVICES	371.80
APPLE INC.	IPADS AND MACBOOKS	73,839.00
AUTOMATED ENERGY SOLUTIONS INC	SERVICE CALL	272.00
BLICK ART MATERIALS	ART SUPPLIES	824.00
BOHL PLUMBING	SERVICE CALL	114.95
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	FAX SERVICE	86.00
CAPITAL BUSINESS SYSTEMS	COPIER LEASE	2,173.52
CAPITAL ONE	MISC SUPPLIES	355.17
CARD SERVICES	MISC SUPPLIES	912.52
CHRIS ADKINS	MS VINYL SIGNS	200.00
COLUMN SOFTWARE PBC	PUBLIC NOTICE	166.66
DANA L. GUNDERSON	CONTRACTED SERVICES	750.00
DAS STATE ACCOUNTING - CENTRAL	DISTANCE LEARNING	292.87
EGAN SUPPLY CO.	CUSTODIAL SUPPLIES	4,096.58
ESU #4	CONTRACTED SERVICES	16,185.89
FACILITY ADVOCATES	HVAC REPAIRS	10,071.70
FAREWAY STORES	MS CLUB SNACKS	148.05
FBG SERVICE CORPORATION	CUSTODIAL SERVICE	29,751.00
FIBER PLATFORM LLC	PRIVATE NETWORK SERVICE	1,363.34
FIRST STUDENT INC	MAY TRANSPORTATION	28,890.20
GARRATT-CALLAHAN CO.	CHEMICAL FEED PUMP	2,013.00
GRAVES COMPANY	GRADUATION	2,223.63
J.F. AHERN CO.	ALARM INSPECTIONS	1,459.00
JEO CONSULTING GROUP	HW CONST PROJECT	1,206.25
KSB SCHOOL LAW, PC, LLO	LEGAL FEES	2,180.00
LIFEGUARD AUTO SERVICE CENTER	VEHICLE MAINT	1,737.33
LUNCHTIME SOLUTIONS, INC.	CATERING SERVICES	847.36
MATHESON TRI-GAS INC.	BOTTLE RENTAL	53.21
NCSA	REG FEE	75.00

NEBRASKA CITY UTILITIES	UTILITIES	31,918.19
NORTHWEST EVALUATION ASSOC.	24-25 TESTING	11,282.00
ONE SOURCE	BACKGROUND CHECKS	287.00
OTOE COUNTY TREASURER	TITLE FEE	10.00
PAPER TIGER SHREDDING, INC.	SHREDDING SERVICE	40.00
PAYROLL ACCOUNT-NC PUBLIC SCH	JUNE PAYROLL 2025	1,242,216.52
PERRY, GUTHERY, HAASE &	LEGAL SERVICES	270.00
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL	POSTAGE MACHINE LEASE	941.10
POWERSCHOOL GROUP LLC	SIS RENEWAL	11,809.20
PURCHASE POWER	POSTAGE	973.62
PYRAMID SCHOOL PRODUCTS	COOP SUPPLIES	1,318.54
RAPIDS WHOLESALE	COOP SUPPLIES	13.18
RIVER VIEW PEST CONTROL, INC.	PEST CONTROL	820.00
SAND CREEK CONSTRUCTION CO	HW DOOR PROJECT	95,438.09
SARAH ROBERTS	CONTRACTED SERVICES	7,703.82
SAVVAS LEARNING COMPANY LLC	CURRICULUM	72,960.64
SCHOOL HEALTH CORP.	COOP SUPPLIES	615.25
SCHOOL SPECIALTY, LLC	COOP SUPPLIES	1,274.99
SMARTSIGN	ASSET TAGS	609.20
STAPLES CONTRACT & COMMERCIAL, INC.	PAPER	11,952.00
TAESE/USU	SPED REGISTRATION	900.00
TK ELEVATOR CORPORATION	SERVICE CONTRACT	937.04
VERIZON WIRELESS	CELL PHONES	1,190.71
VOSS LIGHTING	DISTRICT LIGHTS	708.00
VOYAGER FLEET SYSTEMS	FUEL CHARGES	2,947.54
WEST MUSIC CO.	VOCAL SUPPLIES	117.50
WINDSTREAM	PHONE	1,045.66
ZULTYS INC	PHONE	4,177.55
Fund Number		<u>1,692,759.77</u>
Checking Account ID	1	<u>1,692,759.77</u>
Checking Account ID	2 Fund Number	01 General Fund
BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD	HEALTH AND DENTAL INS	223,462.63
MADISON NATIONAL LIFE	LIFE INS	2,701.28
TRANSAMERICA LIFE INS COMPANY	SUPPLEMENTAL INS	3,876.37
VSP, INC	VISION INS	2,028.46
Fund Number		<u>232,068.74</u>
Checking Account ID	2	<u>232,068.74</u>

Checking Account ID	20	Fund Number	02 Depreciation Fund
FACILITY ADVOCATES		HS OLD GYM HVAC PROJECT	91,187.50
KIDWELL INC		MS INTERCOM	10,000.00
Fund Number			101,187.50
Checking Account ID	20		101,187.50
Checking Account ID	6	Fund Number	06 Nutrition Services
LUNCHTIME SOLUTIONS, INC.		MAY FOOD SERVICE	53,562.89
Fund Number			53,562.89
Checking Account ID	6		53,562.89

Nebraska City Public Schools
June 2025
Summary Financial Report

General Fund

The General Fund finances all facets of services rendered by the school district including payroll, benefits, equipment, supplies, insurance, building occupancy, contracted services, and other daily functions and operations of the district. The tax levy for this fund is restricted to \$1.05 plus qualified exclusions. The approved General Fund levy for 2024-25 .865308

	2025	2024
Balance Forward	7,212,151.16	
Revenue	1,857,632.29	
Expenses	<u>1,692,852.69</u>	
Balance	7,376,930.76	5,983,850.67

Building Fund

The Building Fund is used to acquire or improve sites and/or to erect, alter or improve buildings. The sale of bonds, the sale of property, or tax receipts will be the primary sources of revenue for the Special Building Fund. Regardless of the source of money to be used for building construction and related costs, all income for the purposes of this fund shall be accountable through this fund. The tax levy for this fund falls under the \$1.05 levy limit and is further restricted to \$0.14 with local board approval or \$0.175 following a vote of the people for a term not to exceed ten years. The approved Building Fund levy for 2024-25 .052995

	2025	2024
Balance Forward	514,761.51	
Revenue	31,159.61	
Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	
Balance	545,921.12	261,112.26

QCPUF Fund

A Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund (QCPUF) may be established for the removal of environmental hazards, the reduction or elimination of accessibility barriers in school district buildings, modifications for life safety code violations, life safety hazards, and mold abatement and prevention projects for existing facilities only. General Fund expenditures for the purpose of this fund are not allowable. Effective April 19, 2016, the tax levy for this fund is restricted to \$0.03. The tax levy for QCPUF projects in place prior to April 19, 2016, remains at \$0.052. The levy may exceed the \$0.03 levy limit if the valuation has decreased from the last year bonds were issued and the bond principal and interest obligation cannot be met. Tax levies cannot exceed ten years for each project. The approved QCPUF levy for 2024-25 .020631

	2025	2024
Balance Forward	336,574.64	
Revenue	19,211.57	
Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	
Balance	355,786.21	323,394.95

Depreciation Fund

The purpose of the Depreciation Fund is to facilitate the eventual purchase of costly items by spreading replacement costs over a period of years in order to avoid a disproportionate tax effort in a single year to make the purchase. To allocate monies from the General Fund, a school district will transfer funds as an expense from the General Fund, and the Depreciation Fund will show the transfer as revenue from the General Fund. The school district must divide this fund into more than one account to allocate a portion of this fund for different valid purposes. The Depreciation Fund is a component of the General Fund.

	2025	2024
Balance Forward	2,971,677.90	
Revenue	498.68	
Expenses	<u>101,187.50</u>	
Balance	2,870,989.08	1,544,304.87

School Nutrition Fund

The School Nutrition Fund (formerly School Lunch Fund) is required to accommodate the financial activities of all Nutrition Programs operated by the school district. The School Nutrition Fund shall reflect a record of all revenues and expenditures incident to the operation of all Nutrition Programs. If a deficit is incurred in the operation, the deficiency shall be covered by funds transferred from the General Fund.

	2025	2024
Balance Forward	474,758.69	
Revenue	35,468.25	
Expenses	<u>53,362.89</u>	
Balance	456,664.05	536,309.47

Payroll Account

An internal account created for exclusive use by Nebraska City Public Schools. This account receives funds from the General Fund on a monthly basis to cover monthly payroll, benefits, and associated expenses.

	2025	2024
Balance Forward	48,860.09	
Revenue	1,242,216.52	
Expenses	<u>1,241,986.73</u>	
Balance	49,089.88	41,416.76

Section 125 Account

An internal account created for exclusive use by Nebraska City Public Schools. This account receives funds from individual employees' monthly salary/wages to cover monthly employee-elected deductions for childcare and healthcare expenses.

	2025	2024
Balance Forward	45,692.97	
Revenue	1,326.27	
Expenses	<u>4,485.84</u>	
Balance	42,533.40	31,539.25

Meyer Memorial Fund

An internal account created for exclusive use by Nebraska City Public Schools. This fund, established by donations from the Meyer family, is used to fund scholarships.

	2025	2024
Balance Forward	229,344.32	
Revenue	4.43	
Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	
Balance	229,348.75	229,340.35

Bond Fund

The Bond Fund shall be used to record tax receipts, investment interest, and the payment of bond principal, interest, and other related costs (i.e., trustee fees). If the fund balance is not sufficient to meet interest or bond retirement payments from the Bond Fund, the General Fund shall be used for these payments. Revenue from a levy to retire bonds in any school district is retained in a separate fund by the county treasurer, the financial institution serving as a fiscal agent, or the school district. Funds shall be disbursed upon appropriate demand. All records of the transactions in this area shall be maintained in this fund. Proceeds from a bond issue shall be deposited into the Special Building Fund to be expended on the actual building project. The Bond Fund is a taxing fund and is not part of the \$1.05 cap. The tax levy for this fund is restricted for expenditures other than principal and interest on bonds. Proceeds from a bond issue shall be deposited into the Special Building Fund to be expended on the actual building project. The approved Bond Fund levy for 2024-25 .137968

	2025	2024
Balance Forward	2,434,587.81	
Revenue	114,478.03	
Expenses	<u>0.00</u>	
Balance	2,549,065.84	2,384,105.30

NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 66-0111							24-25	23-24
GENERAL FUND MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT			REC'D MONTH	REC'D THRU:	REC'D THRU		% OF BUDGET TO	% OF BUDGET TO
	RECEIPTS:	BUDGETED	JUNE	6/30/2025	06/30/2024	DIFFERENCE	BE RECEIVED	BE RECEIVED
	LOCAL PROPERTY TAXES	9,815,871.00	443,680.57	7,555,782.86	9,050,297.35	(1,494,514.49)	23.02%	
	CARLINE TAX	10,000.00	7,125.13	9,643.30	3,518.87	6,124.43	3.57%	
	IN LIEU OF TAX, 5% GROSS	5,800.00		5,356.82	5,447.30	(90.48)	7.64%	
	MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	835,000.00	73,717.22	759,145.48	737,932.22	21,213.26	9.08%	
	PENALTIES AND INTEREST ON TAXES	0.00				0.00		
	TUITION FROM OTHER DISTRICTS-SPED	0.00				0.00		
	LOCAL LICENSE FEES, CITY	3,000.00		1,473.75	1,230.00	243.75	50.88%	
	RENTAL OF SCHOOL FACILITIES	2,000.00		1,758.75	770.80	987.95	12.06%	
	OTHER LOCAL REVENUE	1,500.00		748.71	2,222.55	(1,473.84)		
	COUNTY FINES & LICENSE FEES	140,000.00	12,988.89	118,993.78	128,724.09	(9,730.31)	15.00%	
	ESU RECEIPTS					0.00		
	OTHER COUNTY SOURCES	1,200.00		1,177.60		1,177.60		
	STATE AID	4,686,159.00	468,615.00	4,686,159.00	4,608,970.00	77,189.00	0.00%	
	SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM	2,300,000.00	655,441.00	2,281,422.00	2,185,936.00	95,486.00	0.81%	
	SPECIAL EDUCATION TRANSP.	20,000.00		37,020.00	37,979.00	(959.00)	-85.10%	
	HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	295,000.00	56,544.44	226,177.76	221,722.54	4,455.22	23.33%	
	RELIEF TO PROPERTY TAXPAYERS	625,000.00		3,457,688.43	644,442.18	2,813,246.25	-453.23%	
	PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX CREDIT					0.00		
	RAILROAD CREDIT					0.00		
	HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS	9,000.00		7,159.00	8,305.00	(1,146.00)	20.46%	
	RULE 4 TEXTBOOK LOAN					0.00		
	PRO-RATE MOTOR VEHICLE	30,000.00		19,485.80	19,302.15	183.65	35.05%	
	STATE APPORTIONMENT	270,000.00		537,157.92	270,317.68	266,840.24	-98.95%	
	IN LIEU OF SCHOOL LAND TAX			1,661.71	1,736.70	(74.99)		
1,794.00	STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD	25,000.00	4,494.00	29,764.00	80,539.00	(50,775.00)	-19.06%	
	CTE EXTENSION GRANT	8,551.00			8,551.00	(8,551.00)		
	SAFETY AND SECURITY GRANT					0.00		
13,018.54	PROJECT AWARE	200,000.00		79,077.51	95,797.54	(16,720.03)	60.46%	
31,457.00	TITLE I	350,000.00	63,866.00	472,605.00	264,053.00	208,552.00	-35.03%	
4,420.00	TITLE II PART A	50,000.00	13,352.00	112,208.00	43,618.00	68,590.00	-124.42%	
24,547.00	IDEA BASE	350,611.00	26,918.00	358,147.00	249,353.00	108,794.00	-2.15%	
706.00	IDEA PRESCHOOL BASE	8,379.00	1,412.00	6,354.00	6,350.00	4.00	24.17%	
2,083.00	IDEA NON PUBLIC	41,010.00	1,209.00	51,268.00	31,549.00	19,719.00	-25.01%	
	IDEA PRESCHOOL BASE-ARP					0.00		
	IDEA BASE-ARP					0.00		
	IDEA NON PUBLIC -ARP					0.00		
	MEDICAID IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS	35,000.00		73,254.38	43,634.44	29,619.94		
	MAAPS RECEIPTS	40,000.00		13,756.27	32,189.38	(18,433.11)	65.61%	
	HOMELESS GRANT			1,696.00		1,696.00		
	ESSERS II	0.00				0.00		
	ESSERS III			62,605.00	442,345.00	(379,740.00)		
	N-SPDG GRANT					0.00		
13,829.00	TITLE IV, PART B, NCLB 21ST CENTURY	170,000.00	26,320.00	168,128.00	144,522.00	23,606.00	1.10%	
	SUMMER CLUB EXTENSION (6989)				3,563.00	(3,563.00)		
	CLUBS EXTENSION (6988)			26,858.00		26,858.00		
	LONG TERM LOAN-LOC	0.00				0.00		
	TAX ANTICIPATION NOTES	0.00				0.00		
	SALE OF BONDS					0.00		
	TRANSFERS FROM FUNDS					0.00		
	OTHER NON-REVENUE RECEIPTS					0.00		
	TOTAL WITHOUT INTERCOMPANY RECEIPT	20,328,081.00	1,855,683.25	21,163,733.83	19,374,918.79	1,788,815.04	-4.11%	5.11%
	NON PROGRAM RECEIPTS							
91,854.54	GRAND TOTAL	20,328,081.00	1,855,683.25	21,163,733.83	19,374,918.79			

			DISB. MONTH	DISB. THRU:	DISB. THRU:		% OF BUDGET TO	% OF BUDGET TO
	DISBURSEMENTS:	BUDGETED	JUNE	6/30/2025	6/30/2024	DIFFERENCE	BE SPENT	BE SPENT
1100	INSTRUCTION	6,160,340.00	516,196.67	4,465,006.65	4,115,709.99	349,296.66	27.52%	
1150	ELL	407,050.00	33,186.08	339,265.16	283,203.85	56,061.31	16.65%	
1160	POVERTY	2,450,170.00	200,372.83	2,159,593.73	1,776,588.70	383,005.03	11.86%	
1190	PRESCHOOL LOCAL FUNDS	313,850.00	26,640.75	263,347.86	171,687.63	91,660.23	16.09%	
1200	SPECIAL EDUCATION	2,836,250.00	204,439.18	2,196,632.39	2,106,030.46	90,601.93	22.55%	
1300	DRIVER'S ED/SUMMER SCHOOL	20,455.00	5,423.13	7,163.36	8,940.35	(1,776.99)	64.98%	
2120	GUIDANCE	316,315.00	25,318.07	253,282.28	99,597.96	153,684.32	19.93%	
2130	HEALTH/NURSE	88,675.00	6,905.55	70,906.17	76,631.93	(5,725.76)	20.04%	
2140	PSYCHOLOGY	242,900.00	19,996.23	200,805.19	186,827.74	13,977.45	17.33%	
2150	SPEECH/AUDIOLOGY	307,700.00	31,378.09	318,259.59	262,950.55	55,309.04	-3.43%	
2160	OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY	400.00		120.80		120.80	69.80%	
2170	PHYSICAL THERAPY	64,200.00	4,910.91	47,748.62	48,538.17	(789.55)	25.63%	
2180	VISION	600.00		3,306.00	1,055.11	2,250.89	-451.00%	
2190	OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES	93,000.00	213.38	22,261.78	22,071.23	190.55	76.06%	
2212	CURRICULUM DIRECTOR	141,750.00	11,701.30	117,964.49	28,323.13	89,641.36	16.78%	
2214	STANDARDS DIRECTOR	9,500.00	11,282.00	11,388.48	4,539.03	6,849.45	-19.88%	
2220	LIBRARY	193,615.00	12,498.96	128,610.74	165,154.08	(36,543.34)	33.57%	
2290	EARLY RETIREMENT	105,000.00		105,000.00	95,609.20	9,390.80	0.00%	
2310	SCHOOL BOARD	129,000.00	3,235.47	61,826.80	83,697.46	(21,870.66)	52.07%	
2320	SUPERINTENDENT	334,625.00	27,702.53	274,447.91	263,412.33	11,035.58	17.98%	
2410	PRINCIPALS	1,091,200.00	87,326.02	891,932.51	871,156.70	20,775.81	18.26%	
2510	BUSINESS OFFICE	246,050.00	21,729.39	204,912.93	180,725.45	24,187.48	16.72%	
2580	TECHNOLOGY	486,400.00	94,280.42	267,858.25	231,760.35	36,097.90	44.93%	
2610	PLANT OPERATION	1,143,500.00	66,545.77	1,005,156.48	953,226.23	51,930.25	12.10%	
2620	MAINTENANCE	1,102,850.00	54,419.54	676,399.94	1,007,512.85	(331,112.91)	38.67%	
2700	PUPIL TRANSPORTATION	383,925.00	32,287.91	314,583.08	341,750.51	(27,167.43)	18.06%	
3535	HIGH ABILITY LEARNERS	4,670.00	300.88	3,419.80	5,115.03	(1,695.23)	26.77%	
3540	STATE EARLY CHILDHOOD	26,175.00	2,247.69	22,476.90	84,440.72	(61,963.82)	14.13%	
3551	CTE EXTENSTION GRANT	8,551.00		8,551.00	1,907.53			
3552	SAFETY AND SECURITY GRANT	200,000.00	96,644.34	111,106.84	31,703.45			
3599	TEXTBOOK LOAN					-		
5000	DEBT SERVICES	40,000.00	2,995.50	29,955.00	5,000.00	24,955.00		
6200	TITLE I	386,415.00	31,458.24	319,046.91	305,923.45	13,123.46	17.43%	
6310	TITLE II PART A	116,650.00	4,421.32	62,619.79	86,650.70	(24,030.91)	46.32%	
6406	IDEA PART B PRESCHOOL	8,562.00	705.36	7,067.28	8,403.31	(1,336.03)	17.46%	
6408	IDEA BASE/ENROLLMENT/POVERTY	363,000.00	24,547.94	301,645.19	312,052.08	(10,406.89)	16.90%	
6412	NON-PUBLIC SPED	41,010.00	2,083.54	37,254.50	48,906.15	(11,651.65)	9.16%	
6418	PEAK GRANT	0.00		10,727.75		10,727.75		
6421	IDEA BASE-ARP	0.00				-		
6423	IDEA NON PUBLIC -ARP	0.00				-		
6700	PERKINS	0.00	300.00	300.00		300.00		
6968	TITLE IV, PART B, NCLB 21ST CENTURY	192,190.00	20,788.36	184,499.08	192,774.96	(8,275.88)	4.00%	
6988	EXTENDED CLUBS				17,646.04	(17,646.04)		
6989	SUMMER CLUBS					-		
6990	PROJECT AWARE	224,045.00	6,420.30	79,860.14	74,194.49	5,665.65	64.36%	
6994	HOMELESS GRANT				1,696.60			
6996	ESSERS/CARES GRANT	0.00				-		
6997	ESSERS II	0.00				-		
6998	ESSERS III	0.00			419,617.52	(419,617.52)		
	SUBTOTAL	20,280,588.00	1,690,903.65	15,586,311.37	14,982,733.02	519,228.09	14.45%	22.21%
	TRANSFER TO FUND							
	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS:	20,280,588.00	1,690,903.65	15,586,311.37	14,982,733.02			

	Balance on hand District Treasury 8-31-24	1,862,626.63						
	Receipts through: 8-31-2025	21,163,733.83						
	TOTAL BALANCE & RECEIPTS	23,026,360.46						
	Outstanding warrants 8-31-2024	63,325.30						
	Warrants issued through: 8-31-2025	15,586,311.37						
	TOTAL WARRANTS	15,649,636.67						
	BALANCE	7,376,723.79						
	Balance in District Treasury	7,812,612.36 *						
	Outstanding warrants	435,681.60						
	BALANCE	7,376,930.76						
	VOIDED CHECKS	206.97						
		7,376,723.79						

Activity Fund Balance Report - Summary - Exclude Encumbrances

06/2025 - 06/2025

Regular; Beginning Month 06/2025; Processing Month 06/2025; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund
Balance Account 147 Records Selected; Fund Number 05

Fund: 05 Activity Fund

<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Balance Change</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05 704 0001	VARSITY FOOTBALL BALANCE	(8,574.30)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(8,574.30)
05 704 0002	9TH FOOTBALL BALANCE	(2,513.59)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,513.59)
05 704 0003	7-8 FOOTBALL BALANCE	(2,274.66)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,274.66)
05 704 0004	VARSITY BBB BALANCE	(2,231.86)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,231.86)
05 704 0005	9TH BBB BALANCE	(340.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(340.00)
05 704 0006	7-8 GBB BALANCE	1,439.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,439.00
05 704 0007	7-8 BBB BALANCE	911.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	911.25
05 704 0008	VARSITY B TRACK BALANCE	(615.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(615.00)
05 704 0009	NC INVITATIONAL TRACK BALANCE	4,698.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,698.31
05 704 0010	TRAVELING GIRLS BB BALANCE	3,220.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,220.89
05 704 0011	7-8 TRACK BALANCE	(819.80)	125.00	25.00	0.00	(919.80)
05 704 0012	VARSITY WRESTLING BALANCE	(69.37)	1,590.00	0.00	0.00	(1,659.37)
05 704 0013	7-8 WRESTLING BALANCE	1,079.16	0.00	150.00	0.00	1,229.16
05 704 0014	CROSS COUNTRY BALANCE	(762.18)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(762.18)
05 704 0015	VARSITY GIRLS TRACK BALANCE	(312.70)	260.21	0.00	0.00	(572.91)
05 704 0016	VARSITY GBB BALANCE	(2,912.05)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(2,912.05)
05 704 0017	9TH GBB BALANCE	(325.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(325.00)
05 704 0018	VARSITY VOLLEYBALL BALANCE	705.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	705.53
05 704 0019	9TH VOLLEYBALL BALANCE	(125.67)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(125.67)
05 704 0020	7-8 VOLLEYBALL BALANCE	1,620.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,620.74
05 704 0021	BOYS TENNIS BALANCE	2,156.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,156.32
05 704 0022	GIRLS TENNIS BALANCE	176.48	60.83	0.00	0.00	115.65
05 704 0023	UNIFIED ACTIVITIES	1,406.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,406.03
05 704 0024	GOLF BALANCE	181.46	0.00	220.00	0.00	401.46
05 704 0025	FFA BALANCE	12,128.22	673.00	165.00	0.00	11,620.22
05 704 0026	FCCLA BALANCE	9,825.74	0.00	500.00	0.00	10,325.74
05 704 0027	PIONNER YOUTH BOYS BASKETBALL BALANCE	126.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	126.24
05 704 0028	NS BOOK FUND BALANCE	(3,440.83)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(3,440.83)
05 704 0029	SINGERS BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0030	MUSICAL BALANCE	9,283.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,283.20
05 704 0031	DECA BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0032	MS CONCESSIONS BALANCE	3,020.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,020.75
05 704 0033	MS STUDENT FEES	7,605.88	0.00	64.00	0.00	7,669.88
05 704 0034	HS POP MONEY BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0035	MS POP BALANCE	2,545.22	0.00	196.00	0.00	2,741.22
05 704 0036	HS BAND RESALE BALANCE	(331.19)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(331.19)

Activity Fund Balance Report - Summary - Exclude Encumbrances

06/2025 - 06/2025

Regular; Beginning Month 06/2025; Processing Month 06/2025; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund
Balance Account 147 Records Selected; Fund Number 05

Fund: 05 Activity Fund

<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Balance Change</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05 704 0037	MS BAND RESALE BALANCE	3,502.30	0.00	115.00	0.00	3,617.30
05 704 0038	MS WRESTLING CLUB BALANCE	3,206.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,206.91
05 704 0039	PIONEER FOOTBALL BALANCE	3,770.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,770.62
05 704 0040	WEIGHTLIFTING BALANCE	421.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	421.95
05 704 0041	MS TRACK CLUB BALANCE	483.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	483.77
05 704 0042	CHILDRENS CHOIR BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0043	HW BOOK FUND BALANCE	1,542.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,542.61
05 704 0044	WRESTLING MATMAIDS BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0045	CHEERLEADERS BALANCE	(3,780.45)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(3,780.45)
05 704 0046	CLASS OF 2027 BALANCE	1,267.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,267.24
05 704 0047	MS BAND TRIP BALANCE	974.00	945.00	0.00	0.00	29.00
05 704 0048	SPEECH CONTEST BALANCE	2,289.05	1,928.74	298.94	0.00	659.25
05 704 0049	DRAMA ACTIVITY BALANCE	1,358.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,358.81
05 704 0050	MS STUDENT COUNCIL BALANCE	11,138.48	0.00	77.33	0.00	11,215.81
05 704 0051	HS STUDENT COUNCIL BALANCE	2,800.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,800.68
05 704 0052	JOURNALISM BALANCE	8,615.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,615.30
05 704 0053	BIG MAC MATH BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0054	ART CLUB BALANCE	1,460.81	0.00	103.00	0.00	1,563.81
05 704 0055	CONSTRUCTION CLASS BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0056	NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY BALANCE	(634.05)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(634.05)
05 704 0057	DISTRICT ACTIVITY FUND BALANCE	31,466.54	20,000.00	4,935.50	0.00	16,402.04
05 704 0058	HS BAND ACTIVITY BALANCE	1,638.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,638.18
05 704 0059	6TH GRADE BAND BALANCE	(985.68)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(985.68)
05 704 0060	HS BOOK SALES BALANCE	4,330.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,330.27
05 704 0061	HS SCIENCE GRANT BALANCE	2.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.02
05 704 0063	MS QUIZ BOWL BALANCE	291.00	114.94	0.00	0.00	176.06
05 704 0064	HS SCIENCE CLUB BALANCE	543.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	543.85
05 704 0065	HS COLOR GUARD BALANCE	(1,462.58)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,462.58)
05 704 0066	HS METALS BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0067	MS HOME EC. LAB BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0068	HS CONCESSIONS BALANCE	20,576.99	22.23	0.00	0.00	20,554.76
05 704 0069	PRECORDERS BALANCE	496.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	496.93
05 704 0070	VARSITY CLUB BALANCE	14,600.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,600.19
05 704 0071	WELLNESS BALANCE	11,598.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	11,598.63
05 704 0072	DRIVER EDUCATION BALANCE	12,119.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,119.78
05 704 0073	MS SHOP ACTIVITY BALANCE	1,525.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,525.31

Activity Fund Balance Report - Summary - Exclude Encumbrances

06/2025 - 06/2025

Regular; Beginning Month 06/2025; Processing Month 06/2025; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund
Balance Account 147 Records Selected; Fund Number 05

Fund: 05 Activity Fund

<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Balance Change</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05 704 0075	SPECIAL EQUIPMENT BALANCE	(2,746.00)	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	(12,746.00)
05 704 0077	HS GOLF FUNDRAISING	621.25	101.80	0.00	0.00	519.45
05 704 0078	HS WRESTLING FUNDRAISER	2,690.25	1,780.00	0.00	0.00	910.25
05 704 0079	HORTICULTURE BALANCE	603.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	603.27
05 704 0082	NC DRUG FEE BALANCE	221.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	221.10
05 704 0083	ATHLETIC TRAINER SUPPLIES BALANCE	(19.07)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(19.07)
05 704 0084	MS SCIENCE BOWL BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0085	HW PURPLE JAM BALANCE	500.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.32
05 704 0086	SUMMER SB LEAGUE BALANCE	(16.75)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(16.75)
05 704 0087	HAYWARD FUNDRAISER BALANCE	2,365.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,365.97
05 704 0088	MS BOOK SALES BALANCE	(2,063.71)	0.00	159.56	0.00	(1,904.15)
05 704 0090	VOLLEYBALL CLUB BALANCE	96.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	96.76
05 704 0091	GIRLS SOCCER CLUB BALANCE	4,474.46	1,249.67	0.00	0.00	3,224.79
05 704 0092	CLASS OF 2028 BALANCE	309.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	309.28
05 704 0093	FBLA BALANCE	189.16	0.00	88.80	0.00	277.96
05 704 0094	HS SHOP RESALE BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0095	HS ENGLISH BALANCE	291.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	291.86
05 704 0096	PIONEER PERKS BALANCE	585.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	585.13
05 704 0097	NS FUNDRAISER BALANCE	1,737.82	(550.00)	0.00	0.00	2,287.82
05 704 0098	BBB SUMMER LEAGUE BALANCE	3,954.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,954.17
05 704 0099	DISTRICT WELLNESS BALANCE	3,824.97	700.00	0.00	0.00	3,124.97
05 704 0100	HW DARE BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0101	PIONEER CROSS COUNTRY BALANCE	831.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	831.98
05 704 0103	DISTRICT II MUSIC CONTEST BALANCE	633.54	0.00	0.00	0.00	633.54
05 704 0104	HS SCIENCE SCHOLARSHIP BALANCE	251.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	251.51
05 704 0105	B&G SOCCER BALANCE	(2,181.29)	180.00	0.00	0.00	(2,361.29)
05 704 0106	BOYS TENNIS CLUB BALANCE	(219.34)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(219.34)
05 704 0107	GIRLS GOLF BALANCE	(1,927.06)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,927.06)
05 704 0108	EXPRESSIONS BALANCE	5,623.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,623.74
05 704 0109	FB JERSEYS BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0110	MS VOCAL BALANCE	190.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	190.00
05 704 0111	HS SPED BALANCE	1,289.87	51.18	0.00	0.00	1,238.69
05 704 0112	SUMMER GBB BALANCE	1,808.83	1,542.50	755.00	0.00	1,021.33
05 704 0115	GIRLS TENNIS CLUB BALANCE	(1,246.21)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,246.21)
05 704 0116	STUDENT FEE DONATION BALANCE	707.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	707.00
05 704 0117	BOYS SOCCER CLUB BALANCE	3,291.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,291.04

Activity Fund Balance Report - Summary - Exclude Encumbrances

06/2025 - 06/2025

Regular; Beginning Month 06/2025; Processing Month 06/2025; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund
Balance Account 147 Records Selected; Fund Number 05

Fund: 05 Activity Fund

<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Balance Change</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05 704 0118	Girls Wrestling Club Balance	3,919.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,919.19
05 704 0119	WASHINGTON TRIP BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0121	CLASS OF 2026 BALANCE	450.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.90
05 704 0123	SOFTBALL BALANCE	2,156.73	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,156.73
05 704 0124	CD/INTEREST BALANCE	(7,387.80)	0.00	594.77	0.00	(6,793.03)
05 704 0125	BASEBALL BALANCE	(1,135.27)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(1,135.27)
05 704 0126	MUSIC TRIP BALANCE	1,247.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,247.70
05 704 0127	HAL BALANCE	370.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	370.46
05 704 0128	BASEBALL CLUB BALANCE	9,557.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,557.45
05 704 0129	CAREER & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0130	HS SOUND SYSTEM BALANCE	846.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	846.25
05 704 0131	SUMMER SCHOOL BALANCE	8,740.32	0.00	1,110.00	0.00	9,850.32
05 704 0132	HS ART FEES BALANCE	5,500.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,500.07
05 704 0133	HS SPANISH FEES BALANCE	274.72	0.00	4.00	0.00	278.72
05 704 0134	MS FCS BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0135	MS ART FEES BALANCE	2,494.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,494.96
05 704 0136	MS IT FEES BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0137	HS FOOD FEES BALANCE	1,560.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,560.42
05 704 0138	COLLEGE TUITION FEES BALANCE	735.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	735.17
05 704 0139	MATH TECHNOLOGY BALANCE	2,149.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,149.35
05 704 0140	Education Quest	12,170.74	1,617.51	0.00	0.00	10,553.23
05 704 0141	CO BALANCE	27,281.44	10,824.60	(0.01)	0.00	16,456.83
05 704 0144	PIONEER PETE BALANCE	3,074.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,074.02
05 704 0145	HS TRACK CLUB BALANCE	317.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	317.28
05 704 0148	MS PIONEER HONOR SOCIETY BALANCE	1,685.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,685.88
05 704 0150	MS VOLLEYBALL CLUB BALANCE	569.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	569.53
05 704 0152	ACTIVITY ADMIN. BALANCE	5,695.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,695.31
05 704 0153	ROBOTICS BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0155	MS ROBOTICS BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0157	TECHNOLOGY BALANCE	52,687.56	0.00	163.36	0.00	52,850.92
05 704 0158	MS LIFE SKILLS BALANCE	3,529.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,529.99
05 704 0159	CA CONSTRUCTION BALANCE	6,467.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	6,467.34
05 704 0160	CLASS OF 2025 BALANCE	(401.88)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(401.88)
05 704 0161	CA WELDING BALANCE	801.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	801.34
05 704 0162	CA-INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BALANCE	600.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.59
05 704 0163	YOUTH TENNIS CLUB BALANCE	747.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	747.30

Activity Fund Balance Report - Summary - Exclude Encumbrances

06/2025 - 06/2025

Regular; Beginning Month 06/2025; Processing Month 06/2025; Accounts to Include Accounts with Activity; Fund
Balance Account 147 Records Selected; Fund Number 05

Fund: 05 Activity Fund

<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Balance Change</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05 704 0164	JAG BALANCE	431.61	0.00	0.00	0.00	431.61
05 704 0165	ESPORTS BALANCE	854.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	854.63
05 704 0166	TURF AND DIRT BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fund Total: 05		346,308.83	53,217.21	9,725.25	0.00	302,816.87

		7/1/2025	Board Meeting Mileage Sheet							
DATE										
PURCHASED	YEAR	TRADE NAME	STYLE	NUMBER	BODY TYPE	CAPACITY	VEHICLE ID#	CYLINDERS	LICENSE #	MILEAGE
11/19/2007	2007	FORD	VAN	WHITE	ECONOLINE	10	1FBNE31L27DA62220	8	53028	204514
1/4/2008	2007	CHEVY	VAN	TAN	ES UPLANDER	7	1GNDV23107D159355	6	51495	184736
6/26/2018	2013	FORD	PICKUP	RED	F150	5	1FTFW1EF1DKF26059	8	58436	147930
7/20/2009	2008	CHEVY	VAN	WHITE	UPLANDER LS	7	1GNDV23118D104608	6	55997	171581
7/22/2009	2008	CHEVY	VAN	RED	UPLANDER LS	7	1GNDV23128D130117	6	51678	196849
8/17/2009	2001	CHEVY	VAN	WHITE	EXPRESS	2	1GCHG35R111152386	6	51494	115256
9/23/2009	2009	FORD	VAN	WHITE	ECONOLINE	10	1FBNE31LX9DA54328	6	53021	97221
11/16/2012	2011	DODGE VAN	VAN	SILVER	GRAND CARAVAN	5	2D4RN3DG9BR628362	6	56540	180261
12/17/2021	2016	CHEVY	SPED BUS	YELLOW	MICRO BIRD	13	1GB3G3BG5F1127886	8	60892	83222
4/25/2022	2014	DODGE VAN	VAN	NAVY	GRAND CARAVAN	6	2C4RDGBG4ER353286	6	60384	98962
6/2022	2019	DODGE VAN (SPED)	VAN	WHITE	GRAND CARAVAN	6	2C4RDGBG6HR735999	6	60884	42190
5/2022	2013	CHEVY VAN	VAN	WHITE	EXPRESS	10	1GAWGPFA7D1176079	6	60382	39205
12/2022	2019	DODGE VAN (Activity)	VAN	WHITE	GRAND CARAVAN	6	2C4RDGEG1KR739509	6	60890	91605
11/1/2023	2021	NISSAN VAN	VAN	SILVER	VAN	10	5BZAF0AA8MN850607	6	60902	73578
11/2023	2023	CHEVY	TRUCK	WHITE	2500 HD	3	1GC0YLE70PF209343	8	60898	20735
12/2023	2023	FORD	VAN	WHITE	TRANSIT	10	1FBAX2C89PKB95953	8	62998	8660
7/2024	2024	FORD	SUV	BLACK	EXPEDITION	6	1FMJK1J83REA51268	8	68001	8967
7/2024	2019	DODGE VAN	VAN	DARK GRAY	GRAND CARAVAN	6	2C4RDGEG2KR571430	6	56539	74226

2025 NASB LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE THROUGH EVALUATION AND REFLECTION



SUCCESS

WORK

BRAINSTORM

CONCEPT

IDEA

JULY 28 - GERING
JULY 29 - KEARNEY
JULY 30 - LINCOLN

LEARN MORE & REGISTER AT www.NASBonline.org

Target Audience: Board Members and Superintendents

2025 NASB LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE THROUGH EVALUATION & REFLECTION

REGISTER NOW FOR THE 2025 NASB LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

MONDAY, JULY 28 - GERING CIVIC CENTER

TUESDAY JULY 29 - KEARNEY HOLIDAY INN

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30 - COURTYARD MARRIOTT LINCOLN

Registration Deadline - Wednesday, July 23

Whether you are in your first term or bring years of experience to the board table, this workshop is for you and your superintendent.

Join us for a hands-on workshop designed to elevate your board's leadership through effective superintendent evaluation and meaningful board self-assessment.

Newly elected? Receive an understanding of your legal responsibilities and how evaluation processes shape strong governance from the start.

Experienced board member? Refine practices, bring clarity to superintendent evaluation, and deepen your board's collective impact.

Superintendent? Collaborate with your board in shaping an evaluation process that incorporates your input, reflects your professional goals, and defines what you need from the board to lead effectively.

TO REGISTER

Go to www.NASBonline.org, and log in using your email and password. If you do not have an email and password to log in or have forgotten it, please contact NASB at 402-423-4951 for assistance.

Registration fees for each event are as follows:

Member Registration	\$89
Cancellation Fee	\$25

Registration Deadline - Wednesday, July 23, 2025
No refunds after the deadline. No non-member attendees.

15 AWARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT POINTS WILL BE EARNED FOR ATTENDING



2025 NASB LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS

STRENGTHENING GOVERNANCE THROUGH EVALUATION & REFLECTION

AGENDA

We will discuss and address:

- Board's legal responsibility to evaluate
- Contents of an effective evaluation tool
- Importance of a superintendent self-evaluation
- Value and role of all board members in the process
- How to turn the results into goals to improve student success
- Importance of board self-assessment
- Impact of effective board governance on superintendent leadership
- Value of board goals to support superintendent and student success

Leave with the resources and shared understanding needed to strengthen governance, enhance board-superintendent collaboration, and support long-term student success.

Strengthening Governance Through Evaluation & Reflection

Stacie Higgins, NASB Board Leadership Associate
Marcia Herring, NASB Director of Board Leadership
Troy Loeffelholz, NCSA

4:30 PM - Registration

5:00 PM - Welcome and Workshop Takeaways

5:15 PM - The Why Behind Evaluation

6:00 PM - Dinner Break

6:30 PM - Conducting an Effective Superintendent Evaluation

7:15 PM - Board Self-Assessment—Why It Matters

8:00 PM - Closing: From Reflection to Action

See the full agenda at

<https://members.nasbonline.org/events/nasb-leadership-workshop>





1311 STOCKWELL STREET
LINCOLN, NE 68502
WWW.NASBONLINE.ORG

NASBonline.org

WORK
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IDEA





July 2, 2025

Mark Fritch
Nebraska City Public Schools
1700 14th Avenue
Nebraska City, NE 68410

Dear Supt. Fritch,

I hope this letter finds you well and in great anticipation of the 25/26 school year. I am optimistic about what we can accomplish - together - in the coming year.

As part of my vision for working together I have determined the continued need to have a great way to provide information to the field - AND - get feedback from the field. This letter is to ask you to be a part of that process. Please consider this invitation to be a part of the Commissioner's Superintendent Advisory Council for the 2025-2026 school year. The information below outlines the purpose, objectives, and approximate meeting commitments. I ask that you commit to coming to the meetings in person.

Purpose

The purpose of the Commissioner's Superintendent Advisory Council is to provide an opportunity for the Nebraska Commissioner of Education to dialogue with school leaders across the state on topics of education policy and practice. The council will serve as a sounding board for the Commissioner.

Objectives

1. For the Commissioner of Education to share information, problem solve, and dialogue on regional and statewide education matters with school leaders.
2. For school leaders to share information, problem solve, and dialogue on regional and statewide education matters with the Commissioner.

Participants

I have identified 33 individuals to serve on the Council. This includes superintendents and ESU administrators. I have worked to ensure representation of different school sizes as well as geographic representation.

Meeting Dates/Times/Locations

The Council will meet at quarterly with the first meeting to take place September 15, 2025 in Hershey. Meetings will be scheduled for approximately 4 hours in length. The remaining three meeting dates will be:

- November 19, 2025 – In Omaha in alignment with the State Education Conference
- January 22, 2026 – Lincoln
- April 27, 2026 – Lincoln

Please note that I am not only asking for your time – I am asking that your local district/ESU will reimburse you for expenses incurred while involved with the Council.

Once you have considered the request to join the Council, please confirm your acceptance (or your regrets) with Brian Leisy in my office. You can reach him at brian.leisy@nebraska.gov.

I truly believe this group will continue to keep the Commissioner - and the NDE - grounded in what is happening in the field. I need your help - and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian L. Maher". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brian" and last name "Maher" clearly legible.

Brian L. Maher, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

5001.R1
Collaborative Plan Addressing Barriers to Attendance

Student Name: _____ Student Grade: _____

Building Assignment: _____

Classroom/Homeroom Teacher: _____

Number of student absences at time of meeting: _____

What are the primary reasons the student has been absent:

Based on that information, meeting participants considered the following issues:

- Illness related to physical, mental or behavioral health of the child
- Educational Counseling
- Referral to community agencies for economic services
- Family or individual counseling
- Assisting the family in working with other community services
- Referral to restorative justice practices or services
- Referral to student assistance team for possible Section 504 or IDEA eligibility
- Other: _____

Attendance Plan

Based on the above considerations, this attendance plan will be put into place:

Steps to be taken by school staff:

Steps to be taken by student:

Steps to be taken by parent/guardian:

Steps to be taken by third parties:

Parent/Guardian*: _____

Student: _____

Attendance Officer: _____

Social Worker or School Administrator: _____

Other (indicate title): _____

Other (indicate title): _____

Other (indicate title): _____

Other (indicate title): _____

Notice to family: Nebraska law requires students to be in attendance at school each day that such school is open and in session, except when excused by school authorities or when illness or severe weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable. Nebraska law also requires school officials to investigate any possible violation of this requirement. ***Please note that if your student accrues more absences than are allowed by the board of education's policy, the school district may refer the child to the county attorney for action under Neb. Rev. Stat. § 43-247(3)(a) and (b).***

I have received a copy of this Plan, including the above notice:

Parent/Guardian*: _____

Student: _____

**If parents/guardians are not present at the meeting, please attach documentation showing that the school made reasonable efforts to invite the parents.*

5045 Student Fees

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

A. Definitions.

- 1.** "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.
- 2.** "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.
- 3.** "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

B. Listing of Fees Charged by this District.

1. Guidelines for Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.

Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.

2. Safety Equipment and Attire.

The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

3. Personal or Consumable Items.

The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.

4. Materials Required for Course Projects.

The district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for course materials shall be and may include:

Middle School:

Band \$10.00

6th Grade Exploratory classes \$10.00
(Art, I-tech/Woods, Computers)

7th Grade Exploratory classes \$10.00

(Art, I-tech/Woods, Computers)

8th Grade Exploratory classes \$25.00

(Art, Computers, I-tech/Woods--not to exceed \$15.00-additional cost for advanced projects)

High School:

- Spanish 1 - \$2.00
- Human Anatomy & Physiology - \$5.00
- Intro to Industrial Technology - \$20.00
- Woods 1 & 2 - \$10.00
- Construction Academy 1 & 2 - \$20.00
- Drafting 1 & 2 - \$10.00
- Welding 1, 2 & 3 - \$20.00
- Welding Academy 1 & 2 - \$20.00
- Foods 1, 2 & 3 - \$20.00
- Textiles 1, 2 & 3 - project materials
- Art 1 - \$5.00
- Art 2 & 3/4 - \$15.00
- Sculpture - \$15.00
- Ceramics - \$5.00
- Photography - \$20.00
- Singers- \$ 14.00
- Band - \$30.00 (marching shoes and instrument repair)

5. Technological Devices

The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. To the extent that a student is not required by the district's curriculum to utilize a device off district property, the district may charge students a convenience fee to take the device off district property. The maximum dollar amount of this convenience fee charged by the district will be \$25.00.

As with all school property, students may be charged for damage to such devices. To protect against such potential losses, students and parents may, but are not required, to purchase insurance coverage for the devices. The maximum dollar amount of this insurance coverage facilitated by the district will be \$25.00.

Additionally, the district may allow students to purchase technological devices by arranging for the students to purchase these devices through a single, or series of, payments.

6. Extracurricular Activities.

The district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student activity card \$35 (covers admission to all extracurricular events)
- Future/Career Community Leaders (FCCLA). Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00, Peer Education Retreat \$30.00, State Leadership Conference \$250, National Leadership Conference \$1,250.00.
- Letterman's Club – Annual dues not to exceed \$25.00.
- National Honor Society – Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00.
- Spanish Club – Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00.
- Science Club – Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00.
- Cheerleading, dance team, drill team, flag corps. Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the school district for these items will be \$800.00.
- Football. Students must provide their own football shoes and undergarments.
- Golf. Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs.
- Softball and baseball. Students must provide their own shoes, gloves, and undergarments.

- Track, volleyball, wrestling and basketball. Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments.
- Future Farmers of America – Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00, State Leadership Conference \$250, National Leadership Conference \$1,250.00

7. Post-Secondary Education Costs.

Some students enroll in postsecondary courses while still enrolled in the district's high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who chose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution.

8. Transportation Costs.

The district will charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the district to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

The maximum dollar amount of the transportation fee charged by this district shall be \$130.

9. Copies of Student Files or Records.

The district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

The district will charge a fee of \$0.10 per page for reproduction of student records.

10. Participation in Before-and-After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-and-after school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

11. Participation in Summer School or Night School.

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for summer and night school shall be \$250.00.

12. Charges for Food Consumed by Students.

The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

- Breakfast Program – Grades K-5
 - o Regular Price \$2.25
 - o Reduced Price \$.35
- Breakfast Program – Grades 6-12
 - o Regular Price \$2.25
 - o Reduced Price \$.35
- Lunch Program – Grades K-5
 - o Regular Price \$3.25
 - o Reduced Price \$.45
- Lunch Program – Grades 6-12
 - o Regular Price \$3.50
 - o Reduced Price \$.45

13. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.

Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. For musical extracurricular activities, the school district will require students to provide the following equipment and/or attire:

- Band: Students must provide their own instruments and marching band shoes, which must be white, rubber-soled sneakers
- Swing Choir: Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be \$1,000.00

14. Contributions for Junior and Senior Class Extracurricular Activities.

Students are eligible to participate in a number of unique extracurricular activities during their last two years in high school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities. The suggested donation to the class fund will be \$10.00 to \$50.00 per year.

C. Waiver Policy.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Actual participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal.

D. Distribution of Policy.

This policy will be published in the Student Handbook or its equivalent that will be provided to students at no cost.

E. Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

The district will, when appropriate, request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements and staff members of the district are directed to clearly communicate that fact to students, parents and patrons.

F. Fund-Raising Activities

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extracurricular activities in which they participate. Students who decline to participate in fund-raising activities are not eligible under this policy for waiver of the costs or fees which the fund-raising activity was meant to defray.

G. Student Fee Fund.

The school board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund that will not be funded by tax revenue, and that will serve a depository for all monies collected from students for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school courses. Monies in the Student Fee Fund shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected from students.

Adopted on: December 21, 2016

Revised on: July 10, 2017; June 11, 2018; July 13, 2020; July 12, 2021, July 11, 2022; July 10, 2023; July 8, 2024

Reviewed on:

5054 Student Bullying

Definition of Bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as “any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The District’s administrators are authorized to use both of these definitions to determine whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

Bullying Prohibited. Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying behavior.

Reporting Bullying. Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Bullying Investigations. School district staff will investigate allegations of bullying using the same practices and procedures that the district observes for student disciplinary matters. In no circumstance will school district staff be deliberately indifferent to allegations of bullying.

Disciplinary Consequences. The disciplinary consequences for bullying behavior will depend on the frequency, duration, severity and effect of the behavior.

A student who engages in bullying behavior on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or his or her designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events may be subject to disciplinary consequences including but not limited to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

Without limiting the foregoing, a student who engages in bullying behavior that materially and substantially interferes with or disrupts the educational environment, the district’s day-to-day operations, or the education process, regardless of where the student is at the time

of engaging in the bullying behavior, may be subject to discipline to the extent permitted by law.

Bullying Based on Protected Class Status. Bullying based on protected class status is unique and may require additional investigation. The appropriate district staff member or coordinator will promptly investigate bullying complaints that violate the district's anti discrimination policies.

Support for Students Who Have Experienced Bullying. Regardless of where the bullying occurred, the district will consider whether victims of bullying are suffering an adverse educational impact and, if appropriate, will refer those students to the district's student assistance team.

Bullying Prevention and Education. Students and parents are encouraged to inform teachers or administrators orally or in writing about bullying behavior or suspected bullying behavior. School employees are required to inform the administrator of all such reports. The appropriate administrator shall promptly investigate all such reports. Each building shall engage in activities that educate students about bullying, bullying prevention and digital citizenship.

Policy Review. The school district shall review this policy annually.

Adopted on: December 21, 2016

Revised on: June 11, 2018; July 13, 2020

Reviewed on: July 12, 2021; July 11, 2022; July 10, 2023; July 8, 2024

5057

District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The school district will jointly develop with parents a School-Parent-Student Compact that outlines how the parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

The written District Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be jointly developed and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and to remove barriers to participation.

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.
2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.
3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities such as training to help parents work with their children to

improve achievement. A goal of parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.

4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.
5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.
6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.
7. Educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

This policy shall be reviewed annually at the annual meeting where concerned parties can have a conversation about possible changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Adopted on: December 21, 2016

Revised on: June 11, 2018

Reviewed on: July 13, 2020; July 12, 2021; July 11, 2022; July 10, 2023; July 8, 2024

3047 Data Breach Response

I. Preparation

A data breach is an instance in which personal information as defined by state law or personally identifiable information as defined by federal law is released or accessed in an unauthorized manner. The district will implement and maintain reasonable security procedures and practices that are appropriate to the nature and sensitivity of the personal information handled by the district. In order to ensure compliance with state and federal law; in the event of a breach the following preparatory steps shall be taken.

A. Data Governance

The superintendent, or their designee, will create an annually updated data directory that will include:

1. Computing devices purchased by the district,
2. Software that is installed on district devices,
3. Approved vendors/contractors that have access to personal information or personally identifiable information,
4. Staff members with access to district devices,
5. Staff members with active usernames and passwords for any district software.

B. New Devices and Software

Any new software or device that is used in a district building for district purposes will be submitted to the superintendent or their designee for inclusion in the directory.

II. Incident Response Plan

A. Assessment and Investigation

1. If the District becomes aware of a data breach it will make every reasonable effort to remedy the cause of the breach as soon as possible.

2. The District will contact its cyber or relevant data breach insurance provider in the event of a suspected breach.
3. The District will conduct a good faith, reasonable, and prompt investigation to determine the likelihood that personal information has been or will be used for an unauthorized purpose.
4. This investigation will include, but not be limited to, an assessment of what software, hardware, and physical documents were accessed; which District personnel had access to the compromised data; and what specific data was compromised.

B. Notification of Effected Individuals

1. If the investigation determines that the use of information about a Nebraska resident for an unauthorized purpose has occurred or is reasonably likely to occur, the district shall give notice to the affected Nebraska resident.
2. Notice shall be made as soon as possible and without unreasonable delay, consistent with the legitimate needs of law enforcement and consistent with any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach and to restore the reasonable integrity of the computerized data system.

C. Notification of Law Enforcement and Outside Organizations

1. Should notice of the breach be required to any individual, notice of the breach will be simultaneously sent to the Nebraska Attorney General's office.
2. The Superintendent will determine if the Family Policy Compliance Office will be notified of the breach.
3. The Superintendent will determine if the Privacy Technical Assistance Center will be notified of the breach.

Adopted on: July 10, 2017

Revised on: June 11, 2018
Reviewed on: November 14, 2022

3057

Title IX Policy

As required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, it is the policy of the school district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of the school district's programs or activities, or in regards to admission or employment. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. This report may be made by any means to the district's Title IX Coordinator, who can be contacted at **Nebraska City Public Schools Central Office, 1700 14th Ave, Nebraska City NE 68410, 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org**. Any other inquiries regarding the application of this policy should be referred to the Title IX Coordinator.

Definitions. As used in this policy, the following terms are defined as follows:

- **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- **Formal complaint** means a document or electronic submission filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment and requesting that the district investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. At the time of filing a formal complaint with the district, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the district's education program or activity.
- **Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.
- **Consent** for purposes of this policy means the willingness in fact for conduct to occur. An individual may, as a result of age, incapacity, disability, lack of information, or other circumstances be incapable of providing consent to some or all sexual conduct or activity. Neither verbal nor physical resistance is required to establish that an individual did not consent. District officials will consider the totality of the circumstances in determining whether there was consent for any specific conduct. Consent may be revoked or withdrawn at any time.
- **Sexual harassment** means conduct on the basis of sex where (1) An employee of the district conditions the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the district on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct; (2) An individual experiences unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies the person equal access to the district's education program or activity; (3) An individual

experiences a sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking as further defined below. Any report of conduct not meeting these definitions will not require the grievance procedure described in this policy.

- **Sexual assault**, as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), which means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:
 - **Sex Offenses, Forcible**—Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.
 - **Rape**—(Except Statutory Rape) The carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.
 - **Sodomy**—Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
 - **Sexual Assault With An Object**—To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
 - **Fondling**—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity
 - **Sex Offenses, Non-forcible**—(Except Prostitution Offenses) Unlawful, non-forcible sexual intercourse.

- **Incest**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law
 - **Statutory Rape**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent
- **Dating violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(10), which means violence committed by a person—
 - who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
 - where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - The length of the relationship.
 - The type of relationship.
 - The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
- **Domestic violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(8), which includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person's acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.
- **Stalking**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30), which means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—
 - fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or
 - suffer substantial emotional distress.
- **Supportive measures** are non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered without fee that do not unreasonably burden the parties. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services,

mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures.

Reporting Sexual Harassment. Any person who witnesses an act of unlawful sexual harassment is encouraged to report it to the district's Title IX Coordinator. district personnel will not retaliate against any individual based on any report of suspected sexual harassment. Any district employee who receives a report of sexual harassment or has actual knowledge of sexual harassment must convey that information to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no case later than the end of the following school day.

Response to Sexual Harassment

General Obligations. When the district has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, the district will respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. For the purposes of this policy "education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the district exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs. The district's ability to impose discipline for off-campus misconduct does not necessarily constitute "substantial control" over the respondent and the context. The district's response to an allegation of sex harassment will treat complainants and respondents equitably.

Limitations on Discipline. No respondent will have disciplinary sanctions imposed upon him/her until the conclusion of the formal grievance process described below.

Emergency Removal. Disciplinary sanctions do not include removal on an emergency basis where the respondent is an immediate threat to the health or safety of another as a result of allegations of sexual harassment. The district also may place any employee on administrative leave during the pendency of the grievance process below.

Grievance Process for Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment

General Obligations. All Title IX team members and individuals carrying out district obligations will comply with the regulatory requirements of objective evaluations, avoiding conflict of interest or bias, training, and protection of legally privileged information.

Presumption. It is presumed that the respondent is not responsible for the

alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

Grievance Procedure

Time Frames. The district will resolve grievances in a time frame that is reasonably prompt. Good cause for delay may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.

Range of Possible Sanctions and Remedies. At the conclusion of the grievance process, the district may impose disciplinary sanctions and remedies in conformance with this and the district's student discipline policy, and other state and federal laws. Depending upon the circumstances, these policies provide for disciplinary sanctions and remedies up to and including expulsion and/or immediate discharge from employment.

Separation of Roles. The decision-maker cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s).

Notice of Allegations. Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the district will provide notice of this policy and the allegations to all parties. The notice will include sufficient details known by the district at that time to provide sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details, if known by the district, include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident. The district will provide notice of additional allegations revealed during an investigation to the parties.

Dismissal of Formal Complaint. The district **must** dismiss a formal complaint if the conduct alleged in the formal complaint, would not constitute sexual harassment even if proven; did not occur in the district's education program or activity; or if the conduct alleged did not occur against a person in the United States.

The district **may** dismiss the formal complaint if, at any time during the investigation or hearing, the complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein; the respondent is no longer enrolled in or employed by the district; or specific circumstances prevent the district from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

Upon a dismissal, the district will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and an explanation of that action simultaneously to the parties.

Dismissal of a formal complaint under this policy does not preclude the district from taking action under another provision of the district's code of conduct or pursuant to another district policy.

Investigation of Formal Complaint. When investigating a formal complaint and throughout the grievance process, the district will designate and authorize one or more persons (which need not be district employees) as investigator(s) to conduct the district's investigation of a formal complaint. The district may consolidate formal complaints where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances.

The district will bear the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility. All parties will have an equal opportunity to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. The district may not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence.

All parties will have the same opportunity to be accompanied by the advisor of their choice in any meeting or grievance proceeding. This policy does not relieve the advisor of choice of any other applicable legal obligations or limitations. The district may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties.

The district will provide written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all investigative interviews or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate.

All parties will have an equal opportunity to inspect and review evidence obtained as part of the investigation if that evidence is directly related to the allegations raised in a formal complaint. The parties will have no less than 10 calendar days to review the evidence and submit a response. The investigative report will fairly summarize the relevant evidence and the investigator will send the finalized report to all parties and their advisors.

Determination Regarding Responsibility. Before the district reaches a determination regarding responsibility, each party may submit written, relevant questions of any party or witness. The decision-maker will provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's

sexual predisposition are never relevant. Questions about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are only relevant if those questions and evidence are offered (1) to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or (2) are offered to prove consent and concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent. If the decision-maker decides to exclude a question because it is not relevant, he/she will explain the basis for that decision.

The decision-maker will issue a written determination regarding responsibility no sooner than ten days after the parties receive the final investigative report. The decision-maker will apply the preponderance of the evidence standard. The written determination will include:

- Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment;
- A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, and methods used to gather other evidence;
- Findings of fact supporting the determination;
- Conclusions regarding the application of the district's code of conduct to the facts;
- A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the district imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity will be provided by the district to the complainant; and
- The district's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.

The district will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously. If neither party timely appeals, the determination becomes final. If a party appeals, the determination will become final on the date that the district provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal.

Appeals. The district will offer both parties the opportunity to appeal from a

determination regarding responsibility, and from the district's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the grounds identified below.

Time for Appeal. Appeals may only be initiated by submitting a written Notice of Appeal to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools no later than 5:00 pm on the fifth calendar day after the written determination is issued. The Notice of Appeal must include (a) the name of the party or parties making the appeal, (b) the determination, dismissal, or portion thereof being appealed, and (c) a concise statement of the specific grounds upon which the appeal is based. A party's failure to timely submit a Notice of Appeal will be deemed a waiver of the party's right to appeal.

Grounds for Appeal. Appeals are limited to the following grounds:

- Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;
- New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination or dismissal was made that could affect the outcome of the matter; and
- The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decision-maker had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

The district will notify other parties in writing when an appeal is filed; implement appeal procedures equally for all parties; and ensure that the decision-maker for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator.

The district will give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement that supports or challenges the outcome; issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

Informal Resolution. The district may informally resolve allegations without completing the grievance procedure with the written consent of all parties. The process may not be used when allegations involve an employee harassing a student. As part of this process, the district will provide to the parties in writing a notice stating:

- the allegations;
- the requirements of the informal resolution process including the

circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations;

- that at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint; and
- any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared.

Recordkeeping. The district will maintain the following records for a period of seven years:

- Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed, and any remedies provided;
- Any appeal and its result;
- Any informal resolution and its result; and
- All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The district will make these training materials publicly available on its website, or if the district does not maintain a website, then the district will make these materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.

The district will also create records documenting any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, the district will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity. If the district does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the district will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the district in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken. The district will maintain these records for a period of seven years.

Retaliation Prohibited. Neither the district nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the

purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, 34 C.F.R. part 106, or this policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. The district will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the FERPA statute, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 C.F.R. part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 C.F.R. part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to shall be addressed pursuant to Board Policy 2006 (Complaint Procedure).

The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation prohibited by this section. Charging an individual with a code of conduct violation for making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a grievance proceeding under this part does not constitute retaliation prohibited under this section, provided that a determination regarding responsibility alone is not sufficient to conclude that any party made a materially false statement in bad faith.

Notification of Policy. The district will notify applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district of the existence of this policy. The requirement to not discriminate, as stated in Title IX and 34 C.F.R. part 106, in the district's education program(s) or activities extends to admission and employment, and inquiries about the application of Title IX and 34 C.F.R. part 106 to the district may be referred to the district's Title IX Coordinator, the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights of the United States Department of Education, or both.

Publication of Policy. The district will prominently display on its website, if any, and in each handbook that it makes available to applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district, the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the employee or employees designated as the Title IX Coordinator(s).

Application Outside the United States. The requirements of this policy apply only to sex discrimination occurring against a person in the United States.

Scope of Policy. Nothing herein shall be construed to be more demanding or more constraining upon the district than the requirements of Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and 34 C.F.R. part 106. To the extent that the district is in compliance with Title IX and 34 C.F.R. part 106, then all of the district's obligations under this policy shall be deemed to be fulfilled and discharged.

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

2008 Meetings

The formation of policy is public business and will be conducted openly in accordance with the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

1. Types of Meetings

- a. The board shall hold its regular meetings on or before the third Monday of each month.
- b. Special and emergency meetings may be called as provided by law.
- c. The board may schedule work sessions and retreats in order to provide board members and administrators with the opportunity to plan, research, and engage in discussion.

2. Notice

The board shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each of its meetings, which generally will be 48 hours or more in advance of the meeting. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the board and to the public.

Publication Procedure if the Newspaper Will Be Finalized for Printing Prior to the Time and Date of the Meeting. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be (1) published in a newspaper of general circulation within the district that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (2) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (3) posting on a statewide website, *if available*, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers.

Publication Procedure if the Newspaper Will Not Be Finalized for Printing Prior to the Time and Date of the Meeting. Notice of regular and special meetings shall be (1) posting on the newspaper's website, if available, and (2) posting on a statewide website, *if available*, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the school district's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting.

Newspapers of general circulation in the district include the Nebraska City

News Press. Such notice shall contain a statement that the agenda shall be readily available for public inspection at the administration office of the school during the normal business hours. In addition, the superintendent is authorized, but not required, to publish the notice of any meeting on the school district's website, posting in three prominent places within the school district, or by any other appropriate method designated by the board.

In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to timely publish the notice, the school district will (1) post the notice on its website, if available, (2) **request the newspaper** submit a post on a statewide website, **if available**, established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (3) post the notice in a conspicuous public place in the school district's jurisdiction. The school district will keep a written record of the posting **and the written request to the newspaper**.

When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting, and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public no later than the end of the next regular business day.

3. Weather Delays

In the event of inclement weather which makes it dangerous or unreasonable for board members or members of the public to attend a meeting for which notice has already been given, such meeting may be postponed by the board president. The board will communicate the delay to members of the public by posting it on the district's website and by following the same communication protocol that the district follows when student attendance at school is called off due to inclement weather. When possible, the board president and superintendent will attempt to communicate the information to local media members and business owners to assist in notifying the public of the delay. Notice of the date, time, and location of the postponed meeting will be advertised as required in the "Notice" section above.

4. Minutes

- a. The board shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, the method(s) and date(s)

of the meeting notice, and the substance of all matters discussed.

- b. Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the board in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted, or if the member was absent or not voting.
- c. The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public record and shall be published on the school district's website within ten working days of the last meeting or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier. The minutes shall be available on the website for at least six months.

Adopted on: November 14, 2016

Revised on: July 10, 2017; November 9, 2020; June 13, 2022; June 10, 2024; December 9, 2024; **July 14, 2025**

Reviewed on: January 13, 2025

5001

Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism

Required Attendance

Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.

Mandatory Attendance Age

All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1 of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age.

Exceptions

This policy does not apply when mental or physical illness or severe weather conditions make attendance impossible or impracticable.

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students

The person seeking to discontinue the enrollment of a student who will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current school year shall submit a signed, written request to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district may request written verification or documentation that the person signing the form has legal or actual charge or control of the student. The school district shall discontinue the enrollment of any student who satisfies these requirements. Any student whose enrollment is discontinued under this subsection shall not be eligible to reenroll in this school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request and submit it to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.

Only children disenrolling to attend an exempt school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending exempt schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

Attendance Officer

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

Excused Absences

(This sample list is very liberal in what the school considers "excused." Schools that adopt this sample list will have very few students who accrue many "unexcused" absences. Boards may eliminate any of these categories of excused absence except for illness documented by a physician, suspension/expulsion and severe weather. Boards may also add additional requirements before an absence will be excused (e.g. require a funeral card to verify family funeral, etc.)

The following absences will be considered excused if they are confirmed by communication to the school from the student's parent/guardian:

1. Physical or mental illness of the student (a physician's verification is required after four (4) consecutive days of absence for illness)
2. Severe weather

3. Medical appointments for the student
4. Death or serious illness of the student's family member
5. Attending a funeral, wedding or graduation
6. Appearance at court or for other legal matters
7. Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith
8. College planning visits
9. Personal or family vacations
10. School Activities

Excessive Absenteeism

When a student receives 4 unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the Attendance Officer may send written notification of the student's total absences to the student's parent or guardian. When a student receives 8 unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any school year, the Attendance Officer will send written notification of the student's total absences to the student's parent or guardian and offer to meet with the student's parents or guardians to discuss any barriers to the student's attendance. When a student receives 16 unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any school year, the Attendance Officer will send written notification of the student's total absences to the student's parent or guardian and shall schedule a meeting with relevant stakeholders to discuss and address any barriers to the student's attendance, unless the Attendance Officer determines that such a meeting would not be productive in facilitating the student's regular attendance. will follow the attached procedure for addressing barriers to the student's attendance.

When a student is absent more than twenty days per year or the hourly equivalent and any portion of the absences is unexcused, the Attendance Officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. For example, if the student accumulates 23 days of excused absences due to documented illness and is tardy one time, the Attendance Officer may file a report with the appropriate county attorney.

Reviewed on: July 13, 2020, July 10, 2023; July 8, 2024

5001 Compulsory Attendance and Excessive Absenteeism Affidavit of Parent/Guardian

I, _____, am the parent or legal guardian of _____, and have legal authority to make education decisions regarding the student. My child resides in the Otoe County Public School District 66-0111, but will not be enrolled in and regularly attend a public, private, denominational, or parochial day school which meets the requirements for legal operation in chapter 79 of the Nebraska statutes at the commencement of the 20____ - 20____ school year.

I certify that the child was born on (date) _____, and will reach six years of age prior to January 1, 20____ but has not reached seven years of age. I intend for my child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect not to meet accreditation requirements on or before my child's seventh birthday. I will provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to subsection (3) of section 79-1601 before that date.

Printed Name of parent or guardian: _____

Relationship to Student: _____

Address:

Phone Number: () _____

Signature of parent or guardian: _____

Student's printed name: _____

COUNTY OF _____)
) ss.
 STATE OF NEBRASKA)

Signed in my presence and sworn to this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Notary Public

5002 Admission of Students

Students shall be admitted to the school district who are **required by law to be enrolled or are permitted to enroll by law or board policy.**

- ~~• legal residents of the school district or otherwise entitled by Nebraska law to attend the schools of the district tuition free;~~
- ~~• approved for option enrollment pursuant to policy;~~
- ~~• approved as foreign exchange students pursuant to policy;~~
- ~~• legal residents of a district that has contracted with this district for their educational services;~~
- ~~• statutorily entitled to attend the schools of the district on a part-time basis pursuant to policy; or~~
- ~~• out of state students who have been enrolled pursuant to policy.~~

Students who have been placed in a foster home within the school district are not residents of the district and will not be permitted to enroll unless the district has received a written determination from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services that it is in the best interests of the student not to attend his or her district of residence.

Except in adult education classes or when otherwise required by law, no student who is of 21 years of age or older, or who has earned a high school diploma or its equivalent will be allowed to be enrolled in or continue to attend school in the district.

Students who seek to enroll in the district must comply with each board policy, state statute and regulation that applies to their situation. Grade level placement will be determined in accordance with district policy.

Adopted on: December 21, 2016

Revised on: July 10, 2017; **July 14, 2025**

Reviewed on: September 12, 2022; May 12, 2025

5015

Protection of Pupil Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children, and has adopted this policy in consultation with parents to comply with the federal Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA).

1. Surveys

- a. Surveys Created by a Third Party
 - i. This section applies to every survey:
 - (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district staff member or student;
 - (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified; and
 - (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions
 - ii. Parents have the right to inspect any survey created by a third party before that survey is distributed to their student.
- b. Surveys Requesting Particular Sensitive Information
 - i. Sensitive information shall include:
 - (1) Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent(s);
 - (2) Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
 - (3) Sexual behavior or attitudes;
 - (4) Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - (5) Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - (6) Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers; physicians, and ministers;
 - (7) Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent(s); or
 - (8) Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program), without prior written consent of the parent or eligible student.
 - ii. No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation that requests sensitive information.

- iii. If a survey requesting sensitive information is funded, in whole or in part, by a program administered by the U.S. Department of Education, the school district must obtain the written consent of a student's parent(s) before the student participates in the survey.
 - iv. School officials and staff members shall not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey (created by any person or entity, including the district) containing any sensitive information.
 - v. Parents have the right to inspect any survey which requests sensitive information before that survey is distributed to their student.
 - c. Survey Inspection Requests
 - i. School officials shall inform parents of their right to inspect surveys requesting sensitive information before the surveys are distributed to any student.
 - ii. All survey inspection requests must be in writing to the building principal and delivered to the building principal prior to the date on which the survey is scheduled to be administered to the students.
 - iii. The principal shall respond to survey inspection requests without delay.
 - d. The district will also comply with any survey requirements found in the district's policy on Parent Involvement in Education Practices.
- d.

2. Invasive Physical Examinations

- a. The term "invasive physical examination" means:
 - i. any medical examination that involves the exposure of private body parts; or
 - ii. any act during such examination that includes incision, insertion, or injection into the body; and
 - iii. does not include a hearing, vision, or scoliosis screening.
- b. Parents may refuse to allow their student to participate in any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is:
 - i. required as a condition of attendance;
 - ii. administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and
 - iii. not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student, or of other students.

- c. This policy does not apply to any physical examination or screening that:
 - i. is permitted or required by an applicable state law, including physical examinations or screenings that are permitted without parental notification;
 - ii. is administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. §1400 *et seq.*)
 - iii. is otherwise authorized by Board policy.

3. Collection of Personal Information from Students for Marketing

- a. The term “personal information” means individually identifiable information including:
 - i. student’s and parent(s)’ first and last name;
 - ii. home or other physical address;
 - iii. telephone number; and/or
 - iv. social security number.
- b. No school official or staff member shall administer or distribute to students a survey or other instrument for the purpose of collecting personal information for marketing or for selling that information.
- c. This policy does not apply to the collection, disclosure or use of personal information for the exclusive purpose of providing educational services to students, such as the following:
 - i. post-secondary education recruitment;
 - ii. military recruitment;
 - iii. tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic or achievement information about students; and/or
 - iv. student recognition programs.

4. Inspection of Instructional Material

- a. Definition
 - i. The term “instructional materials” means instructional content that is provided to a student regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet).
 - ii. The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

- b. Parents may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's education curriculum.
- c. Curriculum inspection requests must be made to the building principal in writing.
- d. Building principals shall respond to inspection requests within a reasonable amount of time.

5. Notification of Rights and Procedures

- a. The superintendent shall notify parents of:
 - i. this policy and its availability upon request from the office of the district;
 - ii. how to opt their child out of participation in activities as provided for in this policy;
 - iii. the approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information is scheduled or expected to be scheduled; and
 - iv. how to request access to any survey or other material described in this policy.
- b. This notification shall be given to parents as least annually, at the beginning of the school year and within a reasonable period after any substantive change in this policy.

Adopted on: December 21, 2016

Revised on: July 10, 2017

Reviewed on: September 12, 2022; May 12, 2025

5018

Parent ~~and Guardian~~ Involvement in Education Practices

The school district recognizes the importance of parental and guardian involvement in the education of their children. The school district will take the following steps to ensure that the rights of parents and guardians to participate in the education of their children are preserved.

1. Parents/Guardians will be provided access, as described in district procedures, to district approved textbooks and other curricular materials and tests used in the district upon request.
 - a. A parental request to review specific approved textbooks and other district or building approved curricular materials (written, visual, and audio) should be made to the principal of the building where the textbooks and curriculum materials are used.
 - b. Parents may check out textbooks and may review curricular materials such as video and audio recordings within a time frame determined by the building principal to prevent disruption of the instructional process.
 - c. A parental request to review specific standardized and criterion-referenced tests used in the district should be made in writing to the building principal. Copies of the most recent tests used in the district will be available for parent review. Parents wishing to review statewide assessments will be provided with sample questions and a copy of a practice test, but will not be provided with copies of the actual assessment due to testing security. In the case of other secure tests such as the ACT, parents must contact the publisher to obtain copies of the test.
2. Parents/Guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to attend and observe courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities.
 - a. Parents/guardians are invited to make appointments with the building principal to visit classes, assemblies and other instructional activities. The principal shall give permission after determining that parental/guardian observation would not disrupt the activity. Observations that last more than 60 minutes or occur on consecutive days are typically disruptive and will not be permitted absent unusual circumstances, in the sole discretion of the building principal.

- b. Parents/guardians may contact the building principal to request permission to attend counseling sessions in which their child is involved.
- 3. Parents/guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to ask that their children be excused from school experiences that parents find objectionable.
 - a. Building principals may excuse a student from any single school experience at the parent's written request.
 - b. When appropriate, alternative experiences will be provided for the student by the school.
- 4. Parents/guardians will be informed through the student handbook and district policies of the manner that the district will provide access to records of students.
- 5. Parents/guardians will be informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal.
- 6. Parents/guardians will be informed of the circumstances under which they may opt out of state and federal assessments.
 - a. In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of the school year, the District shall provide notice of the right to request a copy of this policy to parents/guardians of students attending schools receiving Title I funds. The District will provide a copy of this policy to a requesting parent in a timely manner.
 - b. State Assessments

State and federal law simultaneously require students to take state assessments, with few exceptions, but also permit parents or guardians to request to opt their students out of these assessments. Approval of opt out requests is contrary to the mandatory testing laws, so the District cannot "approve" the request. Parents who do not present their child for testing will result in the child receiving the lowest score possible on the assessment.

c. ~~National Assessment of Educational Progress~~

~~As a condition of receiving federal funds, the District participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). To help ensure that the District has a representative sample of students taking the NAEP, which will allow the District to assess the quality and effectiveness of its programming on a national level, the District strongly encourages all eligible students to participate. However, student participation in NAEP is voluntary.~~

~~The District shall provide parents/guardians of eligible students with reasonable notice prior to the exam being administered. Parents/guardians wishing to opt their students out of the NAEP assessment must notify the district in writing at least three days prior to the exam date to ensure that the District can coordinate supervision and alternative activities for students who have opted out.~~

7. ~~Parents/guardians will be notified of their right to remove their children from surveys prior to district participation in surveys.~~

a. ~~The principal must approve all surveys intended to gather information from students before they are administered to students.~~

b. ~~Students' participation in surveys is voluntary. Parents/guardians may restrict their child from participating in any survey.~~

For purposes of this policy, "parent" includes a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker (a person designated or ordered by a court to make educational decisions on behalf of a student).

The school district recognizes the importance of parental ~~and guardian~~ involvement in the education of their children. To the extent practicable, the school district will make a reasonable effort to make any learning materials, including original materials, available for inspection by a parent upon request.

The school district will take the following steps to ensure that the rights of parents ~~and guardians~~ to participate in the education of their children are preserved.

1. Parents/~~Guardians~~ will be provided access, ~~as described in district procedures,~~ to ~~district-approved~~ textbooks, tests, activities information; digital materials; websites or applications used for learning; training materials for teachers, administrators, and staff; procedures for the review and approval of training materials, learning materials, and activities; and other curriculum materials ("curricular materials") ~~textbooks and other curricular materials and tests used in the district upon request~~ as follows:-

a. A parental request to review specific ~~approved textbooks and other district or building-approved~~ curricular materials (written, visual, ~~or~~ and audio) should be made to the principal of the building where the ~~textbooks and curriculum~~ curricular materials are used.

b. ~~Parents may check out textbooks and may review curricular materials such as video and audio recordings within a time frame determined by the~~ The building principal will assess the request and determine the allowable volume and time frame of the review to prevent disruption ~~of the instructional process~~ to the efficient operations of the district.

c. The purpose of this provision is to allow reasonable access to the extent practicable. Individuals who make requests (a) for the purpose of adding staff burden; (b) at an unreasonable frequency or volume; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be denied access to materials.

d. A parental request to review specific standardized and criterion- referenced tests used in the district should be made in writing to the building principal. Copies of the most recent tests used in the district will be available for parent review. Parents wishing to review statewide assessments will be provided with sample questions and a copy of a practice test, but will not be provided with copies of the actual assessment due to testing security. In the case of other secure tests such as the ACT, parents must contact the publisher to obtain copies of the test.

2. Parents/~~Guardians~~ will be permitted, within district procedures, to attend and observe courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities.

a. Parents/~~guardians~~ are invited to make appointments with the building principal to visit classes, assemblies, and other instructional activities. The principal shall give permission after determining that parental/~~guardian~~ observation would not disrupt the activity. Observations that last more than 60 minutes or occur on consecutive days are typically disruptive and will not be permitted absent unusual circumstances, in the sole discretion of the building principal.

b. Parents/~~guardians~~ may contact the building principal to request permission to attend counseling sessions in which their child is involved.

3. Parents/~~guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to ask~~ may request that their children be excused from testing (except as provided below), classroom instruction, learning materials, activities, guest speaker events, and other school experiences ("school events") that parents find objectionable.

a. Parents must submit this request in writing to the building principal for consideration.

b. Building principals may excuse a student from any ~~single~~ school ~~events~~~~experience~~ at the parent's written request if, in the principal's professional judgment, excusal from the activity would not result in diminution of the student's educational experience.

c. When the building principal determines it appropriate ~~appropriate~~, alternative experiences ~~will~~ may be provided for the student by the school.

4. Parents/~~guardians~~ will be informed through the student handbook and district policies of the manner that the district will provide access to records of students.

5. Parents/~~guardians~~ will be informed of the standardized and criterion-referenced district testing program. Parents may request additional information from the building principal.

6. Parents/~~guardians~~ will be informed of the circumstances under which they may opt-out of state and federal assessments.

a. In accordance with federal law, at the beginning of the school year, the District shall provide notice of the right to request a copy of this policy to parents/~~guardians~~ of students attending schools receiving Title I funds. The District will provide a copy of this policy to a requesting parent in a timely manner.

b. State Assessments

State and federal law simultaneously require students to take state assessments, with few exceptions, but also permit parents ~~or guardians~~ to request to opt their students out of these assessments. Approval of opt out requests is contrary to the mandatory testing laws, so the District cannot “approve” the request. Parents who do not present their child for testing will result in the child receiving the lowest score possible on the assessment.

c. National Assessment of Educational Progress

As a condition of receiving federal funds, the District participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). To help ensure that the District has a representative sample of students taking the NAEP, which will allow the District to assess the quality and effectiveness of its programming on a national level, the District strongly encourages all eligible students to participate. However, student participation in NAEP is voluntary.

The District shall provide parents/~~guardians~~ of eligible students with reasonable notice prior to the exam being administered. Parents/~~guardians~~ wishing to opt their students out of the NAEP assessment must notify the district in writing at least **three** days prior to the exam date to ensure that the District can coordinate supervision and alternative activities for students who have opted out.

7. Parents/~~guardians~~ will be notified of their right to remove their children from surveys prior to district participation in surveys.

- a. The principal must approve all surveys intended to gather information from students before they are administered to students.
- b. Students' participation in surveys is voluntary. Parents/~~guardians~~ may restrict their child from participating in any survey.
- c. If the school administers (1) a survey requesting that students provide sexual information, mental health information, medical information, information on health-risk behaviors, religious information, information of political affiliation, or any other information that the school board deems to be sensitive in nature or (2) a non-anonymous survey requesting students provide information relating to drug, vape, alcohol, or tobacco use, the school district shall, at least fifteen days prior to the administration of the survey, notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers of students that are to receive such survey. The notice will be made through the school's electronic notification system or by physical mail to the address on file for the student. The notice will describe the nature and types of questions included in the survey, the purposes and age-appropriateness of the survey, how information collected by the survey will be used, who will have access to such information, the steps that will be taken to protect student privacy, and whether and how any findings or results of such survey will be disclosed.
- d. Parents have the right to: (1) request that a copy of the survey be sent through the school's electronic notification system or physical mail to the address on file for the student, (2) review the survey in person at the school, and (3) exempt their child from participating in the survey.
- e. Unless required by federal or state law or regulation, school personnel administering any survey shall not disclose personally identifiable information of a child.
- f. No survey requesting sexual information of a student shall be administered to any student in kindergarten through grade six.

g. The district will also comply with any survey requirements found in the district's policy on Protection of Pupil Rights.

8. The district will make this policy accessible by a prominently displayed link on its public website. Any amended policy will be made accessible within a reasonable time of its amendment.

Adopted on: December 21, 2016

Revised on: July 10, 2017; November 9, 2020

Reviewed on: July 13, 2020; July 12, 2021; July 11, 2022; July 10, 2023;
July 8, 2024;

5031 Student Appearance

General Regulations. The District prohibits student attire or appearance that:

- Causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the District's programs and activities.
- Promotes, depicts, or refers to violence, drugs, alcohol, vulgarity, obscenity, illegal activity, hate speech, bullying speech, or harassing speech.
- Includes words, gestures, or images that contain or imply sexual content or innuendo.
- Otherwise undermines the District's mission to inculcate the habits, manners, and values fundamental to civility, community, and the educational environment.

The District reserves the right to request immediate attire changes from students. The District will require students to adhere to uniform standards and/or wear district approved or issued uniforms in order to participate in activities.

Altering a student's appearance or removing or altering a student's attire without consent from their parent/guardian/caregiver is not allowed. Additionally, students' hair should not be permanently or temporarily altered by school personnel.

Cultural and Religious Attire. Students are allowed to wear religious attire, adornments, and other attire associated with race, national origin or religion, or tribal regalia. Additionally, students are permitted to wear natural and protective hairstyles including but are not limited to braids, locks, twists, tight coils or curls, cornrows, Bantu knots, afros, weaves, wigs, or head wraps.

Any person who is a member of an indigenous tribe of the United States or another country may wear tribal regalia in any public or private location where the person is otherwise authorized to be on school grounds or at any school function.

Health and Safety Considerations. Students may be required to wear protective clothing or equipment or otherwise modify their attire

or secure their hair to ensure the safety of themselves and others. In such cases, a good faith effort to reasonably accommodate students will be made to ensure safety without compromising religious beliefs, grooming practices, or requiring students to permanently alter their appearance. The least restrictive means appropriate to address the identified health or safety concern shall be used.

Health and Safety Accommodation Process. If a health and safety standard accommodation is necessary, the District will:

1. Engage in a good faith effort to reasonably accommodate the student and
2. Notify the student's parent or guardian of such an attempt to accommodate the student's appearance or any attire, tribal regalia, hairstyles, adornment, or other characteristic associated with race, national origin, or religion
3. Attempt to obtain consent from a student's parent or guardian prior to altering a student's appearance or removing or altering a student's attire, tribal regalia, hairstyle, adornment, or other characteristic associated with race, national origin, or religion.

Recordkeeping. The District will record efforts made to accommodate a student's appearance, attire, hairstyle, adornment, or other characteristics associated with race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin. Each record must include: the student's name; federally identified demographic characteristics; date of the occurrence; the health and safety standard relating to the accommodation; the nature of the accommodation requested; staff involved; communication with parents/guardians/caregivers, and; the outcome of the effort.

Enforcement. Violations of this policy shall be addressed in a manner consistent with the board's policies regarding student discipline.

The board directs the Administration to develop and maintain a dress code that governs student appearance and that shall be included within the student handbook(s). The Administration may elect to adopt different versions of the dress code for different schools, buildings, or grades (e.g., elementary dress code, high school dress code, etc.).

General Regulations. Dress codes adopted in conformance with this policy may prohibit student attire or appearance that:

- Causes or is reasonably likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the District's programs and activities.
- Invades the rights of others.
- Promotes, depicts, or refers to violence, drugs, alcohol, vulgarity, obscenity, illegal activity, hate speech, bullying speech, lewd speech, indecent speech, or harassing speech.
- Includes words, gestures, or images that contain or imply sexual content or innuendo.
- Otherwise undermines the District's mission to inculcate the habits, manners, and values fundamental to civility, community, and the educational environment.

Students may be required to adhere to uniform standards and/or wear district-approved or issued uniforms in order to participate in activities.

Specific Limitations on Dress Codes. Except as provided in the *Health and Safety Standard* below, the specific dress codes enacted pursuant to this policy may not:

- Target, disproportionately impact, discriminate, or be applied in a discriminatory manner against any students on the basis of race, religion, sex, disability, or national origin;
- Prohibit a student from wearing attire associated with race, national origin, or religion (including religious attire, natural and protective hairstyles, adornments or other such characteristics); or
- Require a student's hair be permanently or temporarily altered.

Health and Safety Standard. Notwithstanding these *Specific Limitations on Dress Codes*, this policy allows for dress codes to regulate characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion under the following circumstances:

- In the absence of regulating the student's appearance or attire, it is reasonably certain that the health and safety of the student or another individual will be impaired;
- Regulating the student's appearance or attire is for nondiscriminatory reasons;
- Regulation of the student appearance or attire is applied equally;
- The administrator (or his or her designee) engages in a good-faith effort to reasonably accommodate the student and notifies the student's parent or guardian, in a language that such parent or guardian understands, of the school district's attempt to accommodate the student's appearance or attire; and
- The school district uses a process to obtain written or oral consent from a student's parent or guardian prior to altering a student's appearance or removing or altering a student's attire.

Record Retention. When the *Health and Safety Standard* is used, the school must keep records on each effort to reasonably accommodate a student's appearance or attire, hairstyle, adornment, or other characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion occurring at school, on school grounds, or at a school-sponsored event and ensure that such records allow for analysis of related data and delineate:

- The reason for such student's referral relating to the dress code; and
- Federally identified demographic characteristics of such student.

Dress Code Enforcement. School personnel are authorized to request immediate changes in the appearance or attire of student so as to remedy any dress code violations. Enforcement of dress code violations must be done in a manner that is consistent with a school's overall discipline plan and in a consistent manner. A student's violation of the dress code shall not subject the student to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment as provided in NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-267. A violation of the dress code may not require the

student to miss substantial classroom time, instruction time, or school activities.

Under no circumstances is any administrator, teacher, other member of the school district's staff, or any school district contractor allowed to permanently or temporarily alter or cut a student's hair.

No student shall be disproportionately affected by dress code enforcement because of the student's gender, race, color, religion, disability, or national origin.

Adopted on: December 21, 2016

Revised on: June 9, 2025, July 14, 2025

Reviewed on: February 14, 2022; April 8, 2024

6031 Emergency Exclusion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Failure to Request a Hearing. If the parent(s) or guardian(s) do

not request a hearing within ~~one~~ **two** school days of receiving oral or written notice, the proposed extension of the exclusion shall automatically go into effect.

Appointment and Qualifications of a Hearing Examiner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted on: December 21, 2016

Revised on: June 11, 2018; July 8, 2024

Reviewed on: September 12, 2022; May 12, 2025

6034 Concussion Awareness

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

The School District will:

- a. Require all coaches and trainers to complete a training course approved by the Chief Medical Officer ~~one of the following on-line courses~~ on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury.

- ~~Heads UP Concussions in Youth Sports~~
- ~~Concussion in Sports—What You Need to Know~~
- ~~Sports Safety International~~
- ~~ConcussionWise~~
- ~~ACTIVE™ Athletic Concussion Training for Coaches; and~~

- b. On an annual basis provide concussion and brain injury information to students and their parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition. This information will include:
 - 1 The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
 - 2 The risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and
 - 3 The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of his or her coaches.

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

- a. has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional;
- b. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional; and

- c. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted on: December 21, 2016

Revised on:

Reviewed on: August 8, 2022; March 10, 2025

6044
Participation and Assignment of Athletic Teams

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

Sport/Team	Designation
Football	Male
Volleyball	Female
Cross Country	Male and Female Teams
Golf	Male and Female Teams
Basketball	Male and Female Teams
Wrestling	Male and Female Teams
Track	Male and Female Teams
Tennis	Male and Female Teams
Unified Sports (Bowling/Track)	Male, Female, and Coed Teams
Baseball	Male
Softball	Female
Soccer	Male and Female Teams

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

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

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

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

6045

Behavioral Intervention

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

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

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

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

Required Training. The School District, independently or through the educational service unit, will develop and provide behavioral awareness and intervention training to employees with behavioral management responsibilities. Each employee with behavior management responsibilities must complete the behavioral awareness and intervention training during the 2026-27 school year or during the first year of employment with the district. The length of such training will be at least **1** hours.

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

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

Adopted on: _____

Revised on: _____

Reviewed on: _____

MEYER MEMORIAL FUND RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Nebraska City Public Schools accepted the gift of the Meyer Memorial Fund in 1987 for the benefit of school district students and graduates; and

WHEREAS, the Meyer Memorial Fund is a fund that awards scholarships to school district students and graduates; and

WHEREAS, the school district has managed the Meyer Memorial Fund since its inception but no longer desires to manage the fund; and

WHEREAS, the Nebraska City High School Alumni Foundation has indicated a willingness and ability to manage the Meyer Memorial Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Nebraska City Public Schools hereby transfers the Meyer Memorial Fund and all related duties and responsibilities to the Nebraska City High School Alumni Foundation.

After this resolution was read in its entirety, member _____ moved for its passage.
Member _____ seconded it.

After discussion and on roll call vote, the following members voted in favor _____ of _____ it _____ passage:

_____.

The following members voted against the same: _____
_____.

The following members were absent or not voting: _____
_____.

The above resolution having been duly approved, the board president declared it to have been passed and adopted.

Dated _____, 2025.

OTOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
66-0111, COMMONLY KNOWN AS
NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BY: _____

President, Board of Education

ATTEST:

Secretary, Board of Education

Sub Teacher Pay							
		2020-21	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
		\$145/day	\$145/day	\$155/day	\$165/day	\$170/day	\$180/day
Long Term Sub Pay; If substitute is in same position for 6 consecutive days, the pay will be 1.25x the daily rate and back paid for each day.							
Sub Professional Services (Speech Language Pathologist, OT, PT, etc) Pay							
						2024-2025	2025-2026
						approved NDE rate	approved NDE rate
Tuition							
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Grade K-5		\$5,350/year	\$5,350/year	\$5,350/year	\$5,350/year	\$5,350/year	\$5,350/year
Grade 6-8		\$6,240/year	\$6,240/year	\$6,240/year	\$6,240/year	\$6,240/year	\$6,240/year
Grades 9-12		\$7,488/year	\$7,488/year	\$7,488/year	\$7,488/year	\$7,488/year	\$7,488/year
Bus Rate							
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
		\$130 student	\$130 student	\$130 student	\$130 student	\$130 student	\$130 student
		Per Semester	Per Semester	Per Semester	Per Semester	Per Semester	Per Semester
Lunch Rates							
		2020-21	2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Breakfast-K-12		\$2.00		\$2.10	\$2.15	\$2.25	\$2.25
Breakfast-Adult		\$2.45		TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
K-5 Lunch		\$2.90		\$3.00	\$3.15	\$3.25	\$3.25
6 - 12 Lunch		\$3.10		\$3.25	\$3.40	\$3.50	\$3.50
Adult Lunch		\$3.85		TBD	\$5.00	determined by state/fed	determined by state/fed
Milk		\$0.40		\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50	\$0.50
Internal Sub Pay and Professional Development Stipend for Certified Staff							
			2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
			\$20.00 per hour	\$20.00 per hour	\$25.00 per hour	\$28.00 per hour	\$28.00 per hour
Activity/Athletic Event Support Staff							
			2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
			\$12.50 per hour	\$12.50 per hour	\$12.50 per hour	\$14.00 per hour	\$15.00 per hour
Summer School Teacher							
			2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
				\$20.00 per hour	\$30.00 per hour	\$32.00 per hour	\$32.00 per hour
After School Clubs							
			2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
ASC Para			\$12.50	\$13.50	\$13.50	\$14.00	\$15.00 per hour
Site Coordinator			\$15.00	\$16.50	\$16.50	\$17.00	\$17.00 per hour
ASC Teacher			\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.00	\$21.50	\$21.50 per hour
Approved Mileage Reimbursement for Staff							
			2021-22	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
			approved IRS rate	approved IRS rate	approved IRS rate	approved IRS rate	approved IRS rate



Mark Fritch <mfritch@nebcityps.org>

Fwd: Estimate 1182 from Madsen Electric LLC

3 messages

Jenny Gwart <jgwart@nebcityps.org>
To: Mark Fritch <mfritch@nebcityps.org>

Tue, Jun 24, 2025 at 5:50 AM

Quote for Middle school art room lights to LED

Jenny Gwart
Facilities Director
Nebraska City Public Schools
402-209-1862 work cell
jgwart@nebcityps.org

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" -Philippians 4:13

"There may be people who have more talent than you, but there's no excuse for anyone to work harder than you do" -
Derek Jeter

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Madsen Electric LLC QBO** <no_reply@intuit.com>
Date: Mon, Jun 23, 2025 at 9:55 PM
Subject: Estimate 1182 from Madsen Electric LLC
To: <jgwart@nebcityps.org>



Your estimate is ready!

Total Estimate
\$6,429.46
or starting at **\$203.00/month** with financing (36 mo)*

Review and accept

Dear Customer,

Below are your estimate details. To move forward with this estimate, please review and select **Accept** and Madsen Electric LLC QBO will reach out with next steps.

There are various payment methods available for you, you also have the option to **pay this monthly**.

Have a great day!

Estimate #5759

Madsen Electric LLC QBO

Sales	\$6,429.46

1 X \$6,429.46

Total	\$6,429.46

or starting at **\$203.00/month** with financing (36 mo)*

Madsen Electric LLC QBO

madsenelectric21@gmail.com

* Personal loans made through Upgrade feature Annual Percentage Rates (APRs) of 8.49%-35.99%. All personal loans have a 1.85% to 9.99% origination fee, which is deducted from the loan proceeds. Lowest rates require Autopay and paying off a portion of existing debt directly. Loans feature repayment terms of 24 to 84 months. For example, if you receive a \$10,000 loan with a 36-month term and a 17.59% APR (which includes a 13.94% yearly interest rate and a 5% one-time origination fee), you would receive \$9,500 in your account and would have a required monthly payment of \$341.48. Over the life of the loan, your payments would total \$12,293.46. The APR on your loan may be higher or lower and your loan offers may not have multiple term lengths available. Actual rate depends on credit score, credit usage history, loan term, and other factors. Late payments or subsequent charges and fees may increase the cost of your fixed rate loan. There is no fee or penalty for repaying a loan early. *Approval not guaranteed. Your loan terms will be determined based on your credit, income, and certain other information provided in your loan application. Not all applicants will qualify for the full amount.

Loan services offered through Credit Karma Offers, Inc. NMLS ID# 1628077 | Licenses | NMLS Consumer Access. California Loans arranged pursuant to a California Financing Law License.

If you receive an email that seems fraudulent, please check with the business owner before paying, or you can forward the email to security@intuit.com so we can look into it. Read more at security.intuit.com.



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Mark Fritch <mfritch@nebcityps.org>
To: Mark Fritch <mfritch@nebcityps.org>

Tue, Jun 24, 2025 at 7:07 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jenny Gwart <jgwart@nebcityps.org>
Date: June 24, 2025 at 5:50:25 AM CDT
To: Mark Fritch <mfritch@nebcityps.org>
Subject: Fwd: Estimate 1182 from Madsen Electric LLC

[Quoted text hidden]

Mark Fritch <mfritch@nebcityps.org>
To: Mark Fritch <mfritch@nebcityps.org>

Tue, Jun 24, 2025 at 7:08 AM

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jenny Gwart <jgwart@nebcityps.org>
Date: June 24, 2025 at 5:50:25 AM CDT
To: Mark Fritch <mfritch@nebcityps.org>
Subject: Fwd: Estimate 1182 from Madsen Electric LLC

[Quoted text hidden]

Proposal

BOHL PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

1113 Central Ave.
NEBRASKA CITY, NE 68410
(402) 873-5632
AUBURN, NE
(402) 274-3533

PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO N.C. Schools Central Office		PHONE 4022091862	DATE 5/27/25
STREET 1700 14th Avenue		JOB NAME	
CITY, STATE and ZIP CODE Nebraska City, Ne. 68410		JOB LOCATION	
ARCHITECT 12644	DATE OF PLANS	JOB PHONE	

We hereby submit specifications and estimates for:

Air Conditioner Only Option

(1) GLXS3 GOODMAN 13.50 SEER2 SINGLE STAGE AIR CONDITIONER. \$7,058.00
R-32 Unit

Price Includes: Air Conditioner, Cased Evap. Coil
Lineset Flush Kit, Iso pad, Electrical to existing service,
Low amb. kit for low amb. cooling, and Labor.

Furnace & Air Conditioner Option

(1) GMVM97 GOODMAN 97% AFUE MODULATING GAS FURNACE WITH A GLXS3
GOODMAN 13.50 SEER2 SINGLE STAGE AIR CONDITIONER. \$11,520.00

Price Includes:
Furnace, Air Conditioner, Cased Evap. Coil,
Lineset Flush Kit, Iso pad, Electrical to existing service,
Low amb. kit for low amb. cooling, Supply duct to existing duct,
Return to existing duct, Use existing thermostat, Gas to existing
service, Condensate to existing drain, Venting to existing 2" venting,
and Labor.

Replacement blower motor for the old carrier unit = \$2,422.00
Price to replace old Carrier unit furnace.

(1) GMVM97 GOODMAN 97% AFUE MODULATING GAS FURNACE INSTALLED
\$4,771.00

We Propose hereby to furnish material and labor — complete in accordance with above specifications, for the sum of:
As Listed

Payment to be made as follows: as submitted. Interest at 2% per month, (24% annum) charged —)
on all accounts 30 days past due.

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. All work to be completed in a workmanlike manner according to standard practices. Any alteration or deviation from above specifications involving extra costs will be executed only upon written orders, and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. All agreements contingent upon strikes, accidents or delays beyond our control. Owner to carry fire, tornado and other necessary insurance. Our workers are fully covered by Workman's Compensation Insurance.

Authorized
Signature

Thirty

Note: This proposal may be
withdrawn by us if not accepted within _____ days.

Acceptance of Proposal—The above prices, specifications
and conditions are satisfactory and are hereby accepted. You are authorized
to do the work as specified. Payment will be made as outlined above.

Date of Acceptance: _____

Signature _____

Signature _____

NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Classified Staff Handbook

2025-2026

Approved July 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
Effective July 14 , 2025

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INTRODUCTION

This handbook provides information to classified persons employed by the school district and are referred to in this handbook as employees, staff, or staff members. It is designed to provide practical information about the daily operation of the schools in the district and contains building and district directories, safety and emergency information, as well as district policies and procedures. Each staff member should carefully review this handbook. The administration and the board of education continually review policies and procedures, so staff members should discuss comments, concerns, or suggestions about this handbook with their building principal or another member of the administrative staff.

This handbook does not create a "contract" of employment. Staff positions and assignments that do not require a teaching certificate or are not otherwise governed by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an at-will basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except a contract approved by the board of education.

Many situations may arise that are not covered by this handbook. In those instances, staff members should use their own good judgment or consult with the administration. If any information contained in this handbook conflicts with board policy or state statute, the policy or statute will govern.

The provisions in this handbook are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education. From time to time, you may receive updated information concerning changes in the handbook. These updates should be kept within the handbook so that all procedures can be kept up to date. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please ask your supervisor or the Superintendent for assistance.

Your suggestions about ways to improve the school are welcome and will always be considered.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the ADA/Title II Coordinator: Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at school.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator: Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033 , jhippen@nebcityps.org , 1700 14th Avenue, Nebraska City NE 68410 or in person at school. The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: [[Title IX Notice of Nondiscrimination](#)]

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title VI Coordinator: Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033 , jhippen@nebcityps.org , 1700 14th Avenue, Nebraska City NE 68410 or in person at school.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033 , jhippen@nebcityps.org , 1700 14th Avenue, Nebraska City NE 68410 or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053– Nondiscrimination.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS

It is vitally important to have a healthy workforce that is free from the effects of illegal drugs. The use or possession of unlawful drugs in the workplace has a very detrimental effect upon safety and morale of the affected employee, coworkers, and the public at large; and on productivity and the quality of work.

Federal law requires this school district, as a recipient of federal funds, to maintain a drug-free workplace. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in the district's workplace is prohibited. The term "workplace" includes every location where district employees may be found during their working hours or while they are on duty, regardless of whether the location is within the geographic boundaries of the district. Any employee who violates this policy will be disciplined with measures up to and including discharge. The district may, in its sole discretion, require or allow an employee who violates this policy to participate in and satisfactorily complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

The district shall provide every current employee with a copy of this policy, and shall provide each newly hired employee with a copy upon hiring. Every employee shall be required to signify receipt of a copy of the policy in writing. All district employees must abide by this policy, including those who are not directly engaged in the performance of work pursuant to a federal grant.

An employee must notify his/her supervisor of any conviction of a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace within five days. The failure to report such a conviction will be grounds for dismissal. If the employee convicted of such an offense is engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the provisions of a federal grant, the district shall notify the grant agency within 10 days of receiving notice of a conviction from the affected employee or of receiving actual notice of such a conviction.

This notice meets the requirements of Policy 4002-Drug Free Workplace.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING ALL STAFF

Accidents and Injuries

Staff must inform the building office immediately of all accidents and/or injuries to students or staff, and complete the appropriate accident form that is available from the office. The accident form must be returned to the office within twenty-four hours. If a staff member is injured at work, the staff member must notify ALICAP's Sedgwick Clinical Consultation at 1-855-364-9865, Option 1 as soon as possible.

Activity Accounts and Fundraising

Activity accounts are handled through the superintendent's office. No student or sponsor may make any purchase without a signed purchase order from the superintendent. **Purchases made without permission are the personal obligation and responsibility of the purchaser.**

The superintendent is responsible for authorizing any fundraising on the part of student activities. **No fundraising may occur without express administrative permission.**

Activity Tickets

All staff, spouses, and their school-age children will be admitted to home games free of charge. Conference activity tickets will be issued to staff with advance notice through the building offices.

Agents, Salesmen and Other Business Representatives

All business representatives calling on school matters must obtain permission from the superintendent or building principal before conferring with staff. Staff must determine whether the business representative has been granted permission before discussing business matters. Classroom teachers may not interrupt class work to confer with such representatives.

Staff may not use school time or school facilities for any personal activity for personal financial gain or confer with any business representative for personal business during school time.

Announcements and Circulars

No announcements shall be made before any school group without authorization of the principal or superintendent.

Any circulars or advertising displayed within the school shall have the approval of the building principal or superintendent before posting.

Board Policies, Rules, and Directives

The board of education has adopted policies that govern the operation of the school district. A complete policy manual is available online on the district's website and it will be updated as the board adopts new policies or revises existing policies. In particular, the 4000 series deals with policies that affect personnel. Additionally, the Board has authorized the Superintendent and his or her designee to adopt rules and directives regarding the conduct of students, staff, and other persons. Many of these rules and directives are published in the Student Handbook, Staff Handbook, and Activity Handbook, respectively. Each of these handbooks are available on the district's website and in the main administrative office. **By signing below, you agree that you have read and understood these policies, handbooks, rules, and directives, their application to you, and that you have had an opportunity to discuss any questions with the administration.**

Child Abuse

School employees who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect will report the suspected abuse or neglect according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately. Employees shall also personally report or cause a report to be made to local law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. When the principal makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, he/she shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report.
3. Nothing in the paragraph above shall hinder a school employee from fulfilling his/her/their obligation to report suspected abuse or neglect if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.
4. Any doubt or question in reporting such cases shall be resolved in the favor of reporting the suspected abuse or neglect. Consultation between the administrator and school employee is encouraged, keeping in mind that prompt reporting is essential.

Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to board members,

patrons, students, and school staff, unless the staff member is subject to a different grievance procedure pursuant to policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When those efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below. Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

References to "coordinator" in this policy refer to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if the complainant believes speaking directly to the person would subject the complainant to discrimination or harassment.

2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.

- a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
- b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
- c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.

- d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted at any time during the complaint procedure to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.

3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

- e) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
- f) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
- g) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:
 - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
- h) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing

and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator received the complaint.

4. If either the complainant or respondent is not satisfied with the decision, he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.

- i) This appeal must be in writing.
- j) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.
- k) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.
- l) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.

5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination

or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:

- a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;
- b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
- c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.

- d) This appeal must be in writing.
- e) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
- f) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
- g) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.
- h) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.

2. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his

or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

- a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.
- b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
- c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.
- d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.
- e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

No Retaliation. The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings. The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

Computers and the Internet: Acceptable Use by Staff

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to

enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. Staff members must refer to and comply with Board Policy 4012 regarding Staff Internet and Computer Use. Staff should also refer to the district's Policy 4051-Staff and District Social Media Use.

Conflict of Interest

All staff members are subject to the board's policy governing conflict of interest. That policy provides, in part, that no employee 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 employee would thereby be influenced.

Contact Information

Staff are required to keep the district informed of any change in their name, address, telephone or other contact information. Contact the Business Office to report a change.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Staff members must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on behalf of the district. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Staff who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review *Reproduction of Copyrighted Works by Educators and Librarians* from the U.S. Copyright Office found at <https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ21.pdf> and *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is the infliction of bodily pain as a penalty for disapproved behavior, and is prohibited by law. Some physical contact is inevitable, and most of it is appropriate. Corporal punishment does not

include the use of physical force that is reasonable and necessary to (1) protect school employees; (2) protect students or property; or (3) remove a student from a situation that endangers the student, persons, or property. Staff members should promptly report any event that required the use of physical force to their building principal.

Crisis Response Team

Any staff member appointed by the district administration will serve on the Crisis Response Team as outlined in the board policies. The Crisis Response Team serves a vital role in supporting the district's staff and students. It is the responsibility of the appointed staff member to discuss with the district administration any circumstances that may affect the staff member's ability to perform the tasks required by board policy.

Discrimination and Harassment

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects an employee's employment opportunities. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at school. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org in person at school. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at school. Employees may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Driving (both school and personal vehicles)

Staff members who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal automobile to transport students must have a valid driver's license, insurance, and are subject to a background check. Staff members will be provided a Driver's Certification form to verify this information. Staff members are to contact the district office to request to drive a school vehicle and to complete procedures authorizing such. Staff members who transport students will annually complete all the requirements of NDE Rule 91 in

advance. Staff members who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Staff members are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting students. Please see the school district's policy on school vehicle use for further information.

Drivers for the school district must be free from drug and alcohol use or abuse. The school district will test drivers as permitted under state and federal law and in accordance with board policy.

Except as provided below, school personnel shall not use any electronic communication device to read a written communication, manually type a written communication, send a written communication, verbally communicate with others, or otherwise communicate with others while operating a school vehicle or while using a school-issued electronic communication device while operating a private vehicle. This prohibition includes but is not limited to answering or making telephone calls, engaging in telephone conversations, and reading or responding to emails, instant messages, or text messages.

The superintendent or building principal may grant exceptions and allow emergency verbal communication for specific district-related work based upon employees' duties and responsibilities.

Dress Code

The attire worn by staff members conveys an important image to students and the general public. The appearance of professional staff members shall be appropriate to their assigned duties and indicative of their professional standing in the school and community.

Certified staff, paraeducators and office staff should generally dress in business casual attire that is clean and professional.

Custodial, maintenance and transportation staff should dress in attire appropriate to the work they are performing.

Certified staff, paraeducators and office staff **may not** wear the following types of clothing during the traditional school day from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. when students or visitors are in attendance, when attending workshops, conferences, or inservice days, or when the employee is supervising, directing or coaching students when the public is in attendance:

- For men: shirts worn without collars, except when the shirt has a logo

which identifies the school and/or the school's mascot, and unless the shirt can be deemed professional by other standards.

- Sweat, jogging and wind suits, except when teaching a physical education activity in the gymnasium or on a playing field or at athletic or other activity practices.
- Shorts, except when teaching physical education class or at athletic or other activity practices.
- Jeans of any color except at athletic or other activity practices.
- Hats or sunglasses except when worn outside for sun protection.
- Any attire that is excessively wrinkled or torn, so that it is no longer neat and professional.
- Any clothing that is excessively revealing, tight fitting, or immodest and may distract other employees or students in the learning environment.

Jeans of any color may be worn on Fridays, which is considered a "dress down" day. The superintendent may also authorize jeans to be worn on other additional designated days to celebrate achievements, recognize special events, or promote school spirit. Such days may only be designated and authorized by the superintendent.

The superintendent or principal shall maintain the discretion to make determinations on staff dress and appearance. The superintendent may temporarily suspend all or a portion of the dress code when other factors support a lower dress expectation for school employees (e.g., special "casual days", school celebrations, special events, or field days). Any violation of school policy and rules may result in disciplinary action.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

School district administrators who suspect that drugs or alcohol may be present in a staff member's system may require the staff member to provide a body fluid or breath sample as provided in Nebraska law. Staff members who refuse a lawful directive to provide a body fluid or breath sample may be subject to disciplinary or administrative action by the employer, including denial of continued employment.

Duty to Report

School personnel shall self-report any of the following to the District's Superintendent within 24 hours of its occurrence or at the beginning of the next school day, whichever is earlier:

- Any criminal citation if the alleged offense is a misdemeanor or felony under federal or Nebraska law or in the state in which the alleged offense occurred;
- Any arrest for any reason;
- Any criminal conviction;
- Any sentence of incarceration;
- Any criminal or civil filing or Department of Health and Human Services or law enforcement investigation for child abuse and/or neglect;
- Any complaint or other administrative that could impact any certificate or professional license held by the employee;
- Any action or threat of action by any entity against the employee's driver's license or ability or authority to operate a motor vehicle if the employee's job duties may require the operation of a motor vehicle.

The failure to make a report required by this section may result in disciplinary action up to and including cancellation, termination, and non-renewal.

Expenses

The board of education will reimburse staff for all approved expenses incurred in attending to school business. Reimbursement for mileage, supplies, overnight travel expense, and credit course reimbursement fees are processed on an expense report form that is available at Central Office. Appropriate receipts must be attached.

To be reimbursed for an item or for personal car use, staff members must complete a reimbursement claim form, attach receipts and submit it to the Superintendent for approval.

All claims for reimbursement must be approved by the board, so some delay is probable. Mileage reimbursement will be denied if a school vehicle was available.

In-School Communication

Every staff member will be assigned a mailbox in the building where he or she works. Staff members are expected to check their mailboxes daily.

A great deal of information is distributed to staff via the school's e-mail system. Each staff member must check his or her e-mail account frequently throughout the school day. Staff members are allowed to use their school email accounts for a moderate amount of personal e-mail correspondence.

However, sending or receiving personal email during class time is prohibited, regardless of whether that personal e-mail is received on the staff member's school email account or a personal account.

Intellectual Property

All written or artistic works, instructional materials, inventions, procedures, ideas, innovations, systems, programs, or other work product created or developed by any employee in the course and scope of performance of his or her employment duties on behalf of the district, whether published or not, shall be the exclusive property of the district. The district has the sole right to sell, license, assign, or transfer any and all right, title, or interest in and to such property.

Keys

Staff will not lend or have any duplicate keys made of any school key. Staff will make sure all doors are locked when they enter or leave the building other than regular school hours and are responsible for setting the security system after hours.

Staff members are responsible at all times for all keys issued to them and must keep their keys in a secure location or in their personal possession. Each classroom teacher must check that the doors and windows in his or her room are closed and locked at the end of the school day. Staff must report lost or stolen keys to the building principal immediately.

Locker Room Supervision

Staff members must review and comply with the board's Policy 4062- Locker Room Supervision.

Maintenance & Cleaning Request Forms

Staff members should fill out maintenance requests forms just as soon as they need or see a maintenance problem. Maintenance requests should be submitted through RSchool.

Meals Program

Staff may take advantage of meals offered through the district's foods program. Staff may purchase lunches from the school cafeteria at the daily Board approved rate. The lunch price includes one carton of milk. Extra cartons may be purchased at the daily Board approved rate. Staff members must deposit funds in their lunch accounts before purchasing meals. Staff members will not be allowed to run a deficit in their lunch accounts. **If a negative lunch balance were to occur at the conclusion of a calendar school year, staff members will have the deficit amount withheld**

from their June paycheck or upon next paycheck at completion of employment.

Milk Expression

Except as otherwise provided by law, the district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to breastfeed or express breast milk for her nursing child each time such employee has the need to do so. The district will provide a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. These accommodations will be provided for one year after the child's birth, unless otherwise required by law.

News and Press Releases

Only individuals who have prior administrative approval may issue press releases or other official communications regarding school activities and events in furtherance of the individual's official responsibilities. The superintendent may delegate responsibility for communicating with the media to building principals, the activities director, event sponsors, and other staff on an ad hoc basis.

Activity sponsors and other staff who are involved in newsworthy activity should submit typed press releases to the office for distribution to the media when noteworthy events have occurred. Coaches must communicate with local TV, radio, and print media promptly after matches or games to disseminate the results.

Obligations Related to American Civics Instruction

All staff members shall be familiar with, and comply with, the requirements of state law, board policy, and district curriculum to properly instruct students regarding American Civics, Social Studies, American History, and appropriate patriotic exercises on particular days of the year. Neglect of any such responsibilities by any employee may be considered just cause for dismissal.

Outside Employment

No full-time staff member may accept any other employment or carry on any business or activity for profit that interferes with the complete and competent discharge of his or her responsibilities to the school district.

Political Activities

District employees retain all rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may participate in the political process, including seeking an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property

during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

While the District supports its employees by allowing them to exercise their rights, any impact on the employee's ability to perform his or her functions as required by the district is grounds for discipline. For further guidance regarding political conduct on school grounds, contact the superintendent and consult the board policies.

Pregnant or Parenting Students

The school district encourages students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue to participate in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting have been told to notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student and appropriate district staff to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Such a plan may include:

1. If the student cannot regularly attend classes, the provision of online courses;
2. The arrangement of meeting times with teachers;
3. If the student has not identified appropriate childcare, the identification of child care providers that meet statutory requirements for quality and care; and
4. All other curricular adjustments, modifications, and means of supplementing classroom attendance deemed appropriate by the school administrators including, but not limited to, modification of attendance policies.

Professional Boundaries Between Staff and Students

All district employees must follow board policy, especially Board Policy 4043-Professional Boundaries Between Employees and Students, when interacting with students in any way. School district employees are responsible for conducting themselves professionally and for teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, both at and away from school. District employees must be aware of professional boundaries between students and staff, and they must never blur the boundaries. These standards of behavior apply to social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., along with communications and interactions of any kind between staff and students.

Examples of unprofessional misconduct include: inappropriate sexual

communications or interactions with students, meeting with students in private outside of school, and intruding on a student's personal space. These are a few examples of inappropriate behavior, not an exhaustive list. For further guidance, refer to the district's policies regarding professionalism and staff-student interactions.

Any teacher or student who witnesses or knows information about a district employee violating board policy should report the violation to the district administration *immediately*. Minor violations and questionable violations should be reported within 24 hours.

A violation of board policies for professionalism will form the basis for employee discipline up to and including termination or cancellation of employment, filing a report with law enforcement officials, and filing a report with the Commissioner of Education.

Professional Growth and Project PARA

The superintendent will select in-service programming to provide professional growth opportunities for classified staff.

All Paraprofessionals working for Nebraska City Public Schools MUST have one of the following:

- A high school diploma or GED
- Completion of two years of college, (48 semester credit hours), or
- Demonstrated competency, through an approved or local assessment
 - Para Pro (ETS)
 - Para Educator (Master Teacher)
 - Project Para (UNL)

Contact the Director of Student Services at the Central Office for details.

Purchasing

All requisitions for books and school supplies must be filed with the building principal. The requisition must include the name of the article being requested, where it may be purchased, how many articles are required and their cost. Requisitions must be submitted online through the purchase order requisition process. Orders should not be placed until the requisition has been approved and a purchase order processed. Failure to follow the procedure for requisitions may prevent the staff member from receiving the items requisitioned. All orders or supplies must be authorized by the administration and will be shipped to the central office for inventory, processing, and district delivery. Staff may be personally liable for any orders placed without such authorization.

Records and Reports

Staff members must refer to and comply with Board Policy No. 5016 regarding the management and maintenance of student records.

All staff members shall promptly furnish the administration with any information relating to their professional training, experience, activities or work required for reports to county, state or federal officials or for official school records. Personal information will be treated confidentially by school officials.

Recordings of Students and Classrooms

Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator. Staff should refer to Board Policy 3059 for information on audio and video recording.

School Calendar

The official school calendar is maintained in each building office. All activities and events must be scheduled and approved by the building principal. To avoid conflict, a sponsor should not call a meeting of any activity until the schedule has been checked and the meeting approved by the office.

School Property

School property is not to be lent to individuals except by permission of the superintendent.

Staff or groups who wish to use school facilities for NCPS sponsored activities should make requests to the building principal as early as possible so that they may be placed on the school calendar. Staff or groups who wish to use school facilities for non-NCPS sponsored activities should contact Central Office to make the request as early as possible.

Staff must inform the building principal of any school property that needs repair or that is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair. Matters regarding custodial service in the building should be handled through the principal's office.

School Vehicle Use

The transportation of students in a pupil transportation vehicle is governed by the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district's safe pupil transportation plan or safety and security plan. School district employees, board members, and other elected or appointed school district officials who are not transporting children are authorized to use a school

district vehicle to travel to a designated location or to their home when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. Staff should refer to Board Policy 4060 for information on the use of school vehicles.

Security

Each staff member is responsible for the security of his/her own classroom or work area. Staff must lock the doors and windows of their classrooms and/or other work areas each night.

Staff members who use the building after it has been locked by the custodian or on weekends are responsible for turning off all lights and locking all windows and doors that they or students under their supervision may have used.

Under no circumstances are pupils to be allowed in the building after school hours without faculty supervision. Keys to any school areas are not to be loaned to students under any circumstances.

Smoking on School Premises or at School Activities

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified that:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Social Media Usage by Staff

Social media is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. The district also uses social media accounts to provide information to district stakeholders. All staff members must refer to and comply with Board Policy 4012 regarding Staff Internet and Computer Use. This policy applies to both personal and school-affiliated social media use. Staff members who are uncertain about

the applicability of Board Policy 4051 regarding Staff and District Social Media Use to a particular situation must confer with their supervising administrator prior to posting on social media.

Solicitation and Distribution of Merchandise

In the interest of maintaining a proper school environment and preventing interference of school purposes, employees may not sell merchandise, solicit financial contributions, solicit, or distribute literature or printed material for any non-school related cause during working time or on school grounds.

Staff Room

The staff room is maintained for the exclusive use and convenience of the staff. It is not for student use and staff members should not hold student conferences there. Each staff member will assume responsibility in keeping the staff room in an orderly and presentable condition.

Student Interviews

Employees shall refer any police officer, child protective service worker, or other similar individual seeking to speak to or interview a student to an administrator.

Telephones

School telephones are maintained for the primary purpose of conducting school business. Staff members should limit their use of school phones to brief conversations. Teachers will not be called to the telephone during class time except in the case of an emergency. Staff members may not use personal cell phones to make or receive calls or to send or receive text messages during instructional time.

Threat Assessment and Response

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Definitions

- a. A threat** is an expression of a willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.

- i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.
 - ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
 - iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.
- b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of identifying and responding to serious threats in a systematic, data-informed way.
 - i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
 - ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. **Obligation to Report threatening Statements or Behaviors.**

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION

SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

3. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of the superintendent of schools, building principal(s), guidance counselor, school psychologist, information technology personnel, and local law enforcement. Not every team member needs to participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations. The threat assessment team shall be familiar with mental health resources available to students, staff and patrons and shall collaborate with local mental health service providers as appropriate.

4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

When a threat is reported, the school administrator shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and, in consultation with members of the threat assessment team, make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The school administrator must contact law enforcement if the administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the threat assessment team will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The team may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the team will determine what, if any,

response to the threat is appropriate. The team is authorized to disclose the results of its investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The team may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of its investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and Nebraska law.

5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

The team will keep members of the school community appropriately informed about substantive threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, or communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

6. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The threat assessment team will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's Emergency Operating Plan.

Transportation Request Forms

Staff members must complete transportation request forms at least five days in advance and as soon as they know they need school-provided transportation to allow the activities director adequate time to schedule drivers and vehicles. Transportation requests should be submitted through RSchool.

Visitors

Staff should welcome members of the public who wish to visit school, but should ensure that visitors follow the district's requirements.

All visitors must report to the building office before visiting any classroom or other areas of the building.

Visitors must comply with the following guidelines:

- if a visitor wishes to observe a specific skill or subject, he or she will be asked to observe during a specified time period

- children under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- all visitors must have the prior approval of the principal or superintendent
- salespeople and other such agents will not be allowed to solicit staff members during school hours
- visitors must wear a visitor's badge supplied by the building office
- visitors will be restricted during emergency or crisis situations.

Wage and Salary Payments

2025-2026 PAYROLL DATES: For Classified Staff

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
September 19, 2025	8/1/2025 - 8/31/2025
October 20, 2025	9/1/2025 - 9/30/2025
November 20, 2025	10/1/2025 - 10/31/2025
December 19, 2025	11/1/2025 - 11/30/2025
January 20, 2026	12/1/2025 - 12/31/2025
February 20, 2026	1/1/2026 - 1/31/2026
March 20, 2026	2/1/2026 - 2/28/2026
April 20, 2026	3/1/2026 - 3/31/2026
May 20, 2026	4/1/2026 - 4/30/2026
June 19, 2026	5/1/2026 - 5/31/2026
July 20, 2026	6/1/2026 - 6/30/2026
August 20, 2026	7/1/2026 - 7/31/2026

All required deductions, such as for federal, state, and local taxes, retirement contributions, and all authorized voluntary deductions, such as for insurance, will be withheld automatically from your paychecks. Garnishments are legal proceedings imposed by a court of law upon the school district requiring payment to a third party of monies earned by district employees. The school district will accept all legal garnishments and tax levies against wages in compliance with state and federal law. An employee's pay will be held upon receipt of a garnishment until a court order is issued indicating satisfaction of the indebtedness or until ordered to surrender the monies to the court or its agent. The school district prohibits improper pay deductions, and employees shall be reimbursed for any improper pay deductions. If you believe that an improper deduction has been made to your pay, you should immediately report this information to your direct supervisor, payroll personnel, or the Superintendent.

Staff members, by their signature on the acknowledgement page of this handbook, authorize the school district to withhold such sums from their paychecks as necessary to cover property damage, cash shortages or other amounts owed to the school district by the employee.

Weather-Related Closings

If school is called off because of inclement weather or for any other reason, it will be announced on the school alert messaging system, B103, and various TV stations.

Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. Staff members should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

Reporting When School is Closed

When school is closed due to inclement weather, classified staff should report to work based on their positions:

- a) **Secretaries/Clerical staff** should not report to work unless specifically directed to do so by their supervisor or the superintendent.
- b) **Paraprofessionals** should not report to work unless teaching staff are asked to report.
- c) **Custodians/Maintenance staff** should report to work.

Workplace Searches

To safeguard the property and interests of our students, employees, and patrons; to help prevent the possession, sale, and use of illegal drugs on school grounds, and in keeping with the spirit and intent of the district's drug-free workplace policy and other policies, the school district reserves the right to question employees and all other persons entering and leaving our premises, and to inspect any packages, parcels, purses, handbags, briefcases, lunch boxes, or any other possessions or articles carried to and from school when it has reasonable grounds to do so. The school also reserves the right to search any employee's office, desk, files, locker, or any other area or article on school grounds. All offices, desks, files, lockers, and so forth, are school district property and are issued or provided for the use of employees only during their employment with the district. Inspections may be conducted at any time at the discretion of the administration. Employees who refuse to cooperate with this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CLASSIFIED STAFF

Absences and Leave

Sick Leave

During the first year of employment, sick days will be granted at the rate of one (1) sick day per month, not to exceed eight (8) days for 9, 10, and 11 month employees, ten (10) days for 12 month employees. Beginning with the second year and so forth of employment, eight (8) and ten (10) sick days respectively will be issued at the beginning of the employment period, accumulative to sixty (60) days.

The employee must submit an electronic sick leave request as soon as possible for scheduled health appointments.

Staff shall be able to use sick leave for illness of minor children residing with the employee and the serious health condition of his/her spouse, child, parent, brother, sister, grandparent, uncle, aunt, nephew and niece or in-law.

Classified employees shall not be paid for accrued unused sick days at the end of the school year or in the event of termination of employment.

Sick leave can be granted at a minimum of 1/2 day increments (AM or PM), or full day.

Bereavement Leave

Up to three (3) days of paid leave per occurrence shall be granted to each employee in the event of death of an employee's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces or in-law.

Additional leave, if necessary, shall be taken from sick leave.

Up to one day of paid leave per school year will be granted in a case where it is deemed necessary to attend a funeral of a non-relative by the employee and approved by the Administration.

An obituary notice and/or something similar may be required and sent to payroll before bereavement leave can be approved as paid leave.

Personal Leave

Employees will receive three (3) personal days at the beginning of their employment period. Personal days cannot be accumulated from year to year. Unused days will be transferred to Sick Leave at the end of their

employment period. Personal leave is available to the employee only during the regular period of employment.

12 month employees with unused personal leave at the end of June, may choose to use the personal leave in the month of July of the same calendar year. At the end of July unused personal leave for 12 month employees will be transferred to Sick Leave.

Personal leave must be approved at least five (5) days in advance by the employee's immediate supervisor or the Superintendent. Personal days must be used before leave without pay is granted.

Personal days cannot be used to extend the following holidays for 9, 10 and 11 Month Employees: New Years Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day

Leave can be granted at a minimum of 1/2 day increments (AM or PM), or full day.

Leave Without Pay

All **eligible** paid leave must be exhausted prior to leave without pay being granted.

Disability Leave (Short-Term)

Short-term disability leave will be treated in the manner required by state and federal law and consistent with the negotiated agreement with the school district's local education association. Short-Term Disability leave will run concurrently with FMLA leave.

Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)

Qualified employees will be provided leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as provided in board policy. Note: when entering leave electronically use "sick" as the leave choice and notify the business office.

Jury and Witness Duty Leave

An employee who has been called to serve as a juror will be granted paid leave. Employees must sign over to the district the compensation they receive for jury duty, but not compensation for expenses. Note: when entering leave electronically use "other" as the leave choice and notify the business office. An employee who has been subpoenaed to testify as a witness in a court proceeding shall be entitled to one day of paid leave. To receive paid leave, the employee must sign over to the district his or her witness fee.

Military Leaves of Absence

Leaves of absence without pay for military or Reserve duty are granted to all employees as required by law. An employee who is called to active military duty or to Reserve or National Guard training or who volunteers for the same should submit copies of the military orders to the Superintendent as soon as is practicable. An administrator, at his or her discretion, may require an employee who requests leave under the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act to provide certification from the proper military authority to verify the employee's eligibility for the leave requested.

Military Leave under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act will be governed by the board's policies. Note: when entering leave electronically use "other" as the leave choice and notify the business office.

Professional Organization Leave

An employee who is an officer, director, or member of a working committee of a local state, regional or national professional organization relevant to education may be granted occasional professional leave without loss of pay to fulfill such duties upon prior permission of the building principal and/or direct supervisor.

Vacation

All full-time, 12 month classified personnel shall be entitled to paid vacation as defined:

1. After completing one (1) year of full-time service, the employee shall receive ten (10) eight-hour days.
2. After completing the tenth year of full-time service, the employee shall receive fifteen (15) eight-hour days.
3. After completing the twentieth year of full-time service, the employee shall receive twenty (20) eight-hour days.

Vacation must be requested at least two weeks prior to the date(s) requested.

Vacation time is not cumulative from year to year. You cannot carry-over vacation days from one year to the next. Vacation days run from your anniversary month to anniversary month.

Example: Hired November 2010, you will receive 10 vacation days in November 2011, they must be used before November 2012.

All vacation schedules are subject to supervisory approval and must be taken no later than one year following eligibility. Scheduled vacation not

taken due to a district emergency will be allowed for rescheduling beyond the one-year limitation.

NOTE: If at all possible, vacations should only be scheduled when school is not in session.

Vacation days must be used before leave without pay is granted.

Employees shall be compensated for unused days of vacation leave upon the ending of employment with the District at a rate of one dollar (\$1.00) per unused vacation day.

Holidays

1. Twelve (12) Month Classified Employees:

New Years Day; Good Friday; Memorial Day; July 4th; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; Friday following Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day

Eight (8) additional paid floating holidays upon approval of his/her supervisor to be used on days when students ~~and staff~~ are not in session. Floating holidays cannot be accumulated from year to year.

2. Eleven (11) Month Classified Employees:

New Years Day; Memorial Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; Friday following Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day

3. Ten (10) Month Classified Employees:

New Years Day; Memorial Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; Friday following Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day

4. Nine (9) Month Classified Employees:

New Years Day; Labor Day; Thanksgiving Day; and Christmas Day

Holidays falling on a Saturday are normally observed on the preceding Friday. Holidays falling on a Sunday are normally observed on the following Monday.

Classified employees will generally be required to work their regularly scheduled hours the workday preceding and following the holiday in order to be eligible to receive holiday pay, unless approved by the Superintendent.

Hours

Work hours vary with the classified staff member's department and position. Meetings will occasionally be scheduled before or after normal working hours. It is vital that the district's employees arrive at work punctually and consistently. Staff members who are chronically late or excessively absent will be disciplined, up to and including discharge.

Overtime and Compensatory Time

All classified staff members must keep an accurate record of all hours worked for the district. The only exceptions are those who have been notified in writing that they are exempt from this time-keeping requirement. Classified staff should not work more than forty hours in a given week without the express permission of their immediate supervisor. Those who accrue more than forty hours in a given workweek will receive overtime or compensatory time, pursuant to board policy.

At-Will Employment

Classified staff members are employed "at-will." Either you or the school district may terminate your employment at any time, for any reason, with or without cause or notice. Employees are employed until they have submitted their resignation, been terminated, or informed that they will not return. This handbook is not a contract, express or implied, guaranteeing employment for any specific duration.

Timecards

It is the responsibility of the employee to clock in when they begin work each day, clock out when they are not working, and to clock out and back in for a minimum half hour lunch each day, when they are scheduled to work a shift of six consecutive hours or more per day.

Classified employees working additional hours related to their respective position should clock in. If additional work hours are for duties outside employee's respective position, they should complete an extra pay sheet, sign, have building administrator sign, and submit to Payroll at Central Office.

If an employee forgets to punch in or out, they must fill out a timecard adjustment form so that their timecard can be corrected. This must be done within two business days of the missed punch. Under no circumstances should an employee quit clocking in and out because they missed a punch. Once payroll has received the timecard adjustment form and entered the missed punch, the timecard will be correct.

All classified employees are given a schedule to work at the time of hire. The employee's supervisor must approve any deviation from the schedule (additional hours, no lunch, or a missed punch on a timecard), and employee should add a note to their timecard and complete a timecard adjustment form.

Timecard adjustment forms are available in the building offices or in the staff drive on the school website. It is the employee's responsibility to view his/her timecard on a regular basis and let payroll know in writing with a timecard adjustment form if hours are incorrect. Employees who do not deliver their timecard adjustment forms to payroll within two business days of the correction are considered in neglect of duty and are subject to reprimand and/or immediate dismissal. Under no circumstances will an employee receive pay for hours not substantiated by a missed punch form and approved by their building administrator with the time noted in this paragraph.

Fringe Benefits

Employee Assistance Program (EAP)

Everyday life can be stressful and can affect your health, well-being, and performance. Fortunately, our Employee Assistance Program can aid in finding solutions. When facing personal problems, you might struggle with where to turn for help. The first step is usually the hardest, and guidance is often the key. That's why National Insurance Services (NIS) offers an Employee Assistance Program (EAP). An EAP offers a confidential place to find the answers that work for you.

EAP Services are Available to you in two ways. Phone 866.451.5465
Online: www.niseap.com Login: NISEAP | Password: EAP
Claimant Assist Services are Available 866.472.2734

Workers' Compensation

The district will participate in workers compensation as required by statute. All employees of the school district will be covered by workers' compensation regardless of type of assignment, length of assignment or hours worked per day.

The selected workers' compensation plan will provide coverage for medical expenses and wages to the extent required by statute to qualifying employees. The amount of workers compensation wage replacement and sick leave benefits shall not exceed a regular daily rate of pay.

Staff must inform the building office immediately of all accidents and/or injuries to students or staff. If a staff member is injured at work, the staff member must notify ALICAP's Sedgwick Clinical Consultation at 1-855-364-9865, Option 1 as soon as possible.

Retirement (NPERS)

As a qualifying member of the School Retirement System, you are required by law to contribute a minimum of 9.78% of your gross compensation.

The district is required by law to match your contributions at the rate of 101%. These contributions are not credited to your individual retirement account, but provide funding for a portion of your benefit at retirement.

Please refer to www.npers.ne.gov for more information. Or call 800.245.5712

Any classified staff member working 20 hours a week or above shall be subject to the School Employees Retirement Act mandatory payroll deduction, as administered by the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement System.

Health, Dental and Life Insurance

Health, dental and life insurance is provided for some classifications of full-time and part-time employees.

Employees working 30 hours or more per week are eligible for benefits the 1st day of the month following employment start date.

The district provides the following insurance coverage for 11 and 12 Month Classified Staff.

BCBS EHA PPO Plan \$1,900 Deductible or \$400.00 Deductible with Alternative Networks OR
 BCBS EHA HSA Plan \$3,800 Deductible or \$2,500 Deductible with Alternative Networks.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Health</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Life</u>
A	Family	Single	\$15,000
B	Single/Spouse	Single	\$15,000

This district provides the following insurance coverage for 9 and 10 Month Classified Staff.

BCBS EHA HSA Plan \$4,000 Deductible

<u>Category</u>	<u>Health</u>	<u>Dental</u>	<u>Life</u>
C	Single (Employee Pays \$160 Per Month)	Single	NA

For descriptions of these plans refer to www.ehaplan.org

Section 125 Flex Pay Plan

Staff may enroll in the district's Section 125 Plan-Omnify Benefit Services.

1. FSA -Unreimbursed medically related expenses, which include medical, dental, and vision care expenses that you or your family members incur.
2. DCA -Dependent care expenses, such as childcare, after school care, nursery school tuition or adult day care.

Please refer to the District's Employee Benefit Guide for more details.

Vision Insurance

Staff may enroll in the district's Vision Plan-VSP, Inc. This is at the employee's expense. Please refer to the District's Employee Benefit Guide for more details.

Accident/Critical Illness Supplemental Insurance

Staff may enroll in the district's supported offerings with Transamerica. This is at the employee's expense. Please refer to the District's Employee Benefit Guide for more details.

Classified Contract Schedule 2025-2026

9 month (180 Days, 7.5 hours per day max)

ELL Para, Para II, Para II Clerical, Para III

180 Days

- 4 Holidays
(Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day)
 - 171 Student days
 - 3 Inservice days prior to school August 8, 9, 12
 - 1 Inservice day prior to second semester January 6
 - 1 Virtual Professional Development Day, April 6
- Note: all other inservice (days and early outs) not contracted
With Admin approval may work

9 month (184 Days, 8 hours per day max)

Media Assistant / Study Hall

Administrative Assistant to the Activities Directors

Health Aid

184 Days

- 4 Holidays
(Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Years Day)
 - 171 Student days
 - 3 Inservice days prior to school August 8, 9, 12
 - 1 Inservice day prior to second semester January 6
 - 1 Virtual Professional Development Day, April 6
 - 4 Days in the summer(recommended 2 in August and 2 in May)
- Note: -all other all day inservice days are not contracted
-With Admin approval may work
-High School Media Assistant and AD Admin Assistant may work 4 additional days in the summer, total of 8, to prepare 1 to 1 computer and activities schedules/contracts

10 month (212 Days, 8 hours per day max)

Secretary I - HS Guidance Secretary

Secretary II - Northside and Hayward Building Secretary

212 Days

- 6 Holidays
(Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday following Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Years Day, Memorial Day)
- 186 Teacher days (includes virtual professional development day)
- 20 Days in the summer (contract begins Aug 1 thru July 31)

11 month (222 Days, 8 hours per day max)

Secretary III - MS and HS Building Secretary

222 Days

6 Holidays

(Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday following Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Years, Memorial Day)

186 Teacher days (includes virtual professional development day)

30 Days in the summer (contract begins Aug 1 thru July 31)

12 month (260 days, 8 hours per day max)

Central Office and Maintenance Staff

260 Days (includes virtual professional development day)

8 Holidays and 8 Floating Holiday

(Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Friday following Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, New Years, Good Friday, Memorial Day, 4th of July)

NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-2026 CALENDAR

BOE Approved 3-10-25

Aug 6th: New Teacher Inservice

Aug 7th-11th: Teacher Inservice

Aug 12th: Grades K, 3, 6, 9 school begins; early dismissal

Aug 13th: All Grades; early dismissal

Aug 20th: Preschool Begins

Aug 27th: Early Dismissal

August 2025

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Jan 1st-2nd: Winter Break (No School)

Jan 5th: Teacher Inservice (No School)

Jan 6th: School Begins

Jan 21st: Early Dismissal

Sept 1st: Labor Day (No School)

Sept 17th: No School P/T Conferences

Sept 18th: No School P/T Conferences

Sept 19: No School

September 2025

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Feb 2nd: Teacher Inservice (No School)

Feb 18th: Early Dismissal

Oct 6th: Teacher Inservice (No School)

Oct 17 : End of First Quarter

Oct 22nd: Early Dismissal

October 2025

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Mar 3rd: End of 3rd Quarter

Mar 4th: No School P/T Conferences

Mar 5th: No School P/T Conferences

Mar 6th: No School

Mar 18th: Early Dismissal

Nov 3rd: Teacher Inservice (No School)

Nov 12th: Early Dismissal

Nov 26th-28th: Thanksgiving Break (No School)

November 2025

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

Apr 3rd: Spring Break (No School)

Apr 6th: Teacher Inservice (No School)
Possible Virtual PD

Apr 29th: Early Dismissal

Dec 1st: Teacher Inservice (No School)

Dec 19th: End of 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester and Early Dismissal

Dec 22nd - 31st: Winter Break (No School)

December 2025

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

May 10th: Graduation

May 15th: POSSIBLE End of 4th Quarter and 2nd Semester/Last Day of School (Early Dismissal)

Early Dismissal School Times

Northside (402-874-9193): 8:10am to 1:15pm

Hayward (402-873-6641): 8:15am to 1:20pm

Middle School (402-873-5591): 8:05am to 1:25pm

High School (402-873-3360): 8:00am to 1:30pm

Central Office (402-873-6033)

Student Days

1st Quarter: 44

3rd Quarter: 40

2nd Quarter: 41

4th Quarter: 47

1st Semester: 85

2nd Semester: 87

School Year: 172

172

School Times

Northside: 8:10am to 3:20pm

Hayward: 8:15am to 3:25pm

Middle School: 8:05am to 3:32pm

High School: 8:00am to 3:40pm

It's a GREAT day to be a PIONEER!

Nebraska City Public Schools			2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR														
			3.81% Increase														
			CLASSIFIED WAGE SCHEDULE														
			2% Increase Per Step														
	JOB TITLE	%	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7	STEP 8	STEP 9	STEP 10	STEP 11	STEP 12	STEP 13	STEP 14	STEP 15
CATEGORY A	ADMIN ASST II	1.54	23.10	23.56	24.03	24.51	25.00	25.50	26.01	26.53	27.07	27.61	28.16	28.72	29.30	29.88	30.48
	ADMIN ASST I	1.44	21.60	22.09	22.47	22.90	23.38	23.85	24.33	24.81	25.31	25.81	26.33	26.86	27.39	27.94	28.50
	Secretary IV (12 MO)	1.34	20.10	20.50	20.91	21.33	21.76	22.19	22.64	23.09	23.55	24.02	24.50	24.99	25.49	26.00	26.52
CATEGORY B	MAINTENANCE	1.34	20.10	20.50	20.91	21.33	21.76	22.19	22.64	23.09	23.55	24.02	24.50	24.99	25.49	26.00	26.52
	SEC III (11 MO)	1.34	20.10	20.50	20.91	21.33	21.76	22.19	22.64	23.09	23.55	24.02	24.50	24.99	25.49	26.00	26.52
	MAINTENANCE UTILITY	1.19	17.85	18.21	18.57	18.94	19.32	19.71	20.10	20.50	20.91	21.33	21.76	22.19	22.64	23.09	23.55
CATEGORY C	SIGN LANG INTERPRETER	2.18	32.63	33.28	33.94	34.62	35.31	36.02	36.74	37.48	38.23	38.99	39.77	40.57	41.38	42.20	43.05
	SLP ASSISTANT	1.60	24.00	24.48	24.97	25.47	25.98	26.50	27.03	27.57	28.12	28.68	29.26	29.84	30.44	31.05	31.67
	SEC II (10 MO)	1.90	19.50	19.89	20.29	20.69	21.11	21.53	21.96	22.40	22.85	23.30	23.77	24.25	24.73	25.23	25.73
	EL PARA	1.25	18.75	19.13	19.51	19.90	20.30	20.70	21.12	21.54	21.97	22.41	22.86	23.31	23.78	24.26	24.74
	MEDIA ASST/STUDY HALL	1.25	18.75	19.13	19.51	19.90	20.30	20.70	21.12	21.54	21.97	22.41	22.86	23.31	23.78	24.26	24.74
	HEALTH AIDE	1.25	18.75	19.13	19.51	19.90	20.30	20.70	21.12	21.54	21.97	22.41	22.86	23.31	23.78	24.26	24.74
	ADMIN ASST/Activities Director	1.25	18.75	19.13	19.51	19.90	20.30	20.70	21.12	21.54	21.97	22.41	22.86	23.31	23.78	24.26	24.74
	SEC I	1.20	18.00	18.36	18.73	19.10	19.48	19.87	20.27	20.68	21.09	21.51	21.94	22.38	22.83	23.28	23.75
	PARA II-PRESCHOOL	1.15	17.25	17.60	17.95	18.31	18.67	19.05	19.43	19.81	20.21	20.62	21.03	21.45	21.88	22.31	22.76
	VAN DRIVER	1.10	16.50	16.83	17.17	17.51	17.86	18.22	18.58	18.95	19.33	19.72	20.11	20.52	20.93	21.34	21.77
	PARA IV/CLERK	1.05	15.75	16.07	16.39	16.71	17.05	17.39	17.74	18.09	18.45	18.82	19.20	19.58	19.97	20.37	20.78
	PARA I	1.00	15.00	15.30	15.61	15.92	16.24	16.56	16.89	17.23	17.57	17.93	18.28	18.65	19.02	19.40	19.79
	CUSTODIAN	1.00	15.00	15.30	15.61	15.92	16.24	16.56	16.89	17.23	17.57	17.93	18.28	18.65	19.02	19.40	19.79
CATEGORY D	ACCOMPANIST	1.30	19.50	19.89	20.29	20.69	21.11	21.53	21.96	22.40	22.85	23.30	23.77	24.25	24.73	25.23	25.73
	SUMMER MAINT	1.10	16.50	16.83	17.17	17.51	17.86	18.22	18.58	18.95	19.33	19.72	20.11	20.52	20.93	21.34	21.77
5			0.40 hourly stipend added to the base of any positions for services identified by our student population and needs to include, but not limited to bilingual services, ability and availability to translate and transportation services approved by Superintendent														

STAFF DIRECTORY

Members of the Board of Education:

Lisa Chaney	President
Brent Shanholtz	Vice-President
Kent Blum	Board Member
Rob Elson	Board Member
Jim Nemec	Board Member
Stacie Higgins	Board Member
John Hodges	Board Member
Patricia Lant	Board Member
Sally Schreiner	Board Member

Administrative Staff:

Mark Fritch	Superintendent
Jason Hippen	Director of Student Services
Kate Sherwin	Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Brian Hoover	High School Principal
Matt Thompson	High School Assistant Principal/Activities Director
Ethan Pellatz	Middle School Principal
David Purdham	Middle School Assistant Principal/Activities Director
Tammy Schaefer	Hayward Elementary Principal
Michaela Wilcox	Northside Elementary Principal

Central Office Staff:

Brenda Wieckhorst	Business Manager
Dana Stovall	Administrative Assistant
Carla Zaroban	Superintendent's Administrative Assistant
Ahna Nelson	Student Services Administrative Assistant/Registrar
Dani McCown	Administrative Assistant

EMERGENCY CRISIS STATEMENT

In the event of unique challenges and circumstances posed by an emergency or crisis situation and/or promulgation of expansive federal and/or state regulations, the rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the Superintendent or Board of Education at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy.

All staff shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district's regular means of contact. By signing below, you agree that you will read any such information and communications and recognize that you must comply with all rules, procedures, and requirements as they apply at that time.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Nebraska City Public Schools Classified Staff Handbook, which includes the district's drug-free workplace policy statement. I understand that, as a condition of my employment, I am required to read and abide by the provisions of the handbook and by all board policies governing my employment. Further, if I have any questions about any provision of this handbook or any board policy, I should confer with my supervisor or building principal.

Signature

Date

NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
2025-2026 CLASSIFIED STAFF EVALUATION

Date: _____/_____/_____
Employee Name: _____
Position: _____
Evaluator: _____
Building: _____

CATEGORIES TO BE EVALUATED:

RATING:

1. JOB PERFORMANCE:

Standard: To accomplish all duties listed on job description and/or job duty list, including participation in meetings, following policy and procedures, paperwork, and specific duties for the position held. To work with accuracy, willingness to help others, and is honest.

____ Acceptable
____ Needs Improvement

2. ATTENDANCE:

Standard: Seldom absent from work, misses work only for such things as jury duty, military duty, death in the immediate family, illness, accident/surgery that requires hospitalization of self or immediate family. Is punctual getting to work.

____ Acceptable
____ Needs Improvement

3. COOPERATION:

Standard: To work together with other employees in a friendly and helpful manner and is respectful and courteous of others. Goes beyond the call of duty and is willing to adapt. Keeps supervisor informed.

____ Acceptable
____ Needs Improvement

4. BEHAVIOR:

Standard: Exhibits a positive behavior a majority of the time. Is even tempered, well mannered, mature, a morale booster.

____ Acceptable
____ Needs Improvement

5. APPEARANCE:

Standard: Is neat, clean and well groomed.

____ Acceptable
____ Needs Improvement

6. INDUSTRY:

Standard: A self-starter and self-motivated, industrious, assigns him/herself to work when nothing specific assigned.

____ Acceptable
____ Needs Improvement

7. EVALUATOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

____ Acceptable Rating:	Recommend Step Advancement
____ Needs Improvement Rating:	Recommend No Step Advancement
____ Unsatisfactory Rating:	Dismissal

(Evaluator's Signature)

(Date)

(Employee's Signature)

(Date)

PLEASE LIST COMMENTS ON THE BACK OR ATTACH SEPARATE SHEETS!

NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Certified Staff Handbook

2025-2026

Approved July 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting
Effective July 14 , 2025

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INTRODUCTION

This handbook provides information to certified persons employed by the school district and are referred to in this handbook as employees, staff, or staff members. It is designed to provide practical information about the daily operation of the schools in the district and contains building and district directories, safety and emergency information, as well as district policies and procedures. Each staff member should carefully review this handbook. The administration and the board of education continually review policies and procedures, so staff members should discuss comments, concerns, or suggestions about this handbook with their building principal or another member of the administrative staff.

This handbook does not create a “contract” of employment. Staff positions and assignments that do not require a teaching certificate or are not otherwise governed by the teacher tenure laws may be ended or changed on an at-will basis notwithstanding anything in this handbook or any other publication or statement, except a contract approved by the board of education.

Many situations may arise that are not covered by this handbook. In those instances, staff members should use their own good judgment or consult with the administration. If any information contained in this handbook conflicts with board policy or state statute, the policy or statute will govern.

The provisions in this handbook are subject to change at the sole discretion of the Superintendent and the Board of Education. From time to time, you may receive updated information concerning changes in the handbook. These updates should be kept within the handbook so that all procedures can be kept up to date. If you have any questions regarding this handbook, please ask your supervisor or the Superintendent for assistance.

Your suggestions about ways to improve the school are welcome and will always be considered.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the ADA/Title II Coordinator: Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033 (phone number), jhippen@nebcityps.org (e-mail address) or in person at school.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title IX Coordinator: Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033 , jhippen@nebcityps.org , 1700 14th Avenue, Nebraska City NE 68410 or in person at school. The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: [[Title IX Notice of Nondiscrimination](#)]

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the Title VI Coordinator: Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033 , jhippen@nebcityps.org , 1700 14th Avenue, Nebraska City NE 68410 or in person at school.

Individuals who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033 , jhippen@nebcityps.org , 1700 14th Avenue, Nebraska City NE 68410 or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053– Nondiscrimination.

DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE REQUIREMENTS

It is vitally important to have a healthy workforce that is free from the effects of illegal drugs. The use or possession of unlawful drugs in the workplace has a very detrimental effect upon safety and morale of the affected employee, coworkers, and the public at large; and on productivity and the quality of work.

Federal law requires this school district, as a recipient of federal funds, to maintain a drug-free workplace. The unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance in the district's workplace is prohibited. The term "workplace" includes every location where district employees may be found during their working hours or while they are on duty, regardless of whether the location is within the geographic boundaries of the district. Any employee who violates this policy will be disciplined with measures up to and including discharge. The district may, in its sole discretion, require or allow an employee who violates this policy to participate in and satisfactorily complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

The district shall provide every current employee with a copy of this policy, and shall provide each newly hired employee with a copy upon hiring. Every employee shall be required to signify receipt of a copy of the policy in writing. All district employees must abide by this policy, including those who are not directly engaged in the performance of work pursuant to a federal grant.

An employee must notify his/her supervisor of any conviction of a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace within five days. The failure to report such a conviction will be grounds for dismissal. If the employee convicted of such an offense is engaged in the performance of work pursuant to the provisions of a federal grant, the district shall notify the grant agency within 10 days of receiving notice of a conviction from the affected employee or of receiving actual notice of such a conviction.

This notice meets the requirements of Policy 4002-Drug Free Workplace.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING ALL STAFF

Accidents and Injuries

Staff must inform the building office immediately of all accidents and/or injuries to students or staff, and complete the appropriate accident form that is available from the office. The accident form must be returned to the office within twenty-four hours. If a staff member is injured at work, the staff member must notify ALICAP's Sedgwick Clinical Consultation at 1-855-364-9865, Option 1 as soon as possible.

Activity Accounts and Fundraising

Activity accounts are handled through the superintendent's office. No student or sponsor may make any purchase without a signed purchase order from the superintendent. **Purchases made without permission are the personal obligation and responsibility of the purchaser.**

The superintendent is responsible for authorizing any fundraising on the part of student activities. **No fundraising may occur without express administrative permission.**

Activity Tickets

All staff, spouses, and their school-age children will be admitted to home games free of charge. Conference activity tickets will be issued to staff with advance notice through the building offices.

Agents, Salesmen and Other Business Representatives

All business representatives calling on school matters must obtain permission from the superintendent or building principal before conferring with staff. Staff must determine whether the business representative has been granted permission before discussing business matters. Classroom teachers may not interrupt class work to confer with such representatives.

Staff may not use school time or school facilities for any personal activity for personal financial gain or confer with any business representative for personal business during school time.

Announcements and Circulars

No announcements shall be made before any school group without authorization of the principal or superintendent.

Any circulars or advertising displayed within the school shall have the approval of the building principal or superintendent before posting.

Board Policies, Rules, and Directives

The board of education has adopted policies that govern the operation of the school district. A complete policy manual is available online on the district's website and it will be updated as the board adopts new policies or revises existing policies. In particular, the 4000 series deals with policies that affect personnel. Additionally, the Board has authorized the Superintendent and his or her designee to adopt rules and directives regarding the conduct of students, staff, and other persons. Many of these rules and directives are published in the Student Handbook, Staff Handbook, and Activity Handbook, respectively. Each of these handbooks are available on the district's website and in the main administrative office. **By signing below, you agree that you have read and understood these policies, handbooks, rules, and directives, their application to you, and that you have had an opportunity to discuss any questions with the administration.**

Child Abuse

School employees who have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to child abuse or neglect or observe a child being subjected to conditions or circumstances which reasonably would result in child abuse or neglect will report the suspected abuse or neglect according to the following procedure.

1. Any school employee who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected shall report the suspicion to the building principal immediately. Employees shall also personally report or cause a report to be made to local law enforcement or to the Department of Health and Human Services.
2. When the principal makes a report of suspected child abuse or neglect, he/she shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report.
3. Nothing in the paragraph above shall hinder a school employee from fulfilling his/her/their obligation to report suspected abuse or neglect if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.
4. Any doubt or question in reporting such cases shall be resolved in the favor of reporting the suspected abuse or neglect. Consultation between the administrator and school employee is encouraged, keeping in mind that prompt reporting is essential.

Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to board members, patrons, students, and school staff, unless the staff member is subject to a

different grievance procedure pursuant to policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When those efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below. Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

References to "coordinator" in this policy refer to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if the complainant believes speaking directly to the person would subject the complainant to discrimination or harassment.

2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.

- a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
- b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
- c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
- d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted at any time during the complaint

procedure to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.

3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

- e) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
- f) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
- g) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:
 - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
- h) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator received the complaint.

4. If either the complainant or respondent is not satisfied with the decision, he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The

superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.

- i) This appeal must be in writing.
- j) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of decision.
- k) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.
- l) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.

5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:

- a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;
 - b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board;
- or

- c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.

- d) This appeal must be in writing.
- e) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
- f) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
- g) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.
- h) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.

2. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

- a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another

procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.

b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.

1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.

2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.

c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.

d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.

e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

No Retaliation. The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings. The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

Computers and the Internet: Acceptable Use by Staff

Internet access is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. Staff members must refer to and comply with Board Policy 4012 regarding Staff Internet and Computer Use. Staff should also refer to the district's Policy 4051-Staff and District Social Media Use.

Conflict of Interest

All staff members are subject to the board's policy governing conflict of interest. That policy provides, in part, that no employee 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 employee would thereby be influenced.

Contact Information

Staff are required to keep the district informed of any change in their name, address, telephone or other contact information. Contact the Business Office to report a change.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Staff members must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on behalf of the district. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The “fair use” doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. “Fair use” of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Staff who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes “fair use” should consult with their building principal, review the school district’s copyright compliance policy, and review *Reproduction of Copyrighted Works by Educators and Librarians* from the U.S. Copyright Office found at <https://www.copyright.gov/circs/circ21.pdf> and *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is the infliction of bodily pain as a penalty for disapproved behavior, and is prohibited by law. Some physical contact is inevitable, and most of it is appropriate. Corporal punishment does not include the use of physical force that is reasonable and necessary to (1) protect school employees; (2) protect students or property; or (3) remove a student from a situation that endangers the student, persons, or property. Staff members should promptly report any event that required the use of physical force to their building principal.

Crisis Response Team

Any staff member appointed by the district administration will serve on the Crisis Response Team as outlined in the board policies. The Crisis Response Team serves a vital role in supporting the district’s staff and students. It is

the responsibility of the appointed staff member to discuss with the district administration any circumstances that may affect the staff member's ability to perform the tasks required by board policy.

Discrimination and Harassment

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects an employee's employment opportunities. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following 504 Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at school. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org in person at school. Employees who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at school. Employees may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Driving (both school and personal vehicles)

Staff members who drive school vehicles or volunteer to use their personal automobile to transport students must have a valid driver's license, insurance, and subject to a background check. Staff members are to contact the district office to request to drive a school vehicle and to complete procedures authorizing such. Staff members who transport students will annually complete all the requirements of NDE Rule 91 in advance. Staff members who drive school vehicles or transport students in their personal vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Staff members are not to use cell phones while driving a school vehicle or while transporting students. Please see the school district's policy on school vehicle use for further information.

Drivers for the school district must be free from drug and alcohol use or abuse. The school district will test drivers as permitted under state and federal law and in accordance with board policy.

Except as provided below, school personnel shall not use any electronic communication device to read a written communication, manually type a

written communication, send a written communication, verbally communicate with others, or otherwise communicate with others while operating a school vehicle or while using a school-issued electronic communication device while operating a private vehicle. This prohibition includes but is not limited to answering or making telephone calls, engaging in telephone conversations, and reading or responding to emails, instant messages, or text messages.

The superintendent or building principal may grant exceptions and allow emergency verbal communication for specific district-related work based upon employees' duties and responsibilities.

Dress Code

The attire worn by staff members conveys an important image to students and the general public. The appearance of professional staff members shall be appropriate to their assigned duties and indicative of their professional standing in the school and community.

Certified staff, paraeducators and office staff should generally dress in business casual attire that is clean and professional.

Custodial, maintenance and transportation staff should dress in attire appropriate to the work they are performing.

Certified staff, paraeducators and office staff **may not** wear the following types of clothing during the traditional school day from 7:45 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. when students or visitors are in attendance, when attending workshops, conferences, or inservice days, or when the employee is supervising, directing or coaching students when the public is in attendance:

- For men: shirts worn without collars, except when the shirt has a logo which identifies the school and/or the school's mascot, and unless the shirt can be deemed professional by other standards.
- Sweat, jogging and wind suits, except when teaching a physical education activity in the gymnasium or on a playing field or at athletic or other activity practices.
- Shorts, except when teaching physical education class or at athletic or other activity practices.
- Jeans of any color except at athletic or other activity practices.
- Hats or sunglasses except when worn outside for sun protection.
- Any attire that is excessively wrinkled or torn, so that it is no longer neat and professional.
- Any clothing that is excessively revealing, tight fitting, or immodest and may distract other employees or students in the learning environment.

Jeans of any color may be worn on Fridays, which is considered a “dress down” day. The superintendent may also authorize jeans to be worn on other additional designated days to celebrate achievements, recognize special events, or promote school spirit. Such days may only be designated and authorized by the superintendent.

The superintendent or principal shall maintain the discretion to make determinations on staff dress and appearance. The superintendent may temporarily suspend all or a portion of the dress code when other factors support a lower dress expectation for school employees (e.g., special “casual days”, school celebrations, special events, or field days). Any violation of school policy and rules may result in disciplinary action.

Drug and Alcohol Testing

School district administrators who suspect that drugs or alcohol may be present in a staff member's system may require the staff member to provide a body fluid or breath sample as provided in Nebraska law. Staff members who refuse a lawful directive to provide a body fluid or breath sample may be subject to disciplinary or administrative action by the employer, including denial of continued employment.

Duty to Report

School personnel shall self-report any of the following to the District's Superintendent within 24 hours of its occurrence or at the beginning of the next school day, whichever is earlier:

- Any criminal citation if the alleged offense is a misdemeanor or felony under federal or Nebraska law or in the state in which the alleged offense occurred;
- Any arrest for any reason;
- Any criminal conviction;
- Any sentence of incarceration;
- Any criminal or civil filing or Department of Health and Human Services or law enforcement investigation for child abuse and/or neglect;
- Any complaint or other administrative that could impact any certificate or professional license held by the employee;
- Any action or threat of action by any entity against the employee's driver's license or ability or authority to operate a motor vehicle if the employee's job duties may require the operation of a motor vehicle.

The failure to make a report required by this section may result in disciplinary action up to and including cancellation, termination, and non-renewal.

Expenses

The board of education will reimburse staff for all approved expenses incurred in attending to school business. Reimbursement for mileage, supplies, overnight travel expense, and credit course reimbursement fees are processed on an expense report form that is available at Central Office. Appropriate receipts must be attached.

To be reimbursed for an item or for personal car use, staff members must complete a reimbursement claim form, attach receipts and submit it to the Superintendent for approval.

All claims for reimbursement must be approved by the board, so some delay

is probable. Mileage reimbursement will be denied if a school vehicle was available.

In-School Communication

Every staff member will be assigned a mailbox in the building where he or she works. Staff members are expected to check their mailboxes daily.

A great deal of information is distributed to staff via the school's e-mail system. Each staff member must check his or her e-mail account frequently throughout the school day. Staff members are allowed to use their school email accounts for a moderate amount of personal email correspondence. However, sending or receiving personal email during class time is prohibited, regardless of whether that personal email is received on the staff member's school email account or a personal account.

Intellectual Property

All written or artistic works, instructional materials, inventions, procedures, ideas, innovations, systems, programs, or other work product created or developed by any employee in the course and scope of performance of his or her employment duties on behalf of the district, whether published or not, shall be the exclusive property of the district. The district has the sole right to sell, license, assign, or transfer any and all right, title, or interest in and to such property.

Keys

Staff will not lend or have any duplicate keys made of any school key. Staff will make sure all doors are locked when they enter or leave the building other than regular school hours and are responsible for setting the security system after hours.

Staff members are responsible at all times for all keys issued to them and must keep their keys in a secure location or in their personal possession. Each classroom teacher must check that the doors and windows in his or her room are closed and locked at the end of the school day. Staff must report lost or stolen keys to the building principal immediately.

Locker Room Supervision

Staff members must review and comply with the board's Policy 4062- Locker Room Supervision.

Maintenance & Cleaning Request Forms

Staff members should fill out maintenance requests forms just as soon as they need or see a maintenance problem. Maintenance requests should be submitted through RSchool.

Meals Program

Staff may take advantage of meals offered through the district's foods program. Staff may purchase lunches from the school cafeteria at the daily Board approved rate. The lunch price includes one carton of milk. Extra cartons may be purchased at the daily Board approved rate. Staff members must deposit funds in their lunch accounts before purchasing meals. Staff members will not be allowed to run a deficit in their lunch accounts. **If a negative lunch balance were to occur at the conclusion of a calendar school year, staff members will have the deficit amount withheld from their June paycheck or upon next paycheck at completion of employment.**

Milk Expression

Except as otherwise provided by law, the district will provide reasonable break time for an employee who wishes to breastfeed or express breast milk for her nursing child each time such employee has the need to do so. The district will provide a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from co-workers and the public. These accommodations will be provided for one year after the child's birth, unless otherwise required by law.

News and Press Releases

Only individuals who have prior administrative approval may issue press releases or other official communications regarding school activities and events in furtherance of the individual's official responsibilities. The superintendent may delegate responsibility for communicating with the media to building principals, the activities director, event sponsors, and other staff on an ad hoc basis.

Activity sponsors and other staff who are involved in newsworthy activity should submit typed press releases to the office for distribution to the media when noteworthy events have occurred. Coaches must communicate with local TV, radio, and print media promptly after matches or games to disseminate the results.

Obligations Related to American Civics Instruction

All staff members shall be familiar with, and comply with, the requirements of state law, board policy, and district curriculum to properly instruct students regarding American Civics, Social Studies, American History, and appropriate patriotic exercises on particular days of the year. Neglect of any such responsibilities by any employee may be considered just cause for dismissal.

Outside Employment

No full-time staff member may accept any other employment or carry on any business or activity for profit that interferes with the complete and competent discharge of his or her responsibilities to the school district.

Political Activities

District employees retain all rights of citizenship, including, but not limited to, engaging in political activities. An employee of the District may participate in the political process, including seeking an elective office, provided that the staff member does not campaign on school property during working hours, and provided all other legal requirements are met. The District assumes no obligation beyond making such opportunities available.

While the District supports its employees by allowing them to exercise their rights, any impact on the employee's ability to perform his or her functions as required by the district is grounds for discipline. For further guidance regarding political conduct on school grounds, contact the superintendent and consult the board policies.

Pregnant or Parenting Students

The school district encourages students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue to participate in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting have been told to notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming. The building principal will work with the student and appropriate district staff to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities. Such a plan may include:

1. If the student cannot regularly attend classes, the provision of online courses;
2. The arrangement of meeting times with teachers;
3. If the student has not identified appropriate childcare, the identification of child care providers that meet statutory requirements for quality and care; and
4. All other curricular adjustments, modifications, and means of supplementing classroom attendance deemed appropriate by the school administrators including, but not limited to, modification of attendance policies.

Professional Boundaries Between Staff and Students

All district employees must follow board policy, especially Board Policy 4043-Professional Boundaries Between Employees and Students, when interacting with students in any way. School district employees are

responsible for conducting themselves professionally and for teaching and modeling high standards of behavior and civic values, both at and away from school. District employees must be aware of professional boundaries between students and staff, and they must never blur the boundaries. These standards of behavior apply to social networking sites, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc., along with communications and interactions of any kind between staff and students.

Examples of unprofessional misconduct include: inappropriate sexual communications or interactions with students, meeting with students in private outside of school, and intruding on a student's personal space. These are a few examples of inappropriate behavior, not an exhaustive list. For further guidance, refer to the district's policies regarding professionalism and staff-student interactions.

Any teacher or student who witnesses or knows information about a district employee violating board policy should report the violation to the district administration *immediately*. Minor violations and questionable violations should be reported within 24 hours.

A violation of board policies for professionalism will form the basis for employee discipline up to and including termination or cancellation of employment, filing a report with law enforcement officials, and filing a report with the Commissioner of Education.

Professional Growth and Project PARA

All certified employees must complete the requirements as stated in the negotiated agreement and shall be provided opportunities for the development of increased competence beyond that which they may attain through the performance of their assigned duties.

In addition to this requirement, the superintendent will select in-service programming to provide additional professional growth activities for certified and classified staff.

Purchasing

All requisitions for books and school supplies must be filed with the building principal. The requisition must include the name of the article being requested, where it may be purchased, how many articles are required and their cost. Requisitions must be submitted online through the purchase order requisition process. Orders should not be placed until the requisition has been approved and a purchase order processed. Failure to follow the procedure for requisitions may prevent the staff member from receiving the items requisitioned. All orders or supplies must be authorized by the administration and will be shipped to the central office for inventory,

processing, and district delivery. Staff may be personally liable for any orders placed without such authorization.

Records and Reports

Staff members must refer to and comply with Board Policy No. 5016 regarding the management and maintenance of student records.

All staff members shall promptly furnish the administration with any information relating to their professional training, experience, activities or work required for reports to county, state or federal officials or for official school records. Personal information will be treated confidentially by school officials.

Recordings of Students and Classrooms

Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator. Staff should refer to Board Policy 3059 for information on audio and video recording.

School Calendar

The official school calendar is maintained in each building office. All activities and events must be scheduled and approved by the building principal. To avoid conflict, a sponsor should not call a meeting of any activity until the schedule has been checked and the meeting approved by the office.

School Property

School property is not to be lent to individuals except by permission of the superintendent.

Staff or groups who wish to use school facilities for NCPS sponsored activities should make requests to the building principal as early as possible so that they may be placed on the school calendar. Staff or groups who wish to use school facilities for non-NCPS sponsored activities should contact Central Office to make the request as early as possible.

Staff must inform the building principal of any school property that needs repair or that is lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair. Matters regarding custodial service in the building should be handled through the principal's office.

School Vehicle Use

The transportation of students in a pupil transportation vehicle is governed by the rules of the Nebraska Department of Education and the district's safe pupil transportation plan or safety and security plan. School district

employees, board members, and other elected or appointed school district officials who are not transporting children are authorized to use a school district vehicle to travel to a designated location or to their home when the primary purpose of the travel serves a school district purpose. Staff should refer to Board Policy 4060 for information on the use of school vehicles.

Security

Each staff member is responsible for the security of his/her own classroom or work area. Staff must lock the doors and windows of their classrooms and/or other work areas each night.

Staff members who use the building after it has been locked by the custodian or on weekends are responsible for turning off all lights and locking all windows and doors that they or students under their supervision may have used.

Under no circumstances are pupils to be allowed in the building after school hours without faculty supervision. Keys to any school areas are not to be loaned to students under any circumstances.

Smoking on School Premises or at School Activities

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified that:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Social Media Usage by Staff

Social media is an important tool for communicating, keeping up-to-date with current developments in education, and for conducting research to enhance management, teaching, and learning skills. The district also uses social media accounts to provide information to district stakeholders. All staff members must refer to and comply with Board Policy 4012 regarding Staff Internet and Computer Use. This policy applies to both personal and

school-affiliated social media use. Staff members who are uncertain about the applicability of Board Policy 4051 regarding Staff and District Social Media Use to a particular situation must confer with their supervising administrator prior to posting on social media.

Solicitation and Distribution of Merchandise

In the interest of maintaining a proper school environment and preventing interference of school purposes, employees may not sell merchandise, solicit financial contributions, solicit, or distribute literature or printed material for any non-school related cause during working time or on school grounds.

Staff Room

The staff room is maintained for the exclusive use and convenience of the staff. It is not for student use and staff members should not hold student conferences there. Each staff member will assume responsibility in keeping the staff room in an orderly and presentable condition.

Student Interviews

Employees shall refer any police officer, child protective service worker, or other similar individual seeking to speak to or interview a student to an administrator.

Telephones

School telephones are maintained for the primary purpose of conducting school business. Staff members should limit their use of school phones to brief conversations. Teachers will not be called to the telephone during class time except in the case of an emergency. Staff members may not use personal cell phones to make or receive calls or to send or receive text messages during instructional time.

Threat Assessment and Response

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Definitions

- a. A threat** is an expression of a willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.

- i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.
 - ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
 - iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.
- b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of identifying and responding to serious threats in a systematic, data-informed way.
 - i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
 - ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. **Obligation to Report threatening Statements or Behaviors.**

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

3. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of the superintendent of schools, building principal(s), guidance counselor, school psychologist, information technology personnel, and local law enforcement. Not every team member needs to participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations. The threat assessment team shall be familiar with mental health resources available to students, staff and patrons and shall collaborate with local mental health service providers as appropriate.

4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

When a threat is reported, the school administrator shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and, in consultation with members of the threat assessment team, make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The school administrator must contact law enforcement if the administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the threat assessment team will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The team may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the team will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The team is authorized to disclose the results of its investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The team may refer the individual of concern to the

appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of its investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and Nebraska law.

5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

The team will keep members of the school community appropriately informed about substantive threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, or communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

6. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The threat assessment team will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's Emergency Operating Plan.

Transportation Request Forms

Staff members must complete transportation request forms at least five days in advance and as soon as they know they need school-provided transportation to allow the activities director adequate time to schedule drivers and vehicles. Transportation requests should be submitted through RSchool.

Visitors

Staff should welcome members of the public who wish to visit school, but should ensure that visitors follow the district's requirements.

All visitors must report to the building office before visiting any classroom or other areas of the building.

Visitors must comply with the following guidelines:

- if a visitor wishes to observe a specific skill or subject, he or she will be asked to observe during a specified time period
- children under the age of 10 years must be accompanied by a parent or guardian
- all visitors must have the prior approval of the principal or superintendent
- salespeople and other such agents will not be allowed to solicit staff members during school hours

- visitors must wear a visitor's badge supplied by the building office
- visitors will be restricted during emergency or crisis situations.

Wage and Salary Payments

2025-2026 PAYROLL DATES: For Classified Staff

<u>Date Paid</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
September 19, 2025	8/1/2025 - 8/31/2025
October 20, 2025	9/1/2025 - 9/30/2025
November 20, 2025	10/1/2025 - 10/31/2025
December 19, 2025	11/1/2025 - 11/30/2025
January 20, 2026	12/1/2025 - 12/31/2025
February 20, 2026	1/1/2026 - 1/31/2026
March 20, 2026	2/1/2026 - 2/28/2026
April 20, 2026	3/1/2026 - 3/31/2026
May 20, 2026	4/1/2026 - 4/30/2026
June 19, 2026	5/1/2026 - 5/31/2026
July 20, 2026	6/1/2026 - 6/30/2026
August 20, 2026	7/1/2026 - 7/31/2026

All required deductions, such as for federal, state, and local taxes, retirement contributions, and all authorized voluntary deductions, such as for insurance, will be withheld automatically from your paychecks. Garnishments are legal proceedings imposed by a court of law upon the school district requiring payment to a third party of monies earned by district employees. The school district will accept all legal garnishments and tax levies against wages in compliance with state and federal law. An employee's pay will be held upon receipt of a garnishment until a court order is issued indicating satisfaction of the indebtedness or until ordered to surrender the monies to the court or its agent. The school district prohibits improper pay deductions, and employees shall be reimbursed for any improper pay deductions. If you believe that an improper deduction has been made to your pay, you should immediately report this information to your direct supervisor, payroll personnel, or the Superintendent.

Staff members, by their signature on the acknowledgement page of this handbook, authorize the school district to withhold such sums from their paychecks as necessary to cover property damage, cash shortages or other amounts owed to the school district by the employee.

Weather-Related Closings

If school is called off because of inclement weather or for any other reason, it will be announced on the school alert messaging system, B103, and various TV stations.

Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. Staff members should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

Workplace Searches

To safeguard the property and interests of our students, employees, and patrons; to help prevent the possession, sale, and use of illegal drugs on school grounds, and in keeping with the spirit and intent of the district's drug-free workplace policy and other policies, the school district reserves the right to question employees and all other persons entering and leaving our premises, and to inspect any packages, parcels, purses, handbags, briefcases, lunch boxes, or any other possessions or articles carried to and from school when it has reasonable grounds to do so. The school also reserves the right to search any employee's office, desk, files, locker, or any other area or article on school grounds. All offices, desks, files, lockers, and so forth, are school district property and are issued or provided for the use of employees only during their employment with the district. Inspections may be conducted at any time at the discretion of the administration. Employees who refuse to cooperate with this provision will be subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES REGARDING CERTIFIED STAFF

Absences and Leave

The accumulation of leave for teaching staff is governed by the Negotiated Agreement between the Board of Education and the Nebraska City Education Association. Leave can be granted at a minimum of 1/2 day increments (AM or PM), or full day. This handbook sets forth the process for using that leave:

1. Sick Leave

Certified staff members who are too ill to perform their teaching duties must submit an electronic leave request and contact their building principal after 6:00 am the day of the absence, or prior to 10:00 pm the evening before the day of the absence. All leave must be entered within three (3) calendar days of absence, whether substitute is required or not.

Family Sick Leave. Teachers shall be able to use sick leave for illness of minor children residing with the teacher and the serious health condition of his/her spouse, child, parent, brother, sister, grandparent, uncle, aunt, nephew and niece or in-law.

At the beginning of each school year, each teacher shall be credited with 10 days paid sick leave allowance. The unused portion of such allowance shall be accumulated from year to year with a 60-day limitation. Upon request, the Board shall furnish to each teacher a written statement at the beginning of each school year setting forth the total of sick leave credit. Sick leave is to be used when teacher absence is caused by illness or physical disability of the teacher. Staff are required to use all of their accrued Sick Leave, in addition to their Personal Leave Days concurrently with any qualifying FMLA leave. No discrimination will be shown towards parents in terms of promotion or tenure due to taking leave as provided within (updated 2018-2019).

2. Personal Leave

Personal leave shall consist of three (3) days per year per teacher. The leave shall be non-accumulative. The leave may be taken for any reason, PROVIDED the teacher notifies the building principal one week in advance, EXCEPT non-emergency personal leave shall not be granted immediately preceding or following vacation period, including the opening and closing days of the school year; nor may personal leave be taken for days designated for parent-teacher conferences. For personal leave to be granted after April 1, a teacher must give a reason for the use of a personal day. That day may or may not be granted based upon the availability of substitutes, other activities that are going on in the buildings and the district that day, and must have

the final approval of the building and/or district administration. An emergency personal leave may be granted at any time, if the leave is of an emergency nature, at the discretion of the building principal and/or superintendent. If the personal leave is not granted, the denial will be explained in writing to the requesting teacher. All non-emergency requests made less than one week in advance may be granted at the option of the building principal. Requests will be honored on a first come basis. Staff members, who do not use their Personal Leave Days during the school year, will be reimbursed \$100 for each day not used. This reimbursement will be included in their July check.

3. Professional Leave

A leave of two (2) days shall be granted upon request by a teacher to attend events or observe programs which may help a teacher in the performance of his/her classroom or extra duty responsibility. This shall include, but not be limited to, clinics, workshops, conferences, and any other meetings or events deemed beneficial to their Assignment. Leave days may also be used by Head Varsity Coaches and Assistant Varsity Coaches to attend State High School Meets in their particular coaching area. Transportation to State High School Meets will be provided for coaches that take teams to the meets based on available transportation.

The tuition, travel, and meal expenses associated with the clinic, workshop, conference, or other event deemed beneficial to the teacher's assignment will be paid by the teacher (other than transportation to State High School Meets, if transportation is available). The expense of such leave is the responsibility of the teacher, with the exception of the paid substitute.

Certified staff members who wish to take professional leave must submit an electronic leave request to their building principal, along with a description of the proposed event and any written materials about the event. Building principals may deny requests for professional leave if they are unable to secure the services of a qualified substitute or if the principal determines that the activity will not enhance the certified staff member's effectiveness as an employee of the district.

4. District Wide Professional Day

One (1) additional day of professional leave will be organized by the District.

5. Bereavement Leave

Up to three (3) days of paid leave per occurrence shall be granted to each employee in the event of death of an employee's spouse, child, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces or in-law.

Additional leave, if necessary, shall be taken from sick leave.

Up to one day of paid leave per school year will be granted in a case where it is deemed necessary to attend a funeral of a non-relative by the employee and approved by the Administration.

6. Family and Medical Leave (FMLA)

Qualified employees will be provided leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) as provided in board policy. Note: when entering leave electronically use "sick" as the leave choice and notify the business office.

7. Jury and Witness Duty Leave

An employee who has been called to serve as a juror will be granted paid leave. Employees must sign over to the district the compensation they receive for jury duty, but not compensation for expenses. Note: when entering leave electronically use "other" as the leave choice and notify the business office.

An employee who has been subpoenaed to testify as a witness in a court proceeding shall be entitled to one day of paid leave. To receive paid leave, the employee must sign over to the district his or her witness fee.

8. Military Leaves of Absence

Leaves of absence without pay for military or Reserve duty are granted to all employees as required by law. An employee who is called to active military duty or to Reserve or National Guard training or who volunteers for the same should submit copies of the military orders to the Superintendent as soon as is practicable. An administrator, at his or her discretion, may require an employee who requests leave under the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act to provide certification from the proper military authority to verify the employee's eligibility for the leave requested.

Military Leave under the Federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the Nebraska Family Military Leave Act will be governed by the board's policies. Note: when entering leave electronically use "other" as the leave choice and notify the business office.

9. Disability Leave (Short-Term)

Short-term disability leave will be treated in the manner required by state and federal law and consistent with the negotiated agreement with the school district's local education association. Short-Term Disability leave will run concurrently with FMLA leave.

Substitute Folders

Each teacher must prepare a substitute folder and keep the completed folder in the upper right-hand drawer of his/her desk. The folder must contain:

- a) the current seating chart for each class;
- b) the daily routine followed by each class;
- c) all schedules (fire drill procedures, lunch schedule, safety and security information);
- d) a copy of this handbook; and
- e) plans for the day if the teacher's absence was anticipated. (These plans are in addition to the teacher's regular lesson plan book.)

Assemblies

Classroom teachers must attend assemblies and pep rallies and sit with students to help maintain order.

All certified staff members should attend school assemblies and should try to attend as many of the school functions as possible regardless of whether they have specific assigned duties or not.

Assignment of Teachers

The administration will assign certified staff to individual duties. Certified staff will also be assigned for various forms of hall, extracurricular, recess, traffic, lunch period and other noontime duties, and athletic events.

Certificates, Teacher Contracts, Salary Information

Teaching certificates must be registered with the Superintendent before they may legally be paid. It is the certified staff member's responsibility to make sure this is done.

Each certified staff member must provide the superintendent's office with all required employment paperwork. It is the sole responsibility of the certified staff member to inform the superintendent of any changes, including but not limited to changes in personal information (name, address, phone number, personal email), certification, endorsements, benefits plans, and salary payment information.

Cheating

Students caught cheating (including plagiarizing) must be sent to the building principal for administrative discipline. The classroom teacher may also give the cheating student a zero grade for the test or assignment.

Check-out Forms

All certified staff must complete a check-out form and obtain the building principal's signature on the form prior to departing for the summer. Classrooms must be tidy to allow the custodial staff to clean classrooms and work areas. Certified staff members who do not clean their work area before departing for the summer will not receive their paychecks until the work is completed.

Class Record Books

A class record book is the school's official record of matters relating to each student in each teacher's class. It may be maintained in paper or electronic form and must be complete in scope and accurately maintained. All classroom teachers are required to keep class record books which list students in each class in alphabetical order and show the attendance and all grades earned by each student. At the end of each school year, classroom teachers must turn their record books into the building office. Record books are subject to examination by the building principal or superintendent at any time.

Classroom Management and Student Discipline

Classroom discipline is first and foremost the responsibility of the classroom teacher. Individual teachers are expected to assume responsibility for good discipline throughout the school system. However, if a certified staff member needs assistance with student discipline, they should seek the advice and counsel of the principal or superintendent.

Classroom teachers may not leave their classrooms unless the students are supervised by a competent adult.

Classroom teachers may not close the door to their rooms until they have left the building or unless they are sponsoring some other group in other areas.

Classroom teachers should have a well-defined discipline plan that is known to the students. Rules and consequences should be stated clearly and posted where appropriate.

Each building has its own specific procedures concerning student discipline. Classroom teachers should consult with their building principal for more information.

Teachers may remove a student from the classroom for failure to comply with established rules of conduct. Only an administrator can suspend or expel students from class or school and due process must be followed.

Students may be kept after school for matters relating to discipline or to assist in their academic progress. Certified staff should allow all elementary students and junior/senior high students who ride the bus to arrange parental transportation for the next day with their parents. Students who do not have transportation concerns may be kept without delay. Students may not avoid being kept after school because they have an after school practice or other school activity.

Both elementary and secondary certified staff are responsible for assisting with hallway discipline between classes and in the school lunchroom.

Classes should begin on time and end promptly. Work should continue throughout the period assigned for it. Classroom teachers may not dismiss classes early except by permission of the building principal.

Staff members may never send a student off school grounds without the authorization of the building principal.

Classroom teachers may not admit tardy students to class without an admit slip from the principal or the student's teacher from the previous period.

Classroom Sanitation

1. Handling of Body Fluids

All body fluids of all persons should be considered to potentially contain infectious agents (germs). Hand washing after contact with a school child is recommended if physical contact has been made with any child's blood or body fluids. The term "body fluids" includes: blood, semen, drainage from scrapes and cuts, tears, feces, urine, vomit, respiratory secretions, and saliva.

2. Infectious Diseases

Certified staff should promptly report any indication of an infectious or contagious disease to the school nurse or building principal. Certified staff should report to the school nurse or the student's parents any pupil whom they suspect of having been exposed to any infectious or contagious disease.

Coaching Supplies

Coaching supplies will be distributed by the athletic director. Such items include tape, pre-wrap, heel pads, band aids, ankle braces, game balls, etc. Coaches should request additional supplies from the activities director only

when they have run out of supplies.

Coaches must fill out and submit inventory forms to the activities director immediately after the season is complete.

Collection of Student Money

Staff members must comply with the school district's student fee policy before collecting any funds from students.

Money collected from students should be turned into the office on the day it is collected for deposit in the proper activity or school district fund. Any checks written by students or parents for various payments should be made out to Nebraska City Public Schools. Certified staff must submit a financial accountability form when they turn funds into the office.

When students purchase items such as coats, rings, etc., through the school district, they must pay for these and other major items before the order is sent. The sponsor of any school organization is not to give merchandise to students; items will be distributed by the office after proper payment.

Community Involvement

Certified staff are encouraged to take part in civic affairs in the community and must do so when required by state law and board policy.

Computer Lab

Students and staff who use computers owned by the district must abide by the district's acceptable use policies. Students may use the computer lab during lunch and after school. Classroom teachers may not send students to the computer lab during study halls or class unless they have made prior arrangements with the lab coordinator.

Classroom teachers who wish to bring classes to the computer lab must sign up as far in advance as possible with the lab coordinator. Absolutely no food or drink is allowed in the computer lab.

Display of Classroom Work in the School and the Community

Classroom teachers are encouraged to display student work for public viewing. Students and parents enjoy viewing the display and may be even more supportive of their school because the display shows them many of the things the students do. Classroom teachers may use the window area of the central office or the commons area to display student work during a night activity. Certified staff must contact the principal before displaying student work at an evening activity.

Duties of Certified Staff

The duties of certified staff include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a) Becoming acquainted with board policies, district rules and regulations, and the state laws concerning teachers and pupils.
- b) Attending such education conferences as are required by law or administrative directives.
- c) Attending school assemblies unless excused by the principal.
- d) Instructing pupils in the proper use of equipment and instructional supplies.
- e) Reporting in writing to the principal any injury to any child while under the jurisdiction of the school, including athletic injuries.
- f) Complying with the Teachers Professional Code of Ethics which has been promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education (92 Neb. Admin. Code § 27) and adopted by the Board of Education Policy 4023 of the district.
- g) Discussing a student only with the child's parents (persons with educational rights) and the superintendent, principal, guidance counselor or classroom teachers who may know the circumstances and have a need to know. It is unprofessional and inappropriate to discuss student or other staff members in the staff lounge.
- h) Being responsible for students whom they keep in school at times other than during regular school time. Certified staff will be responsible for any special work done by their students, including field trips, joint assemblies, school programs, etc.
- i) Refraining from joining book clubs or film clubs using the school name.
- j) Turning in all monies collected to the main office by the end of the school day.
- k) Clearing all class meetings or trips through the principal's office.
- l) Participating in Student Assistance Teams pursuant to board policy.
- m) Assisting with the administration of standardized testing as assigned by the administration.
- n) Provide homebound instruction as assigned by the administration.
- o) Performing additional duties as assigned by the administration.

Extracurricular Activities

Staff must schedule all events and other extracurricular activities at the activity director's office to avoid conflicts. Activities must be put on the school calendar located in the activity director's office at least one week before the activity. Staff should avoid or shorten practices and activities on Wednesday evenings and Sundays, in order to give students sufficient time

away from school for family-related activities.

Certain activities require time to be scheduled outside regular school hours. Any school-sponsored activity involving students must have approval of the principal prior to the activity, including all fund raising activities.

Regular classroom work in all grades will have precedence over any other activity. Students will not be dismissed from classes to participate in extracurricular activities without permission from the principal. Make up slips must be completely signed and returned to the sponsor of the activity prior to dismissal from class. All evening activities, except practices, must have no less than two school sponsors. Non-school sponsors must be approved by the administration, complete a volunteer form, and pass a background check. If vehicles are used for transportation, the drivers must be adults who have been approved by the school.

The activities director has the responsibility for all activities. Therefore, any ruling or handbook decision he/she makes will be school regulation in lieu of further board action.

No student may participate in a field trip off school property without written permission of his or her parent or guardian.

Evacuations

Early in the semester, classroom teachers should review instructions for leaving the classroom with all of their students. Classroom teachers should also periodically review with each class what to do in case of fire, tornado or other emergency.

1. Fire Drills

Fire drills will be held on a regular basis. Certified staff may or may not be notified in advance. These drills are important exercises that help ensure the safety of students in case of an emergency.

When the fire alarm is sounded, all students and staff immediately must cease the activity in which they are engaged and leave the building at once, following these regulations:

- a) Students nearest the windows will close them before leaving.
- b) The classroom teacher will be the last to leave the room. He or she will turn out all the lights and close the door as he or she leaves.
- c) Classroom teachers will take their fire drill packets and class grade books with them when they leave their classrooms.
- d) The first two students reaching the exit doors will hold the doors wide open until everyone has filed out.

- e) Staff and students will move far enough away from the building to avoid possible injury from fire and falling embers, and also, to remain clear of emergency vehicle traffic.
- f) Once outside, each teacher must account for every student in the class. Classroom teachers will take roll for their class and;
 - 1) hold up a Green Card (all students accounted for)
 - 2) hold up a Red Card (missing student (s) listed)
 - 3) hold up a White Card (extra students listed)

The signal to return to the school building will be the short bell. It will be sounded upon completion of the drill. Students will return in an orderly manner.

2. Tornado Drills

When a tornado warning has been issued, the school will evacuate classrooms and move students to the designated tornado shelters. Tornado alerts will be given via the intercom system. When a tornado alert is given, all students and staff immediately must cease the activity in which they are engaged immediately and seek shelter, following these regulations:

- a) All students and staff should proceed to the designated tornado shelter.
- b) Once in the basement, each teacher must account for every student in the class.
- c) Classroom teachers should be sure that each student is sitting with his or her back to the wall, their knees up and their heads should be between their legs.

3. Protocol for all Evacuations

Upon evacuation signals, all students and staff must exit each building. Classroom teachers should do the following:

- 1) Take the class roster;
- 2) Lock the classroom door after all occupants have exited the room;
- 3) Keep the class together and move promptly in an orderly fashion; and
- 4) Upon arriving at the evacuation point, take roll, maintain order, and supervise students.

Evaluations

The appropriate district administrator will evaluate tenured and probationary teachers as required by law and district policy. Additional evaluations, both formal and informal, may be conducted, as the district administration deems appropriate.

Examinations

Semester examinations may be given in all classes at the senior high level.

Tests and final exams will not be given ahead of time. Students are not to type tests or grade any major tests.

Faculty Meetings

The superintendent and principals will call meetings as needed. Certified staff are required to be present at all faculty meetings unless excused by the administration.

Field Trip Request Forms

Certified staff who wish to take students off school property must submit a request to the superintendent at least ten calendar days prior to the date of the requested activity.

Elementary grades will be limited to one field trip per year. Additional requests may be granted on a case by case basis.

Guest Lecturers

Guest lecturers must be approved by the administration before they are asked to address a class. The guest lecturer must have a specific, relatable objective in his/her lecture.

Hall Duty

Every classroom teacher is on hall duty before school in the morning and between classes. Classroom teachers are responsible especially for the part of the hall adjacent to their classrooms.

Homework Policy

Homework is an important part of student learning. When parents, teachers, and students work together, out-of-class assignments are a valuable part of the instructional program. Homework should provide opportunities for students to practice acquired skills, develop initiative, form independent study habits, and use community resources.

Instructional Materials

Instructional materials are made available through the Education Service Unit. A catalog and order forms will be made available to all members. Films should be used as instructional materials. All media must be previewed for suitability by the classroom teacher before being shown to students.

Lesson Plans

Each teacher will prepare and complete a proper lesson plan on Friday for the following week. These plans must be written so that they are clear to any substitute teacher and readily available to any teacher. An up-to-date seating chart of the class or classes shall be part of the lesson plan book.

Other regulations relative to lesson plans will be made by individual building principals. The lesson plans of all classroom teachers are subject to review of the building principal or other members of the school district's administration at any time.

Lesson plans must **identify major instructional objectives and show page assignments and general direction that might be followed by anyone who might be called upon to teach the classes.**

Media Center

The media center is set up to serve the needs of certified staff and students. Certified staff who need assistance with textbooks, literature sets, magazines and other reference materials should consult with the media specialist assigned to their building.

Students may use the media center during study halls, at lunch, after school and in the evenings. Classroom teachers may send individual students to use the media center during class time, but should contact the media staff before sending a group of students during class. The media staff may send disruptive students back to class or study hall, or may exclude unruly students from the media center for a specified period of time. Classroom teachers who send their entire class to the media center must accompany and supervise the students, unless prior arrangements have been made with the media specialist.

Audiovisual materials are available to certified staff through the media center. Certified staff may obtain these materials by filling out the required requisition form and sending it to the media specialist in their building. When certified staff return media, they should complete the film report card and return it to the media specialist.

Paraeducators

Paraeducators provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A paraeducator must not, however, assume teaching responsibilities. The classroom teacher must maintain the role of leadership and responsibility for the students, with the teacher aide in a supportive role. Paraeducators may be used to assist the classroom teacher by, among other tasks, assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher, helping to supervise students, copying tests and other written material, organizing class materials, preparing bulletin boards, grading tests or class work, and calculating and recording grades. Paraeducators are to work only on and within their assigned work days. If the classroom teacher desires the paraeducator to work hours other than the assigned work hours or assigned work day, he or she must contact the administration for

approval.

Parent-Teacher Communication

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. Certified staff should strive to develop open and supportive relationships with parents and guardians. Each classroom teacher is responsible for keeping a student's parents informed about the student's progress. This may be done by letter, telephone, e-mail, or personal conference. Certified staff must attend parent teacher conferences, promptly return phone calls and email, participate in teacher events for students and parents, and where necessary utilize a planner as a communication tool. Certified staff who need additional support in communicating with parents should contact their building principal or guidance counselor.

Parking

Staff members have a parking lot reserved for them. **Students are not to park their cars in the staff lot.** Staff members may not allow students to park in the staff lot when groups leave early in the morning on a school day for field trips or athletic events.

Parties

1. No activities or picnics shall be held by an organization of the school without the presence of the sponsor or sponsors.
2. The number of activities and the closing hour for activities will be determined by the building principal and organization sponsor.
3. In making arrangements for activities and picnics, staff must avoid disturbing the routine of the school.
4. Cleaning up after the activity is the responsibility of the sponsor.

Planning Time

Each classroom teacher is provided with duty-free time for planning, preparation of school-related materials, and a brief respite from the duties of the day.

The Board defines planning time as time for educational planning and other task-related functions that cannot normally be accomplished during instructional periods. Planning time should not be confused with personal time. Planning time is not to be used for running personal errands, conducting personal business, or pursuing non-school hobbies and/or interests.

PowerSchool

All teachers/classroom aides will be required to use PowerSchool. Attendance will be taken as follows: Elementary – at the beginning of the

morning, and right after lunch; and Secondary – at the beginning of every period. Attendance must be taken within the first five minutes of each period / beginning session. Lunch count will also be taken with Power School.

Classroom teachers will be required to update academic progress in Power School on a weekly basis.

Classroom teachers are not permitted to install PowerSchool on their home computer, but can access the Power School web portal via home computer.

Certified staff who have trouble/problems with PowerSchool should complete technology helpdesk ticket.

Private Tutoring

Classroom teachers must provide individual assistance to students as a part of their duties. Any certified staff member who engages in private tutoring for pay (compensation of any kind from a source other than the District) is subject to the following rules:

- Certified staff may not arrange to provide private tutoring for any child enrolled in the staff member's class.
- Certified staff are not to provide private tutoring in a school building.
- Certified staff are not to provide private tutoring during duty time.
- Certified staff are prohibited from advertising or promoting the private tutoring services in the school or in the school's communications systems except with the express permission of the Superintendent or designee.

Projection Maps

The school district will only use the Gall-Peters projection map or a similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or the AuthaGraph projection map for display or use in the classroom. Use of the Mercator projection map is prohibited unless:

1. The Mercator projection map is used in conjunction with other projection maps in a teaching exercise to demonstrate that all maps are flawed in some way and different map projections serve different functions and may affect how individuals view the world; or
2. The Mercator projection map is part of any:
 - a. book or material obtained prior to July 19, 2024; or geographic information system; or computer program that renders a three-dimensional representation of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery, such as Google Earth or similar software; and

a Gall-Peters projection map or similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or an AuthaGraph projection map is displayed in the classroom or shown to students during the lesson in which a Mercator projection map is used.

Pupils' Records

1. Each classroom teacher must keep a set of records in the daily class record book of the class recitations, tests, exams, daily work, notebook, etc. This serves as a justification of the final grade in case of dispute between teacher and pupil, or teacher and parent, and assists in making out the final grades. This book must be turned into the principal at the end of each school year.
2. Report cards will be issued within one week following the end of the quarter unless otherwise announced.
 - a) Reports should be conscientiously and accurately made because they are a serious estimate of the degree of success of the pupil.
 - b) Each classroom teacher should be adequately prepared to defend all decisions given on the report card.
 - c) Each classroom teacher is responsible for distribution of class cards on time.
 - d) Classroom teachers must confer with the principal before recording any incomplete, failing, or conditional grades on report cards.

Rights of Certified and Probationary Teachers

Certified and probationary teachers are entitled to the legal and procedural rights outlined in the board policies and state and federal law with regard to the amendment, cancellation, or termination of the teacher's employment contract. For specific questions relating to those procedural or legal rights, please refer to the district's board policies.

School Day

All certified staff must be at school or on duty between the hours of 7:45 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Thursday and 7:45 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. on Fridays. Under special circumstances, certified staff may seek permission from their building principal to vary these duty hours. In addition, certified staff may be assigned responsibilities at other hours by the principal or superintendent for supervising or directing school activities or affairs or for participation in affairs under the direct sponsorship of the school.

Each teacher will be in his or her classroom or assigned location and ready to teach at 8:00 a.m. each day. Classroom teachers will stand at their doors when class is dismissed and must be outside their classroom doors before each class period. Classroom teachers must be physically present in their classrooms at all times during class periods and conference periods.

Personal work may not be done on school time.

Sponsors

Certified staff members are assigned by the superintendent as class and club sponsors. Sponsors must be present at all meetings and activities of the sponsored group. The procedure for activity accounts and meetings can be found in the student manual. Purchasing of supplies must be approved by the Superintendent.

Student Activities

Staff members who sponsor extracurricular activities such as athletics, class plays, and class activities may leave the school building only after making sure that all students and other individuals have left the building. No student is to be left unattended in the school building at any time.

School-owned clothing or equipment that is checked out to students remains the property of the school. The clothing or equipment is not to be used or worn by the student except for its intended use. Each piece of equipment or clothing is to be returned to the instructor or coach when the season or the use for such clothing or equipment is over. Certified staff will be held responsible for clothing and equipment that is not returned.

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the certified staff member and are not to leave the building or be in the halls or anywhere they are not being supervised. Student aides are not to be used to assist the certified staff member by helping supervise another student, grade tests or class work, calculate student grades, or record grades. Keys are NEVER to be given to students, whether they are student aides or not. A student aide should not be present and assisting a certified staff member without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

Student Attendance

Students are expected to arrive at each class, be seated and ready for instruction prior to the beginning of the class day or class period, as appropriate. Student tardiness is the classroom teacher's professional responsibility. Classroom teachers must insist that students be on time.

Each teacher must maintain an accurate record of student attendance each day. Classroom teachers must carefully check and record attendance information at the beginning of each school day and, in upper grades, at the beginning of each period. Students and student assistants are not permitted to check attendance. Excessive absenteeism should be reported to the building principal or guidance counselor.

Students returning from an absence must report to the office prior to going to class. A returning absentee must show each classroom teacher the admittance pass that was issued by the school office. No student should be accepted back into class after an absence without this pass.

A student who departs school during the school day must report to the office and sign out before leaving the building. A student who returns during the school day must sign in at the building office before returning to class.

Student Attire

The responsibility for proper daily grooming and dress is primarily the responsibility of students and parents/guardians. However, certified staff members must insist that students do not remain in school while wearing attire that violates the dress code set forth in the Student Handbook.

Classroom teachers must report students who are not in compliance with the dress code to the building principal. The final decision on what is considered proper grooming and appearance is the responsibility of the building principal.

Student Illness

In the event of student illness or injury, classroom teachers should notify the building principal or superintendent immediately. Staff should never send a pupil home without notifying school officials and checking to see if his/her parents are home.

Student Medication

Student medications should not be dispensed by staff members unless they follow the following procedures.

No staff members other than the school nurse and other trained staff members may dispense medications (prescription or over-the-counter) to students at any time. Students may, with written parental or guardian permission, self-administer medications such as aspirin and cough syrup or cough drops.

Staff members are not authorized to dispense prescription medicine without an agreement with a parent or guardian to provide a prescription container for the medicine that includes a pharmaceutical label, the physician's name, a child guard cap and directions for administering the medication.

After receiving the medication, the school employee should lock the medication in a cabinet or place it in an area where access is restricted to school employees only.

Student Searches

Certified staff members may not search students or their belongings. If a staff member suspects that a student is in possession of contraband, he/she should immediately contact a member of the administration and supervise the student until the administrator arrives. Students who are suspected of having an item in violation of school rules may be directed to wait with a staff member.

Substitute Teaching with Internal Coverage Certified staff may be required to substitute during their planning period and will be compensated at the current board approved rate of pay.

Certified staff may be required to combine classes in the absence of a substitute, if students are combined from other classroom(s) for the entirety of an academic school day, the certified staff member(s) will receive the substitute daily rate, or a portion equivalent to the percentage of the board approved substitute daily rate.

Teaching Controversial Issues

Teachers may teach or lead discussions about controversial issues if they comply with the following criteria:

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

Textbooks

Classroom teachers will issue textbooks to the pupils, keeping a record of the number and condition of the book assigned to each pupil. If the books are new, classroom teachers must make sure the books are stamped and numbered before distribution.

Textbooks are to be stored in the classroom or storeroom. Textbooks are to be checked out to the students with teachers keeping an accurate record of each book by number in the place provided in grade books. Pupils are to pay for lost or damaged books. Student textbooks must be covered with a book cover.

Workbooks do not become the property of the students and in most cases should be retained by the school.

NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025-2026 CALENDAR

BOE Approved 9-10-25

Aug 6th: New Teacher Inservice Aug 7th-11th: Teacher Inservice Aug 12th: Grades K, 3, 6, 9 school begins; early dismissal Aug 13th: All Grades; early dismissal Aug 20th: Preschool Begins Aug 27th: Early Dismissal	August 2025						
	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	January 2026						
	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2	3
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	February 2026						
	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	March 2026						
	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	April 2026						
	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3	4
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	May 2026						
	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
						1	2
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	June 2026						
	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
	July 2026						
	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa
	August 2026						
	Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sa

Early Dismissal School Times

Northside (402-874-9193): 8:10am to 1:15pm
Hayward (402-873-6641): 8:15am to 1:20pm
Middle School (402-873-5591): 8:05am to 1:25pm
High School (402-873-3360): 8:00am to 1:30pm
Central Office (402-873-6033)

Student Days

1st Quarter: 44
2nd Quarter: 41
1st Semester: 85
School Year: 172
3rd Quarter: 40
4th Quarter: 47
2nd Semester: 87

School Times

Northside: 8:10am to 3:20pm
Hayward: 8:15am to 3:25pm
Middle School: 8:05am to 3:32pm
High School: 8:00am to 3:40pm

It's a GREAT day to be a PIONEER!

STAFF DIRECTORY

Members of the Board of Education:

Lisa Chaney	President
Brent Shanholtz	Vice-President
Kent Blum	Board Member
Rob Elson	Board Member
Jim Nemec	Board Member
Stacie Higgins	Board Member
John Hodges	Board Member
Patricia Lant	Board Member
Sally Schreiner	Board Member

Administrative Staff:

Mark Fritch	Superintendent
Jason Hippen	Director of Student Services
Kate Sherwin	Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
Brian Hoover	High School Principal
Matt Thompson	High School Assistant Principal/Activities Director
Ethan Pellatz	Middle School Principal
David Purdham	Middle School Assistant Principal/Activities Director
Tammy Schaefer	Hayward Elementary Principal
Michaela Wilcox	Northside Elementary Principal

Central Office Staff:

Brenda Wieckhorst	Business Manager
Dana Stovall	Administrative Assistant
Carla Zaroban	Superintendent's Administrative Assistant
Ahna Nelson	Student Services Administrative Assistant/Registrar
Dani McCown	Administrative Assistant

EMERGENCY CRISIS STATEMENT

In the event of unique challenges and circumstances posed by an emergency or crisis situation and/or promulgation of expansive federal regulations, the rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the Superintendent or Board of Education at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy.

All staff shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district's regular means of contact. By signing below, you agree that you will read any such information and communications and recognize that you must comply with all rules, procedures, and requirements as they apply at that time.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RECEIPT

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the Nebraska City Public Schools Certified Staff Handbook, which includes the district's drug-free workplace policy statement. I understand that, as a condition of my employment, I am required to read and abide by the provisions of the handbook and by all board policies governing my employment. Further, if I have any questions about any provision of this handbook or any board policy, I should confer with my supervisor or building principal.

Signature

Date

Nebraska City Public Schools

Improvement of Instruction Model



Overview

The Nebraska City Public Schools believes that a strong and on-going teacher/specialist evaluation system is necessary to achieve excellence concerning instructional elements in the district. Teacher/specialist evaluation is necessary to insure effective instructional staff and practices, and to provide a means to achieve instructional excellence. Teacher/specialist evaluation is designed to be a cooperative process between the administration and the teachers/specialists in order to maintain and enhance the educational opportunities for all the children in the Nebraska City Public Schools.

Purposes of Teacher/Specialist Evaluation

1. Accountability:

- To ensure that all students learn the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for responsible living in a changing society.
- To ensure that only effective teaching practices continue in the classroom.

2. Professional Growth:

- To foster the continuous improvement of teaching and learning by teachers/specialists.

3. School Improvement:

- To promote the continued focus of the district on the improvement of instruction process.

Teacher/Specialist Effective Practices

1. **Effective Practice 1: Foundational Knowledge** – The Teacher/Specialist demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide all students with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.
2. **Effective Practice 2: Planning and Preparation** – The Teacher/Specialist integrates knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards with the established curriculum to set high expectations and develop rigorous instruction for each student that supports the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.
3. **Effective Practice 3: The Learning Environment** – The Teacher/Specialist creates and maintains a learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.
4. **Effective Practice 4: Instructional Strategies** – The Teacher/Specialist uses effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement.
5. **Effective Practice 5: Assessment** – The Teacher/Specialist systematically uses multiple methods of formative and summative assessment to measure student progress and to inform ongoing planning, instruction, and reporting.
6. **Effective Practice 6: Professionalism** – The Teacher/Specialist acts as an ethical and responsible member of the professional community.
7. **Effective Practice 7: Vision and Collaboration** – The Teacher/Specialist contributes to and promotes the vision of the school and collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development and achievement.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (1) Foundational Knowledge

The teacher demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development and achievement.

Proficient--The teacher demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development and achievement.

- Demonstrates a strong command of his/her discipline's content and the components of an effective curriculum.
- Demonstrates understanding of local, state and national standards.
- Demonstrates knowledge of research-based instructional approaches, strategies, assessments, and interventions.
- Has a strong understanding of the intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development of students.
- Understands the effect of cultural and societal influences on student learning.
- Regularly demonstrates responsibility for providing effective opportunities for student learning, development, and achievement.

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (2) Planning and Preparation

The teacher integrates knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards with the established curriculum to set high expectations and develop rigorous instruction for each student that supports the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.

Proficient--The teacher consistently integrates knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards with the established curriculum to develop coherent and rigorous units, lesson, and activities that support the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.

- Consistently develops coherent units, lessons and activities using a variety of appropriate research-based strategies and resources, including technology.
- Consistently designs, and adapts instruction based on student progress, assessment results, and interests.
- Considers student's prior knowledge, abilities and individual circumstances to ensure differentiated, relevant and rigorous instruction.
- Uses a variety of appropriate, research-based teaching strategies to engage, challenge, and meet the needs of individual students to optimize their development and achievement.

Look For

- Submits plans in a timely manner
- Units of instruction follow logical sequence
- Adjusts instruction based on difficulty of concept, progress of students and special needs of students
-

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (3) The Learning Environment

The teacher creates and maintains a learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.

Proficient--The teacher creates and maintains a learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.

- Establishes and consistently maintains effective routines, procedures, and clear standards of conduct.
- Ensures a safe and accessible environment.
- Ensures an engaging learning environment for each student.
- Establishes high expectations for learning, development and achievement
- Purposefully interacts with students in ways that cultivate self-motivation and value diversity.
- Establishes and consistently maintains a collaborative learning community built on a climate of mutual respect, trust, openness, and support.
- Acknowledges the value of student, family, neighborhood, and community experiences, and builds upon them to encourage and positively impact academic success.

Look For

- Class routines are evident

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (4) Instructional Strategies

The teacher uses effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement.

Proficient-- The teacher consistently uses effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement.

- Consistently uses developmentally appropriate instructional strategies and resources to meet learning goals.
- Assumes various instructional roles in the teaching and learning processes appropriate to the content, purposes of instruction, and the needs of students.
- Continuously engages students by using varied activities, assignments, groupings, structure, pacing, and a variety of instructional techniques such as direct instruction, inquiry, questioning, and discussion as appropriate for individual student achievement.
- Modifies, adapts, and differentiates instruction based on data analysis.
- Ensures student growth and achievement.
- Uses a variety of methodologies, techniques, resources, and technologies.
- Develops students' skills in critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving.
- Effectively communicates with students and families to promote and support high expectations for achievement.
- Draws upon family and community resources to positively impact student achievement.

Look for

- Uses NCPS Instructional Framework Strategies
- Incorporates quality questioning techniques
- Instruction is aligned with Learning Target

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (5) Assessment

The teacher systematically uses multiple methods of formative and summative assessment to measure student progress and to inform ongoing planning, instruction, and reporting.

Proficient-- The teacher consistently and systematically develops and uses multiple methods of formative and summative assessment to measure student progress. The teacher uses assessment results when planning, preparing for instruction, and reporting.

- The teacher uses assessment results when planning, preparing for instruction, and reporting.
- Consistently develops and uses a variety of appropriate formative and summative assessments and accommodations that are effective and free of bias.
- Routinely analyzes and interprets the resulting data to inform instruction, document and report student progress over time, and provide meaningful feedback to each student.
- Systematically uses strategies that enable students to set high expectations for self-reflection and personal achievement, monitor, and reflect on their own work.

Look For

- Frequently checks for progress
- Uses a variety of assessment forms
- Provides feedback in a variety of ways
- Communicates progress to students

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (6) Professionalism

The teacher acts as an ethical and responsible member of the professional community.

Proficient--The teacher consistently models ethical and responsible behavior as a member of the professional community.

- Consistently models ethical and responsible behavior.
- Adheres to school policies, procedures, and regulations.
- Protects the rights and confidentiality of students and families.
- Maintains accurate records, documentation, and data and uses it to inform instruction.
- Actively pursues meaningful professional development.
- Systematically reflects on his/her own professional practices.
- Contributes to and advocates for the profession.

Look For

- Is on time for meetings
- Positively contributes to meetings
- Offers solutions instead complaints
- Keeps PowerSchool grades updated on a regular basis
- Positively engages in professional development
- Is visible at community events
- Maintains confidentiality

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (7) Vision and Collaboration

The teacher contributes to and promotes the vision of the school and collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development and achievement.

Proficient--The teacher contributes to and promotes the vision of the school and collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development and achievement.

- Actively participates in the development and implementation of the school's vision, mission, and goals for teaching and learning.
- Contributes to the school improvement process.
- Deliberately and consistently uses effective communication strategies to create meaningful and collaborative relationships with students, families, colleagues, and the community in order to enhance the learning process.

Look For

- Involved in building level committee's
- Communicates with parents on a regular basis
- Seeks out students that are struggling
- Enhances school climate

TEACHER/EDUCATIONAL SPECIALIST EVALUATION PROCEDURES SEQUENCE

The Nebraska City Certified Staff Evaluation Leadership Committee has recommended a teacher/educational specialist evaluation cycle of up to three years. Below are the sequences of activities required to evaluate probationary teachers/specialists twice per year and tenured employees on a three-year Self-Growth cycle. Note that teachers/specialists performing at a less than proficient level can be moved to a semester-long or yearlong cycle at any time by making the sequence adjustments accordingly. Note that Individual Professional Development Plans (IPDP) are developed at the end of the year following a summative evaluation and evaluated at the end of the following year. This is because IPD plans are linked to the result of the previous evaluation.

PROBATIONARY TEACHERS (Appraisal Cycle)	
Semester 1 Activities:	Semester 2 Activities:
• Self-assessment/reflection on teaching practices (optional) • Individual Professional Development Plan (IPD Plan) review • Formal classroom observation (minimum of one for full instructional period) based on instructional framework; multiple informal/walk-through observations recommended. - o Pre-observation conference - o Pre-observation form (optional) - o Formal classroom observation (minimum of one for a full instructional period) based on district's instructional framework - o Post-observation conference • Informal Observations - o 1 per semester (minimum) • Improvement plan/plan of assistance (if applicable) • Student Perception data (Optional)	• Formal classroom observation (minimum of one for full instructional period) based on instructional framework; multiple informal/walk-through observations recommended. - o Pre-observation conference - o Pre-observation form (optional) - o Formal classroom observation (minimum of one for a full instructional period) based on district's instructional framework - o Post-observation conference • Provide list of deficiencies/suggestions at time of observation (if applicable) • Informal Observations - o 1 per semester (minimum) • Complete summative evaluation document. • Improvement plan/plan of assistance (if applicable) • Student Perception data (Optional)

Growth Cycle (Year 1) Informal	Growth Cycle (Year 3) Summative
• Self-assessment/reflection on teaching practices (optional) • Review of Individual Professional Development Plan • Informal/walk-through classroom observations. 2 per semester (min.) ◦ Provide list of deficiencies/suggestions at time of observation (if applicable). • Review of data/artifacts • Develop/revise Individual Professional Development Plan for next year. • If performance warrants, move to semester or yearly summative evaluation cycle.	• Self-assessment/reflection on leadership practices (optional) • Review of Individual Professional Development Plan (from prior year) • Review of data/artifacts • Gather student perception data (optional) • Self-assessment/reflective summary (optional) • End-Year Summative Evaluation and conference: ◦ Ratings on 7 Effective Practices ◦ Rating on Individual Professional Development Plan. ◦ Rating on local standards (optional) ◦ Overall rating for evaluation cycle. ◦ Complete summative evaluation document. • Develop/revise Individual Professional Development Plan for next year. • Improvement plan/plan of assistance (if applicable) • Continue multi-year cycle or move to more frequent summative cycle if performance warrants.
Growth Cycle (Year 2) Reflection	
• Self-assessment/reflection on teaching practices (optional) • Review of Individual Professional Development Plan • Informal/walk-through classroom observations. 1 per semester (min.) ◦ Provide list of deficiencies/suggestions at time of observation (if applicable). ◦ Develop a self-evaluation process to include video reflection, instructional rounds, book reviews, or a combination during the year. • Develop/revise Individual Professional Development Plan for next year. • If performance warrants, move to semester or yearly summative evaluation cycle.	

Professional Learning Plan (annual process)	
PLP program components	Activities:
• Professional Learning Plan Form - o Completed annually •	•
•	•
•	•

Nebraska City Public Schools

Teacher/Specialist Information:

Teacher/Specialist Name:

Schools:

Grade/Subject:

Evaluator:

School Year:

☐ Appraisal – Formal Semester 1 ☐ Appraisal – Formal Semester 2

☐ Year 1 ☐ Year 2 ☐ Year 3

☐ Self-Growth Formal

PART ONE: NEBRASKA EFFECTIVE PRACTICES:

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (1) Foundational Knowledge. The teacher demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.

EVALUATOR RATING	DESCRIPTION
☐ EXEMPLARY	The teacher demonstrates a current and comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.
☐ PROFICIENT	The teacher demonstrates a comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.
☐ DEVELOPING	The teacher demonstrates a progressing knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.
☐ BASIC	The teacher demonstrates limited knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, or standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.
☐ UNSATISFACTORY	The teacher demonstrates a lack of knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, or standards needed to provide each student with effective opportunities for learning, development, and achievement.

Evaluator's Comments

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (2) Planning and Preparation. The teacher integrates knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards with the established curriculum to set high expectations and develop rigorous instruction for each student that supports the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.

EVALUATOR RATING	DESCRIPTION
☐ EXEMPLARY	The teacher purposefully and consistently integrates a comprehensive knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards with the established curriculum to develop units, lessons, and other learning experiences that support the growth of individual student learning, development, and achievement.
☐ PROFICIENT	The teacher consistently integrates knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and standards with the established curriculum to develop coherent and rigorous units, lessons, and activities that support the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.
☐ DEVELOPING	The teacher demonstrates a growing knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, curriculum and standards, and increasingly integrates this knowledge into units, lessons, and learning activities.
☐ BASIC	The teacher demonstrates a basic knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, and curriculum standards, but fails to integrate them consistently to develop units, lessons, and learning activities.
☐ UNSATISFACTORY	The teacher displays a very limited knowledge of content, pedagogy, students, or curriculum standards, and/or fails to develop coherent and rigorous units, lessons, and learning activities.

Evaluator's Comments:

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (3) The Learning Environment. The teacher creates and maintains a learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.

EVALUATOR RATING	DESCRIPTION
☐ EXEMPLARY	The teacher creates and consistently maintains an exceptional learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.
☐ PROFICIENT	The teacher creates and maintains an effective learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement.
☐ DEVELOPING	The teacher strives to create and maintain a learning environment that fosters positive relationships and promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement; however, the results are not consistent.
☐ BASIC	The teacher demonstrates difficulties with creating and/or maintaining a learning environment that fosters positive relationships or promotes active student engagement in learning, development, and achievement; Strategies are not consistently implemented.
☐ UNSATISFACTORY	The teacher fails to create and/or maintain an effective or engaging learning environment.

Evaluator's Comments:

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (4) Instructional Strategies. The teacher uses effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement.

EVALUATOR RATING	DESCRIPTION
☐ EXEMPLARY	The teacher consistently uses highly effective instructional strategies that result in continuous growth in learning for each student.
☐ PROFICIENT	The teacher consistently uses effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement.
☐ DEVELOPING	The teacher regularly uses effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement. However, strategies utilized are limited.
☐ BASIC	The teacher demonstrates difficulty utilizing effective instructional strategies to ensure growth in student achievement.
☐ UNSATISFACTORY	The teacher fails to use effective instructional strategies and growth in student achievement is below expectations.

Evaluator's Comments:

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (5) Assessment. The teacher systematically uses multiple methods of formative and summative assessment to measure student progress and to inform ongoing planning, instruction, and reporting.

EVALUATOR RATING	DESCRIPTION
☐ EXEMPLARY	The teacher is viewed as a leader for assessment practices. He/she consistently and systematically creates and uses multiple methods of formative and summative assessment to measure student progress. The teacher disaggregates data for use in planning, preparing for instruction, and reporting.
☐ PROFICIENT	The teacher consistently and systematically develops and uses multiple methods of formative and summative assessment to measure student progress. The teacher uses assessment results when planning, preparing for instruction, and reporting.
☐ DEVELOPING	The teacher increasingly develops formative and summative assessment to measure student progress. The teacher attempts to use assessment results when planning, preparing for instruction, and reporting.
☐ BASIC	The teacher has limited understanding of the various methods of assessment, and/or the teacher uses assessment results inconsistently.
☐ UNSATISFACTORY	The teacher has little or no understanding of assessment methods and uses them inconsistently or incorrectly. Assessment results are ignored or not used appropriately.

Evaluator's Feedback:

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (6) Professionalism. The teacher acts as an ethical and responsible member of the professional community.

EVALUATOR RATING	DESCRIPTION
☐ EXEMPLARY	The teacher serves as a role model for ethical and responsible behavior and serves as a leader in the professional community.
☐ PROFICIENT	The teacher consistently models ethical and responsible behavior as a member of the professional community.
☐ BASIC	The teacher understands ethical and responsible behavior, but is inconsistent in demonstrating a high level of professional practice.
☐ UNSATISFACTORY	The teacher fails to act in an ethical and/or professionally responsible manner.

Evaluator's Comments:

EFFECTIVE PRACTICE: (7) Vision and Collaboration. The teacher contributes to and promotes the vision of the school and collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development and achievement.

EVALUATOR RATING	DESCRIPTION
☐ EXEMPLARY	The teacher takes a leadership role in contributing to and promoting the vision of the school and continuously collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.
☐ PROFICIENT	The teacher contributes to and promotes the vision of the school and collaborates with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.
☐ BASIC	The teacher strives to promote the vision of the school and to collaborate with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development, and achievement, but with limited or inconsistent results.
☐ UNSATISFACTORY	The teacher fails to contribute to and promote the vision of the school. The teacher fails to recognize his/her responsibility to collaborate with students, families, colleagues, and the larger community, and to share responsibility for the growth of student learning, development, and achievement.

Evaluator's Comments:

SUMMARY OF EFFECTIVE PRACTICES:**AREAS OF STRENGTH****AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT**

☐ Plan for Improvement attached (required for rating of “Basic” on any of the Effective Practices)

☐ Plan of Assistance attached (required for rating of “Unsatisfactory” on any of the Effective Practices)

Part II: Individual Professional Development Plan. (Attach Plan documents)

EVALUATOR RATING	DESCRIPTION
☐ EXEMPLARY	The Individual Professional Development Plan's goals have been met or exceeded in all respects. There is evidence that implementation and completion of the Plan has led to significant, positive, and lasting change in job performance.
☐ PROFICIENT	The Individual Professional Development Plan's goals have been met or nearly met on an overall basis. There is evidence that implementation and completion of the Plan has led to a positive change in job performance.
☐ BASIC	The Individual Professional Development Plan's goals have not been met or have been only partially met on an overall basis. There is limited evidence to date that implementation of the Plan has led to a positive change in job performance.
☐ UNSATISFACTORY	The Individual Professional Development Plan's goals have not been met to a satisfactory degree. Implementation of the Plan has not led to a positive change in job performance.

Evaluator's Comments:

☐ Plan for Improvement (Required for rating of “Basic”)

☐ Plan of Assistance attached (Required for rating of “Unsatisfactory”)

Part III: Local District Standards (Optional).

Local District Standards	Meets District Standards	
☐ Not applicable	☐ YES	☐ NO

Part IV: Overall Rating

EVALUATOR RATING	DESCRIPTION
☐ EXEMPLARY	In the judgment of the evaluator based on a review of the evidence collected, the teacher/educational specialist meets district performance standards for all evaluative criteria and exceeds expected performance in many respects. He/she takes a leadership role in professional development and school leadership activities.
☐ PROFICIENT	In the judgment of the evaluator based on a review of the evidence collected, the teacher/educational specialist meets district performance standards for the evaluative criteria on an overall basis and is actively engaged in professional development and school leadership efforts.
☐ DEVELOPING	In the judgment of the evaluator, based on a review of the evidence collected, the teacher/educational specialist meets district performance standards for most evaluative criteria.
☐ BASIC	In the judgment of the evaluator, based on a review of the evidence collected, the teacher/educational specialist has not met district performance standards for one or more evaluative criteria. Any teacher/educational specialist rated as basic will participate in an improvement plan.
☐ UNSATISFACTORY	In the judgment of the evaluator based on a review of the evidence collected, the teacher/educational specialist does not meet district performance standards for a significant segment of the evaluative criteria and improvement efforts have been inadequate.

EVALUATOR'S COMMENTS:

AREAS OF STRENGTH

AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT

- ☐ Plan for Improvement attached (required for Overall rating of "Basic")
- ☐ Plan of Assistance attached (required for Overall rating of "Unsatisfactory")

PRINCIPAL/ADMINISTRATOR SIGNATURE:

DATE:

TEACHER/SPECIALIST SIGNATURE:

DATE:

My signature certifies that the evaluation results have been discussed with me. I understand my signature does not necessarily indicate agreement and that I may respond in writing to any issues contained in the evaluation.

Part VI: Attachments (attach the following items)

1. Record of Evaluation Activities
2. Annual Self-Assessment (Optional)
3. Classroom Observation Summaries
4. Student Learning Objectives/Specialist Program Objectives Templates
5. Individual Professional Development Plan
6. Plan for Improvement (if any)

7. Plan of Assistance (if any)

PRE-OBSERVATION DOCUMENT

Teacher	
Appraisal or Year Two	
School	
Grade Level/Subject(s)	
Administrator	
Date of Conference	

Preconference (Planning Conference)

Questions for Discussion:	Notes:
What is your identified student learning goal(s)?	
To which part of your curriculum does this lesson relate?	
How does this learning fit in the sequence of learning for this class?	
Briefly describe the students in this class, including those with special needs.	
How will you engage the students in the learning? What will you do? What will the students do? Will the students work in groups, or individually, or as a large group? Provide any materials that the students will be using.	
How will you differentiate instruction for individuals or groups of students?	
How and when will you know whether the students have achieved the learning goal(s)?	
Is there anything that you would like me to specifically observe during the lesson?	

Individual Professional Development Plan

Teacher/Specialist Name:

School:

Evaluator:

Date:

Growth area(s) identified in summative evaluation process:

Professional Development Goal 1:

Professional Development Goal 2:

Goal 1 Strategies/Action Steps:

Support/Resources Requested:

Measures of Progress:

Time line/Benchmarks:

Goal 2 Strategies/Action Steps:

Support/Resources Requested:

Measures of Progress:

Time line/Benchmarks:

Evaluator Signature:

Date:

Evaluator Section

Plan Approval:

Evaluator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Plan Continuation:

Comments:

Evaluator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Teacher/Specialist Signature: _____

Date: _____

Record of Evaluation

Activity	Date	Principal/ Administrator Signature	Teacher /Specialist Signature
Orientation			
Annual Self-Assessment Completed and Submitted (Optional)			
Individual Professional Development Plan Approval			
Action Plans Approval			

Dates of Site Visits: (One full period on-site observation per semester required during Appraisal Phase)

1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Dates of Site Visit Conferences:

1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
Action Plan Review Conference			
Action Plan Summative Conference			
IDP Plan Review Conference			
IDP Plan Summative Conference			
Semester 1 (Formal) Evaluation Conference			
Semester 2 (Formal) Evaluation Conference			
Summative Evaluation Conference			

PLAN OF ASSISTANCE

A Plan of Assistance is required for Teachers/Educational Specialists who receive a rating of "Unsatisfactory" on any component of a summative evaluation. Components include each of the Effective Practices, Individual Professional Development Plans, Local standards, and Overall Ratings.

Teacher/Specialist

School: Date:

Name: Evaluator:

1. Component(s) rated as "Unsatisfactory"

2. Performance deficiencies leading to the "Unsatisfactory" rating:

3. Recommendations to correct deficiencies:

4. Criteria used to assess the correction of deficiencies:

5. Assistance and resources to be provided:

6. Members of assistance team (if applicable):

7. Timeline for correction of deficiencies:

8. Dates of review/evaluation:

A. Next Quarterly review on or before:			
B. Next summative evaluation on or before:			

Teacher/Specialist Signature: _____





Date: _____

My signature verifies that this Plan of Assistance has been discussed with me. I understand my signature does not necessarily indicate agreement and that I may respond in writing regarding this plan within 10 days of receipt.

Evaluator Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLAN FOR IMPROVEMENT

A Plan for Improvement is required for Teachers/Educational Specialists who receive a rating of "Basic" on any component of a summative evaluation. Components include each of the Effective Practices, Individual Professional Development Plans, Local standards, and Overall Ratings.

Teacher/Specialist Name: School: Date:

Evaluator:

1. Component(s) rated as "Basic"

2. Rationale for rating of "Basic":

3. Recommendations for Improvement:

4. Assistance and Resources to be Provided (if appropriate):

15. Timeline for Improvement:

8. Dates of Next Evaluation:

A. Formal evaluation to be conducted on or before:		
B. Summative evaluation to be conducted on or before:		

Teacher/Specialist Signature: _____ Date: _____

My signature verifies that this Plan of Assistance has been discussed with me. I understand my signature does not necessarily indicate agreement and that I may respond in writing regarding this plan within 10 days of receipt.

Evaluator Signature: _____ Date: _____

INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PLAN

Overview

- A major focus of the Nebraska City Public Schools Improvement of Instruction process is to insure that effective teaching practices continue in the classroom. The Teacher/Specialist Effective Practices have been developed to define these effective teaching practices.
- If it is determined that a teacher/specialist in the Nebraska City Public Schools is not meeting these standards, the Intensive Assistance Program will be used to assist the teacher in improving teaching practices to ensure that the standards are met.
- The evaluator, after assessing concerns about a teacher/specialist's performance, will make a determination regarding the need for Intensive Assistance. Intensive Assistance is part of the Appraisal Cycle of the evaluation process.
- If Intensive Assistance is indicated, teachers currently in the Appraisal Cycle can be placed directly in Intensive Assistance. Teachers/Specialists in the Self-Growth Cycle will be moved to the Appraisal Cycle at the time the Intensive Assistance Program is initiated.
- While in the Intensive Assistance Program, the teacher/specialist will be informed of the concerns with performance and be an active participant in the development and implementation of the Intensive Assistance Plan.
- The Intensive Assistance Plan will include the objective(s) to be accomplished, action steps for achieving the objective(s), a description of the assistance that will be provided, a timeline for implementation, the type and frequency of feedback, and the evaluation criteria and date of evaluation.
- When the date for evaluation of the Intensive Assistance Plan is reached, a determination is made by the evaluator regarding the successful accomplishment of the objective(s).
- The Intensive Assistance Program is intended to assist teachers/specialists who are not meeting performance standards with respect to the Improvement of Instruction Model.
- Teachers who continue to perform unsatisfactory according to the performance standards in the Improvement of Instruction Model after Intensive Assistance has been initiated may be subject to dismissal or non-renewal of contract.
- There may be other grounds for non-renewal of contract or dismissal that are made independently of the teacher evaluation process.

INTENSIVE ASSISTANCE PLAN

Teacher/Specialist Name:

School: Date:

Evaluator:

11. Objective(s) to be accomplished:

12. Action Steps for achieving the objective(s):

13. Assistance that will be provided (who, what, when, how):

14. Timeline for achieving objective(s):

15. Type and frequency of feedback:

16. Evaluation criteria:

Teacher/Specialist Signature: _____

Date: _____

My signature verifies that this Plan of Assistance has been discussed with me. I understand my signature does not necessarily indicate agreement and that I may respond in writing regarding this plan within 10 days of receipt.

Evaluator Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title IX Policy to be added upon Board approval

https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/915/Nebraska_City_Public_Schools/4570487/Title_IX_Policy_3057.pdf

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Excessive Absences -

Addition - Each student will be allowed 8 absences per semester, but absences due to: 1) personal illness (with doctor's note), 2) family emergencies/events, 3) school activities will not be included in this total. Upon the ninth (9) unexcused absence in a semester, student credit could be reduced by half regardless of academic standing. For example, a 5 credit class will be reduced to 2.5 for the semester.

Rationale - to clarify for families the types of absences associated with "excessive absences". This definition is already in the handbook; however, adding it to this section will benefit families.

Change - In addition, when a student has accumulated more than 5 absences during a semester more than 16 absences during the school year, the school district may report the student's absences to the county attorney for truancy.

Rationale - many parents interpret the period for reporting to the county attorney by semester. This will clarify that it is for the entire school year. While State Statute doesn't require a report until 20 days, it does allow us to report sooner if deemed necessary. By aligning the 16 days with the "8 absences" used with credits we remove the frustration from parents when discussing loss of credit vs. reporting to CA.

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Communicating with Parents

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. ~~The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing.~~ The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact.

Rationale - redundant statement

Graduation Ceremony Participation

Graduation is considered a school-sponsored extracurricular activity and a privilege, not a guarantee. Participation requires that students meet all academic and behavioral expectations established by the school.

All students participating in the graduation ceremony must wear the approved graduation regalia, including the official cap and gown. Any requests to wear cultural regalia or to decorate graduation caps must be submitted in writing to school administration **prior to the scheduled graduation practice**. Unauthorized additions or decorations to regalia or caps will not be permitted and may result in removal from the ceremony.

Students are expected to conduct themselves with dignity and respect throughout the event, as it is a formal recognition of academic achievement.

Rationale: This has been the practice so needs to be in writing.

DISCUSSION w/Admin - Section Four - School Wellness

Title IX Policy to be added upon Board approval

https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/915/Nebraska_City_Public_Schools/4570487/Title_IX_Policy_3057.pdf

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Communicating with Parents

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Rationale - redundant statement

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Student Council

To be considered for a position as a Student Council member a student must:

1. Student Council eligibility will be determined using the same method outlined on page forty (40) in the Academic/Activity eligibility section.
- ~~2. Elections will take place in the fall of the current school year.~~
- ~~3. The student will have to make two (2) posters to be displayed in a hallway according to the date set by the Student Council Advisor.~~
- ~~4. Students will write and give a speech detailing why they should be elected to student council, the time they will devote to student council and a project idea for student council to consider.~~
5. Two recommendations from teachers will be due by the date set by the Student Council Advisor.
6. On a date set by the Student Council Advisor, the classes will meet to vote by ballot for Student Council representatives.
7. Students may be removed from the student council for behavior that does not represent the school appropriately. This decision will be made by the school administration and the student council advisor.

Rationale - to simplify and align with updated practices

DISCUSSION w/ Mr. Hoover - Dress Code/Student Appearance

Students must come to school dressed in clean, neat and appropriate clothing to conform with educational standards.

Students are prohibited from wearing, or displaying permanent or temporary body art, the following attire:

- 1) Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
- 2) Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance
- 3) Caps, hats, sunglasses, and bandannas during the school day.
- 4) Hoods and/or anything that interferes with ability to hear (i.e. airpods) worn in common areas.
- 5) Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
- 6) Short-shorts, biker shorts, or cutoffs
- 7) Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
- 8) Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened
- 9) Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions
- 10) Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
- 11) Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments
- 12) ~~Pants~~ Pants that drag on the floor
- 13) Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts
- 14) Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
- 15) Clothing with tears or holes, or a fit, that expose underclothes
- 16) Extreme makeup, face paint, jewelry, piercings, or hairstyles are not allowed.
- 17) Students are not allowed to use or carry blankets during the school day.

DISCUSSION w/Mr. Fritch - Opting Out of Assessments (currently a statement about opting out of activities in “Protection of Student Rights”)

The Board of Education has adopted a policy on approval and denial of state and federal assessment opt-out requests, which is based on requirements in law. The policy can be requested by contacting the Superintendent of Schools at [or can be viewed online by visiting: {hyperlink}].

DISCUSSION w/Administrators

Threat Assessment and Response - *Currently - a statement about threat assessment in the “Emergency Operations” of handbooks.*

DISCUSSION w/Admin - Section Four - School Wellness

Nebraska City High School 2025-2026

Home of the Pioneers

141 Steinhart Park Road
Nebraska City, NE 68410
Phone: 402-873-3360
Fax: 402-873-3831

NCHS Website: <http://www.nebcityps.org>

**Mr. Brian Hoover
Principal**

**Mr. Matt Thompson
Assistant Principal
Activities Director**

It is a GREAT Day to be a Pioneer!

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WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook. The student handbook is an extension of school policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

There are several forms available on PowerSchool that must be read, signed, and submitted no later than **August 23rd, 2024**. These forms are available for review at the end of this handbook.

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher or speak with the building principal.

Sincerely,

Brian Hoover

Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Each student must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word “parents” refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents and legal guardians.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract” with parents, students or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mr Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at Central Office. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org, or in person at Central Office. The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: [https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/915/Nebraska_City_Public_Schools/4570487/Title_IX_Policy_3057.pdf] Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org, or in person at Central Office. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact Mr. Brian Hoover at 402-873-3360, bhoover@nebcityps.org, or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

AVISO DE NO DISCRIMINACION

El distrito escolar no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, discapacidad o edad en sus programas y actividades y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados. El distrito escolar prohíbe la discriminación sexual en cualquier programa o actividad que opere. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de actos ilícitos discriminación o acoso debido a sus discapacidad, o otros inquietudes tienen preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador de la Sección 504 : Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de discriminación o acoso ilegal debido a su sexo, o que tengan otras inquietudes o preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador del Título IX: Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. El Aviso de no discriminación específico del Distrito Escolar en el se puede acceder a Bases del Sexo en el siguiente enlace: https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/915/Nebraska_City_Public_Schools/4570487/Title_IX_Policy_3057.pdf Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de discriminación ilegal o acoso debido a su raza, color o origen nacional, o que tengan otras inquietudes o preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador del Título VI: Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de cualquier otra discriminación o acoso ilegal deben comunicarse con el Sr. Brian Hoover al 402-873-3360, bhoover@nebcityps.org, o en persona en la escuela. Los estudiantes pueden denunciar discriminación o acoso a cualquier miembro del personal, quien luego lo enviará al coordinador o administrador correspondiente. El miembro del personal seguiría la políticas del distrito escolar para responder al informe.

The District's Mission Statement:

Inspiring a culture of excellence that engages all students in lifelong learning.

Nebraska City High School's Expectations:

Teachers

1. Teach Kids Skills.
2. Praise and Compliment.
3. Correct Misbehavior.
4. Be Organized.
5. Have High Energy.
6. Model.
7. Communicate with Parents.
8. Understand the Big Picture.

Parents

1. Have Your Child be on Time with Proper Supplies.
2. Support the Teachers.
3. Voice Concerns Appropriately.
4. Praise and Compliment Your Child, Rather than Criticize.
5. Model Appropriate Behavior at all extra-curricular events.
6. Problem-Solve Issues Your Child Has with Teachers or Coaches.

Students

1. Listen to Your Teachers.
2. Follow Teachers' Instructions.
3. Accept teaching.
4. Get Along with Your Peers.
5. Have High Energy
6. Respect everyone, including all visitors to Nebraska City
7. Be Prepared for Class.
8. Always display Class and Dignity.
9. Handle Disappointment and Adversity Appropriately.
10. Respect Facilities and Equipment.

We believe that if everyone follows these expectations, we will prepare our students for all situations after high school.

SECTION ONE

BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES

Accidents

The School (School district) will not be responsible for any medical costs incurred by any student who is injured while attending school, any class, any school function on the premises of the school or at any off premises location at any activity authorized or sanctioned by the school.

Attendance

Required attendance - Every person residing in the school district who has legal or actual charge or control of any child who is of mandatory attendance age shall cause that child to attend a public or private school regularly unless the child has graduated from high school or has been allowed to disenroll pursuant to this policy.

Students are expected to attend school every day it is in session. They must attend school regularly and be on time in order to be successful. Parents are obligated to insure that their students attend school every day they are able. The school recognizes outstanding attendance with special awards at the end of the school year.

Parents must contact the office of their student's building before 9:00 a.m. when the student will not be in school. Students may not call to inform the school of their own absence. The school will telephone parents to notify them when their student is not in school.

Absences may be excused for reasons of: 1) personal illness (with doctor's note), 2) family emergencies/events, 3) school activities.

The District will not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy. Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming.

Excessive absenteeism

The school district will send parents written notice when a student has accumulated 5 absences during a semester. A conference may be held which will include the student, parent, teacher(s) and principal to review the reason(s) for the absences and create a plan for increased attendance and academic success. The principal may require a physician's verification for absences related to illness.

In addition, when a student has accumulated more than ~~5 absences during a semester~~ more than 10 absences during the school year, the school district may report the student's absences to the county attorney for truancy.

Each student will be allowed 8 absences per semester, but absences due to: 1) personal illness (with doctor's note), 2) family emergencies/events, 3) school activities will not be included in this total. Upon the ninth (9) unexcused absence in a semester, student credit could be reduced by half regardless of academic standing. For example, a 5 credit class will be reduced to 2.5 for the semester. *If the student and/or parent/guardian wish to keep said student from losing half-credit, an attendance contract will be discussed and all stipulations of the contract written by the administration need to be successfully completed.* The student, parent/guardian, and a high school administrator will sign the contract. At the end of the semester, that student's attendance record will be reviewed as to whether they have met the conditions of the contract. They will receive the credit they have earned. *If a student does not meet the conditions of the contract their credit will be reduced by half for the semester.*

Planned absences

Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must call the school or send a written note at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours when possible.

Students are obligated to:

- 1) complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated;
- 2) attend 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th period before attending practice or participating in a scheduled student activity except in cases of family emergencies or pre-arranged absences;
- 3) check out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day; and
- 4) make up any and all work that is assigned by teachers as make-up work for the instructional time that has been missed.

Parents are obligated to:

- 1) call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence; and
- 2) submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness that exceeds five days.

Attendance Officer

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 16 and 17 Year Old Students

Only children who are at least 16 years of age may be disenrolled from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request that demonstrates that the student meets the district's legal criteria allowing for disenrollment to the superintendent using the applicable district form. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to disenroll.

Only children disenrolling to attend a non-accredited school may be exempt from this policy. The person with legal or actual charge or control of the child must provide the superintendent with a copy of the signed request submitted to the State Department of Education for attending non-accredited schools. The superintendent may confirm the validity of the submission with the State Department of Education.

Audio and Video Recordings:

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

This policy applies to students 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. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student's education plan. Student use of assistive

technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student's education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules.

An exception will be made to this policy if photographs or audio or video recordings are necessary to accommodate a student's disability or are required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

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. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Bed Bugs

Students found to have bed bugs will be removed from the classroom and inspected by the school nurse. Any bugs found should be removed and collected for identification. If an active bed bug is discovered, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and prompt, proper treatment will be required. Any other students residing in the same household or otherwise at risk of infection should be inspected as soon as possible after the initial diagnosis.

The student will not be excluded from school the day of the diagnosis unless the student has been diagnosed previously and attempts at treatment have failed. No healthy child should be excluded from or allowed to miss school time because of bed bugs unless efforts to remedy an infestation have been unsuccessful.

If bed bugs are found in a classroom or elsewhere in the building, the school will notify parent(s) and guardian(s) of all students so that the students' clothing and other belongings may be inspected before bringing them into the home. The school will not be closed due to a bed bug presence. If pest management is necessary, it will be provided to affected areas of the school.

Bills

Students should pay bills for supplies, fines, shop materials, clothing orders, etc. in the school bookkeeper's office. Any check for these payments should be made out to Nebraska City Public Schools unless otherwise instructed. Pursuant to board policy, the district will assess an additional penalty of \$30 for any check returned from the bank for insufficient funds.

When students purchase items of significant value, such as class rings and letter jackets, they must make payment at the time of purchase or when the order is placed.

Books, Chromebook, and Supplies

Students must take care of Chromebook, books, and other supplies provided by the district. The school will assess fines for damage to books and school property.

Students must supply their own consumable items such as pens, pencils, tablets, notebooks, erasers, and crayons. Each classroom teacher will prepare a supply list for students at the beginning of the school year.

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards are maintained throughout the building and online to communicate general information, material, and school announcements. Students should check the bulletin boards carefully each school day. A written copy of daily announcements will be posted on the main bulletin board by the offices or online each day.

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

1. All postings must be approved by the appropriate building principal or designee. Students may not post any material containing any statement or expression that is libelous, obscene, or vulgar; that would violate board of education policies, including the student code of conduct; or that is otherwise inappropriate for the school environment.
2. All postings must identify the student or the student organization posting or publishing the notice.
3. Material shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards or electronic publishing media.

Bullying

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as “any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The District’s administrators are authorized to use both of these definitions to determine whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Reporting Bullying

Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students can use the district’s anonymous platform Safe2Help to make this report. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Nebraska City High School students need to be responsible users of technology. The school firmly believes in protecting instructional time in classrooms and also acknowledges that cell phones/electronic devices can be used as an educational tool; therefore, cell phones should not be seen, heard or used during the time allotted for each of the eight periods throughout the day unless otherwise permitted by the teacher. This applies to anywhere on campus, including classrooms, hallways (during class times), restrooms, main office, media center, etc. during any scheduled instructional period (including TA). Students may have a need to use their phones throughout the day, thus students are permitted to use phones before and after school, during their scheduled lunch and during passing periods. To maintain the expected learning environment in the classroom, students who violate the cell phone policy will be subject to disciplinary actions. The administration supports our teachers’ discretion as to when the problem has reached a level warranting administrative intervention.

Students may not use cell phones while riding in a school vehicle unless they have express permission to do so from the vehicle’s driver.

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

Staff will address students who violate this policy and phones may be confiscated. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student’s parent or guardian after meeting with the parent or guardian to

discuss the violation. Students who repeatedly violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

Child Abuse and/or Neglect

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; (6) placed in a situation to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking of a minor as defined in state law or by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to engage in debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or (7) placed in a situation to be a trafficking victim as defined in state law.

Class Dismissal

Classes are in session from the ringing of the tardy bell until the teacher dismisses the class. The bell at the end of the period is not a dismissal bell, and students may not leave their classrooms until they have been excused by their classroom teacher.

Classroom Conduct

Student behavior and attitude in the classroom must lead to academic success. All students must:

1. Listen to Your Teachers.
2. Follow Teachers' Instructions.
3. Accept teaching.
4. Get Along with Your Peers.
5. Have High Energy
6. Respect everyone, including all visitors to Nebraska City
7. Be Prepared for Class.
8. Always display Class and Dignity.
9. Handle Disappointment and Adversity Appropriately.
10. Respect Facilities and Equipment.

Teachers may establish additional classroom conduct rules that students will follow.

Closed Campus

Students may not leave the building without permission from the administration and checking out in the office. Once students are on campus for the day, they must stay on campus until dismissed or otherwise released.

Communicating with Parents

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. ~~The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing.~~ The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact.

Official transcripts of student progress, grades, and attendance will be sent to other school systems upon the student's transfer when the district receives a written request signed by the student's parent or guardian or upon being notified that the student has enrolled in another school.

Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to complaints unless the complaint is subject to a different procedure required by law, policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When those efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth in any specific policy addressing those areas or the procedures set forth below.

Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

References to "coordinator" in this policy refer to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
 - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
 - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
 - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted at any time during the complaint procedure to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268- 0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:

- 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
- d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.
4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.
- a) The appeal must be in writing.
 - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.
 - c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.
 - d) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.
5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:
- a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;
 - b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
 - c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.
6. If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.
- a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
 - c) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
 - d) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.
 - e) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.
7. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

- a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.
- b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
- c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.
- d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.
- e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

No Retaliation. The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities.

Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special

Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings. The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

Computer Network Use by Students

Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines govern the use of computers and the Internet at school.

I. Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet

A. Acceptable Use

1. Students may use the Internet to conduct research assigned by teachers.
2. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for classroom projects.
3. Students may use the Internet to gain access to information about current events.
4. Students may use the Internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
5. Students may use the Internet for appropriate educational purposes.

B. Unacceptable Use

1. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
2. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
3. Students shall not use electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose or in violation of any school policy or directive.
4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems including.
5. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network. Except for school related activities such as scholarship applications, college applications, or other approved activities.
6. Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
7. Students shall not publish web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of the system administrator.
8. Students shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs.
9. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individuals, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
10. Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.
11. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called, but is not limited to, a bug, virus, worm, or Trojan Horse.
12. Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.
13. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.
14. Students shall not falsify electronic mail messages or web pages.

II. Enforcement

A. Methods of Enforcement

1. The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time.
2. The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the school district. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.

3. Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
4. The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.

B. Consequences for Violation of this Policy

1. Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in:
 1. Loss of computer privileges;
 2. Short-term suspension;
 3. Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; and
 4. Other discipline as school administration and the school board deem appropriate.
2. Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

III. Protection of Students

A. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

1. The school will not allow companies to collect personal information from children under 13 for commercial purposes. The school will make reasonable efforts to disable advertising in educational computer applications.
2. This policy allows the school to act as an agent for parents in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

B. Education About Appropriate On-Line Behavior

1. School district staff will educate students about appropriate online behavior, both in specific computer usage units and in the general curriculum.
2. Staff will specifically educate students on
 1. Appropriate interactions with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.
 2. Cyberbullying awareness and response.

The School District's technology coordinator shall inform staff of this educational obligation and shall keep records of the instruction which occurs in compliance with this policy.

IV. Chromebook Handbook

- A.** Students must follow all rules as outlined in the Chromebook Handbook.

Conferences/ Registration Event

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences during the first semester and a registration event second semester.

In addition to formal conferences, classroom teachers will communicate with parents as necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

Contact Information

Parents must supply the school with their student's address and telephone number as well as information about how to reach a responsible adult during the school day. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Students must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on school projects and assignments. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The “fair use” doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. “Fair use” of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Students who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes “fair use” should consult with their teacher or building principal, review the school district’s copyright compliance policy, and review *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

Damage to School Property

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be required to pay to replace or restore the property, at the discretion of the administration.

Dating Violence

The board prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school’s learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

The district will provide appropriate training to staff and incorporate within its educational program age-appropriate dating violence education that shall include, but not be limited to, defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships.

Discrimination and Harassment

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at (402) 873 -6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at district office. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at (402) 873 -6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org, or in person at the district office. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the Principal Mr. Brian Hoover at 402-873-3360, bhoover@nebcityps.org or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Dress Code/Student Appearance

Students must come to school dressed in clean, neat and appropriate clothing to conform with educational standards.

Students are prohibited from wearing, or displaying permanent or temporary body art, the following attire:

- 1) Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
- 2) Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance
- 3) Caps, hats, sunglasses, and bandannas during the school day.
- 4) Hoods and/or anything that interferes with ability to hear (i.e. airpods) worn in common areas.

- 5) Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
- 6) Short-shorts, biker shorts, or cutoffs
- 7) Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
- 8) Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened
- 9) Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions
- 10) Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
- 11) Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments
- 12) Pants that drag on the floor
- 13) Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts
- 14) Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
- 15) Clothing with tears or holes, or a fit, that expose underclothes
- 16) Extreme makeup, face paint, jewelry, piercings, or hairstyles are not allowed.
- 17) Students are not allowed to use or carry blankets during the school day.

Students who violate dress code guidelines will be required to correct the violation by changing into something appropriate at school or returning home to change. A detention or suspension may be given to make up the time away from school. Students will also receive zeros for any class time they miss while correcting the violation. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.

Driving and Parking Personal Vehicles

Students who drive privately owned motor vehicles to school must obey the following rules:

1. Students may not move their vehicles during the school day without the permission of the building principal or superintendent. Students will not be allowed to sit in or be around their vehicles during the school day, without administrative permission.
2. Students must drive with care to ensure the safety of the pedestrians. Students may not drive carelessly or with excessive speed.
3. By driving personal vehicles to school, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.
4. Students must possess a parking pass to park in the north parking lot and students are not to park on 2nd Avenue or in the visitor stalls on the east side of the building.
5. Students parking incorrectly will be given a parking ticket of \$5.00 each.

Drug Free Schools

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing or selling any drug, alcohol or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity or in a school vehicle. In addition, students who participate in the school's activities program should refer to the Activities Handbook which prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco at all times.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

Emergency Operations

Operations teams are in place to: perform threat assessment, provide safety training, and respond in times of crisis.

Threat Assessment: The Emergency Operations team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations.

Safety Training: Provide information and training to students and staff including, but not limited to:

Evacuate and Bus Drills - Evacuate and Bus evacuation drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given everyone obeys orders promptly and clears the building or vehicles by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom or vehicle will give the students instructions.

Lockdown Procedures - A lockdown may be called by the building principal or other designee if he or she has reason to believe that the students and staff may be in danger. In such cases, students and staff will remain in a locked classroom. They must move away from windows and doors. Students and staff must remain quiet at all times. In the event of a lockdown, for their safety, students will not be allowed to leave the building. Parents will not be free to pick up their child during the lockdown. The Nebraska City Police Department will be notified of the school lockdown and required to offer assistance.

Secure Procedures – A lockout may be called by the building principal or other designee if he or she has reason to believe that a threat is possible from outside the building. In such cases, all exterior doors will be locked with no one (including parents and staff) being allowed to enter or exit the building. All classes will proceed as normal within the building.

Shelter Drill- The alarm for an adverse weather drill will be an intercom announcement. Students will proceed to the first floor, and then all boys will use the west stairway to the shower area of the boy's locker room. Girls will use the east stairway to the girl's locker room. At all times during the drill, **THERE WILL BE SILENCE** so as to hear approaching danger and to be able to hear instructions. Once in the locker rooms students must remain quiet until the **"ALL CLEAR"** is sounded. A verbal announcement will send students back to classes.

Crisis: Emergency Operation team members will be available to students and staff in the event of a crisis. Information will be communicated to stakeholders through parent email and/or mass phone call/text.

Eye Exams

All students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring into the school district from out of state must undergo a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.

Food Service Program

The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students.

Breakfast

The school will serve breakfast daily from 7:30 a.m. until 7:55 a.m. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast.

Lunch

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives.

Payment for Meals

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will still receive a regular meal and the account will be charged accordingly.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

Notice of Non-discrimination

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the school district. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. Collection efforts may continue into a new school year.

Field Trips

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent must authorize a student to participate in a field trip by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

First-Aid

First-aid items may only be used by school staff. Students who need first aid should ask for assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

Guidance

Guidance services are available for every student in the school. These services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information, study help, help with home, school and/or social concerns, or any question the student may feel they would like to discuss with the counselor. Students are encouraged to make full use of the guidance services.

Group Disturbance and Walk Away You Get To Stay Regulation:

NCHS administration will incorporate the usage of the "Walk Away" strategy to handle group disturbances and situations between various students. Students will be instructed to "Walk Away" from any volatile situation dealing with groups or individuals and get "To Stay" in school or the regular classroom setting. Students that do not "Walk Away" from volatile situations and continue to be incorporated in such occurrences may be suspended as well as being issued a citation by local law enforcement officials.

Head Lice

Upon discovering the presence of live lice or louse eggs, the school will notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). The student will be isolated from contact with other students and their belongings, and a parent or guardian must pick the child up from school immediately.

By Nebraska DHHS regulation, students are not permitted to return to school until the student is treated such that no live lice or louse eggs can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined. The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless students generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable state and federal law.

It is the school's policy not to stigmatize or segregate homeless students on the basis of their status of being homeless. Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency. Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is the Director of Student Services, who may be contacted at 402-873-6033.

Illness or Injury at school

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary. When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital.

Immunizations

All students must furnish to school officials proof of adequate immunizations from mumps, measles, rubella, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus; polio; varicella and hepatitis B.

A signed medical exemption is accepted when immunization would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or member of the student's household or family, but the parents/guardian must submit dates of immunization for all other diseases. A signed religious waiver is accepted when immunization conflicts with the student's personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs. Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

Provisional Enrollment. Students shall be provisionally enrolled so long as they continue to get the required immunizations as fast as medically possible. Students who are exempted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

Initiations or Hazing

Under no circumstances will any type of hazing and/or initiation be tolerated. Hazing is 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 or verbally 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 team members; 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 simulations and sexual assault. Violation of this provision will result in disciplinary action as provided in this handbook.

Lockers and Other School Property

The school district owns and exercises exclusive control over student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, including student vehicles parked on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration. Locks will be provided upon request.

Lost and Found

All lost and found articles are to be taken to the main office. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

Medications

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When it is necessary for school personnel to administer medication to students, the school district will comply with the Nebraska Medication Aide Act, the requirements of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, (promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education and entitled *Methods of Competency Assessment of School Staff Who Administer Medication*), and all state and federal regulations. Parents and guardians who wish to have their child receive medication from school personnel must comply with the following procedures:

Prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication. (2) Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication. (3) The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.

Non-prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication. (2) The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer's container. (3) The container must be labeled with the child's name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)

It shall be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools, in the event of a life threatening respiratory emergency to administer medications as directed on the student's Emergency Action Plan. If that plan does not lead to relief of symptoms or there is no plan in place, Epinephrine by EpiPen and albuterol by nebulizer will be administered per standing order which has been reviewed by a physician and mandated by the State Department of Education. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to a medical facility by rescue squad at the family's expense.

Media Center

Students must check out materials from the librarian on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name. Each student is responsible for any fine which accumulated on a book charged to him/her. If a book is lost and not found by the end of the year, the student must pay for it. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to library books.

Personal Items / Nuisance Items

The school is not responsible for ruined or lost personal equipment. Any items that could potentially disrupt the educational process are not allowed. Students bringing these items will be asked to put them away. If a problem occurs the item may be confiscated and the student or parent will have to claim the item from the principal. If students are noncompliant, they may be assigned disciplinary consequences.

Pictures

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of the date. Included in the individual packet is a class composite. Parents who want pictures of their students or of their student's class composite may purchase them directly from the photographer.

Physical Exam

Students entering kindergarten and the seventh grade, and those entering school from another state, are statutorily required to show evidence that they have had a physical examination within six months prior to the date of entering school.

Police Questioning and Apprehension

Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall make a reasonable attempt to inform parents when law enforcement officers seek access to their student prior to the student being questioned unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Members of the school district staff will comply with board policy regarding police questioning of students.

Protection of Student Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. The approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information as defined in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy is scheduled are as follows: during the 1st semester. Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

Public Displays of Affection

Students may not engage in public displays of affection that are disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others. Prohibited conduct includes hugging, kissing, touching or any other display of affection that a staff member determines to be inappropriate.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

Students may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term "custodial parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students' records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent's request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

School Day

Supervision will be provided beginning at 7:45am each school day. Students not involved in activities must be off of school grounds by 4:00pm as there will be no supervision provided after this time.

Searches

School representatives may search lockers, personal belongings, and vehicles that students drive to school when there is reasonable cause to do so. This includes, but is not limited to, clothes, book bags, purses, books, and gym bags. The district superintendent or designee may authorize the use of a canine trained in the detection of narcotics, explosives or any other contraband at any time. The district superintendent or designee may authorize

the use of preliminary breath tests (or alcohol sensors) or metal wands on school property and/or school sponsored activities.

Sexual Harassment

The school district clearly and unequivocally prohibits sexual harassment of students. Sexual harassment of students is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational opportunities or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.

Any sexual, physical, verbal, or mental (emotional) harassment/intimidation of any student is prohibited. The disciplinary consequences for harassment will depend on the frequency, duration, severity and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including expulsion. Students who feel they have been sexually harassed should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Smoking/Electronic Devices

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including cigarettes, cigars, or other tobacco or tobacco derivative products; vapor products or electronic nicotine delivery systems; alternative nicotine products; or any other such look-alike or imitation product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified of the following:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Staff Qualifications

Upon request, the school district will give parents the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The teacher's baccalaureate degree and major. Parents may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

Upon request, the school district will inform parents whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications. The request for such information should be made to the appropriate building administrator.

Student Assistance

Parents who believe their students have any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that they believe are not being addressed by the school district should contact the student's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of the student.

Student Fee Policy

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

Definitions.

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.
2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.
3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

Listing of Fees Charged by this District.

1. **Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.** Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.
2. **Safety Equipment and Attire.** The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.
3. **Personal or Consumable Items.** The district will provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.
4. **Materials Required for Course Projects.** The school district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will either furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school. The finished product will remain the property of the district unless the students either furnish or pay for the reasonable cost of materials required for the course project. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for course materials shall be:
 - Spanish 1 - \$2.00
 - Human Anatomy & Physiology - \$5.00
 - Intro to Industrial Technology - \$20.00

Woods 1 & 2 - \$10.00
 Construction Academy - \$20.00
 Drafting 1 & 2 - \$10.00
 Auto - \$10.00
 Welding 1, 2 & 3 - \$20.00
 Welding Academy - \$20.00
 Foods 1, 2 & 3 - \$20.00
 Textiles 1, 2 & 3- project materials
 Art 1 - \$5.00
 Art 2 & 3/4 - \$15.00
 Sculpture - \$15.00
 Ceramics - \$5.00
 Photography - \$20.00
 Singers (freshman) - \$ 14.00
 Band - \$10.00 instrument repair / \$20.00 marching shoes

- 5. Extracurricular Activities.** The school district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all extracurricular activities fees and the specifications for any equipment or attire required for participation in extracurricular activities:

- Student activity card \$25 (covers admission to all extracurricular events)
- Future/Career Community Leaders (FCCLA). Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00, Peer Education Retreat \$30.00, State Leadership Conference \$250, National Leadership Conference \$1,250.00.
- Science Club – Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00.
- Cheerleading and Flag corps. Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the school district for these items will be \$800.00.
- Football. Students must provide their own football shoes and undergarments.
- Golf. Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs.
- Softball and Baseball. Students must provide their own shoes, gloves, and undergarments.
- Track, Volleyball, Wrestling and Basketball. Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments.
- Future Farmers of America – Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00, State Leadership Conference \$250, National Leadership Conference \$1,250.00.

- 6. Post-Secondary Education Costs.** Some students enroll in postsecondary courses while still enrolled in high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such post-secondary courses. However, for a course in which students receive high school credit or a course being taken as part of an approved accelerated or differentiated curriculum program, the district shall offer the course without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees. Students who chose to apply for post-secondary education credit for these courses must pay tuition and all other fees associated with obtaining credits from a post-secondary educational institution.

- 7. Copies of Student Files or Records.** The school district may charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the student's parents or guardians. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee

shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Students' parents have the right to inspect and review the student's files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The district may charge a fee of \$0.10 per page for reproduction of student records.

8. **Participation in Before-School, After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services.** The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-school, after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.
9. **Participation in Summer School.** The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses. The maximum dollar amount for summer school shall be \$150.00 for each semester class.
10. **Charges for Food Consumed by Students.** The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

- Breakfast Program – Grades 6-12
 - Regular Price \$2.25
 - Reduced Price \$0.35
- Lunch Program – Grades 6-12
 - Regular Price \$3.50
 - Reduced Price \$0.45

11. **Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.** Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. For musical extracurricular activities, the school district will require students to provide the following equipment and/or attire:
 - Band students must provide their own instruments.
 - Swing choir students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be \$1000.00.
12. **Contributions for Class Extracurricular Activities.** Students are eligible to participate in a number of extracurricular activities during their years in Junior/ Senior High school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund beginning in seventh grade. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities. The suggested donation to the class fund will be \$10.00 to \$50.00 per year.

Fund-Raising Activities

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extracurricular activities in which they participate. Students who decline to participate in fund-raising activities are not eligible under this policy for waiver of the costs or fees which the fund-raising activity was meant to defray.

Waiver Policy.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a

musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Students are not required to participate in the free or reduced-price lunch program to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal. Application forms are available in each school building office.

Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

When appropriate, the district will request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements, and staff members of the district are directed to communicate that fact clearly to students, parents and patrons.

Student Passes

Students are not to be out of the classroom during class unless it is necessary or an emergency. In the event a student needs to leave the classroom, the student will ask permission of the teacher during an appropriate time in the lesson. If the teacher grants permission for the student to leave, the student will take the classroom pass and remain in possession of the pass the entire time the student is out of the classroom. The student must return in a timely manner to class. Students who leave class excessively will be referred to administration.

Student Records

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

Directory Information

FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children.

The school district has designated the following as directory information:

• Name	• Major field of study
• Address	• Telephone number, including student's cell number
• E-mail address	• Participation in activities and sports
• Date and place of birth	• Degrees and awards received
• Dates of attendance	• Weight and height of members of athletic teams
• The image or likeness of the student in pictures, videotape, film or other medium	* Name of Parent/Guardian
• Certain class work intended for publication on the Internet	• Most recent previous school attended
• Classroom assignment and/or Homeroom teacher	• Grade

Directory information about students may also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or manufacture class rings, sell student photographs or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent.

Parents who **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than October 1st.

Non-Directory Information

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is maintained in the school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

One FERPA exception permits disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests without consent. A school official includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school-related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

Complaints

Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Student Schedule Changes

Students will be given three weeks before the end of each semester to change classes for the upcoming semester. After the new semester begins, students who still wish to drop a class will have to bring to school a signed note from a parent and get permission from the Principal.

After the first week of the semester, students who insist on dropping a class, except for instances of an extended illness, will receive a "0" on their permanent records, and that grade will be averaged into the student's cumulative grade point average. If an extended illness makes it impossible or extremely difficult for a student to successfully complete a class or classes, the student may be allowed to withdraw from a class or classes as (WP)-Withdraw Passing or (WF)-Withdraw Failing. If permission to withdraw as WP or WF is given by the building principal and guidance counselor, the grade(s) will not be averaged into the cumulative grade point average of the student.

Before students are allowed to withdraw from a class as WP or WF, the student, the parents of the student, the guidance counselor, and the building principal must meet and review the circumstances of the situation. All available means that could be utilized to allow the student to successfully complete the course(s) must be reviewed before permission to withdraw as WP or WF is given by the building principal and guidance counselor.

Tardiness

A student who does not have a valid excuse for being tardy to any class may be required to serve detention.

Teacher Assistants

In certain classes, students may apply to be a teacher assistant. The role of the Teacher Assistant (TA) is to assist the teacher with a variety of tasks including: peer tutoring, making copies, helping with attendance, and other tasks as assigned. At no point will the student deal with any confidential material. Teacher Assistants may not leave the building.

In order to participate in the T.A. program the student must comply with the following:

- Be a Junior or Senior at NCHS.
- Have passed all of his or her classes the previous semester.
- Be on track to graduate.

Teacher Responsibilities:

- Teacher must know where the student is at all times.
- Teacher must keep track of the student's grades and remove the student as a T.A. if a student is failing any class at any time.
- Teacher must provide constructive time for the student to assist with the class.
- Have a maximum of two (2) T.A.s over the course of the day.

Parent Responsibilities:

- Be aware that your student is assisting with a class and may be asked to run errands in school.
- Know that your student is giving up his/her study hall to assist with this class.
- Know that your student will be removed from being a T.A. and placed back in a study hall if he or she is failing a class at any time.

Telephone calls

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff. Students are not permitted to use cellular telephones during class time without the express permission of a member of the staff.

Transportation Services

The district operates/contracts school buses as a convenience for students and parents. They represent a substantial investment, and students are expected to care for and respect them.

Transportation to School

Students who ride the bus to school will arrive in time for them to eat breakfast at school. Parents must contact their bus driver if a student will not ride the bus on a given day. Bus drivers endeavor to adhere to their schedule, and will wait for riders only a short period of time so as not to jeopardize the time remaining for the rest of their schedule.

Bus Regulations

Students who are passengers on school buses must abide by the same rules that apply to classroom conduct. The bus drivers have the same authority as teachers while transporting students. If misconduct is recurring, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

1st Infraction- 5 school day suspension from the bus

2nd Infraction- 20 school day suspension from the bus

3rd Infraction- Removal of student from the bus for the remainder of the semester

This includes routes and transportation to and from all activities. The suspensions may be altered by the administration if the misconduct is determined to be more serious in nature.

Requests to be dropped off at a point **not** on the regular route will not be accommodated, unless extenuating circumstances arise and the request is approved by the transportation director or administration.

Students who are not regular route riders may not ride the bus home with a friend, unless the parent of the non-route student presents written permission to the bus driver ahead of time. The written permission should include the date, the non-route rider's name, the signature of the non-rider's parent, and the place approved for drop off. Such requests may not be granted if they cause overcrowding of the vans or buses (Vans-10 riders only, plus driver).

Transportation to Activities

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to take private transportation home from a school event must submit a release form to the sponsor which has been signed by that student's parent.

Universal Screening

The District will conduct various screenings (such as the SAEBRS universal screener) throughout the year to identify students with academic, behavioral, or social-emotional concerns. All District screening tools are norm-referenced and research-based. Any parent/guardian who does not consent to the screening of his/her student must notify the Director of Student Services at the beginning of the school year.

Visitors to the building

Visitors (including parents) are to report to the office when entering the building. As a rule students will not be allowed to visit school unless it is cleared through the office of the principal in advance.

Weather-Related School Closing

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow or ice. School closings will be announced on local media outlets. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

Withdrawal From School

Students who are moving from the district must notify the school office.

Work Permits

The building principal or other authorized school official shall be responsible for the issuance of work permits for children in accordance with state law.

Work Release

Work release will be given to students under certain circumstances for the seventh and eighth period. These work releases are offered by the school and are a privilege. The purpose of a work-release program is to allow the student time from school in which he or she can enter a learning situation as an employee of an individual or company to enhance his or her prospects of a fulfilled life after graduation. Therefore, the student must indicate how the job he or she is seeking will aid them in their future. Since the work release is a privilege and the school retains the right to revoke it at any time, the following guidelines will be followed in the offering of work releases. The form must be filed with the office before the student will be released.

- Only juniors/seniors will be eligible for work releases; or students involved in school-sponsored programs.
- Work releases are granted only to students who maintain a passing academic record. Failing grades will automatically suspend the work release.
- Work releases are granted only if the employer is a bona fide employing agency. Students will not be given a work release to work at home.
- The work release form will be filed with the office and will be an agreement between the school, student, parent, and employer.
- Any disciplinary action required on the part of the student may terminate the work release agreement.
- All work releases must be approved through the office of the high school principal. The work release will automatically end on the last day of each school semester

SECTION TWO

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Academic Integrity

In the academic community the high value placed on truth implies a corresponding intolerance of scholastic dishonesty. Written or other work which students submit must be the product of their own efforts and must be consistent with appropriate standards of professional ethics. Academic dishonesty, which includes cheating, plagiarism and other forms of dishonest or unethical behavior, is prohibited. In the case of academic dishonesty, the instructor will have an informal conference with the student which could result in: a warning, revision of work, or reduction in grade. In the event a student wishes to appeal the decision of the teacher to the administration, she or he will need to do so, in writing, within 5 calendar days of the decision.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in any academic dishonesty in any form. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person to obtain credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
- Lying.
- Copying another person's work or answers.
- Discussing the answers or questions on a test or assignment unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
- Taking or receiving copies of a test without the permission of the teacher.
- Using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other sources of unauthorized information.
- Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
- Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.
- Failing to give credit for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions which rightfully belong to another person.
- Failing to use quotation marks or other appropriate means of attribution when quoting directly from another person or source.
- Utilizing websites or artificial intelligence (AI), without teacher permission, to complete assignments, projects, assessments or any other work designed to assess student ability.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Alternative Education Program

Students deemed at risk, are in need of alternatives to the "traditional education" provided at Nebraska City High School. Below are characteristics of at-risk students whose needs can be met through the Nebraska City Public School Alternative Education Program:

- Students who have dropped out of school
- Students who have exhausted the educational opportunities in Nebraska City High School.
- Students whose individual instructional pacing needs do not fit the traditional means of instructional delivery.
- Students whose educational success is, in part, dependent on non-academic support, i.e. flex scheduling, intensive counseling, childcare, and health counseling.
- Students whose talents significantly exceed their performance.
- Students entering school in the middle of a semester.

When a student meets one or more of these characteristics, the school and/or family will pursue Alternative Education Programming by contacting the NCHS Guidance Counselor for application materials. Admittance into

the Alternative Education Program will be based upon: successful completion of application materials, availability, and recommendation of the Student Assistant Team at Nebraska City High School.

Class Rank

Determining class rank is based on accumulated semester grades for grades 9-12. All classes receiving 2.5 credits or 5 credits per semester are included when figuring class rank.

Community Service

Community service is encouraged as it helps develop a sense of social responsibility and community engagement. By volunteering, students gain valuable skills and experiences that enhance personal growth and career readiness. It fosters empathy and compassion by exposing students to diverse perspectives and challenges. Additionally, community service strengthens community bonds and contributes to the overall well-being of society. Multiple opportunities will be provided to NCHS students to engage in community service throughout the school year. NCHS will track all submitted community service to use on college and scholarship applications.

Credit Recovery

A student may be required to repeat a course or program when such is determined in the judgment of the professional staff to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the educational program. It may be determined by the administration (Director of Student Services and Principal), guidance counselor, and classroom teacher that the student will demonstrate a proficient level in the educational program by completing an online program, which assesses standards equal to the curriculum of the in-class educational program. Completion of the online program (i.e. APEX curriculum) will be recorded on the student's transcript and will not factor into the student's G.P.A.

Cumulative Grade Point Average

The cumulative grade point average is used in determining class rank and honor roll and is extremely important to students when they become seniors and begin making applications for jobs and higher education. The method for determining GPA is as follows:

The total number of mark points is divided by the total number of credits attempted and this is their grade point average. As they proceed through their career this accumulates at the end of each semester. **Only semester grades are recorded in the student's records and only semester grades count toward his/her graduation and cumulative grade point average.**

GRADE	PERCENTILE RANGE	GPA
A	93-100	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67
F	0-59	0.00

Graduation Requirements

We've updated our graduation requirements to ensure a comprehensive educational experience for all students. Beginning this academic year, all students graduating from NCHS must successfully complete 230 credit hours of coursework, with each class contributing 5 credits per semester. Below, you'll find the revised minimum requirements by subject area, designed to prepare students for both collegiate and career success while allowing for personalized learning paths.

CLASS OF 2025-2027		→	CLASS OF 2028+	
LANGUAGE ARTS (LA)	40		LANGUAGE ARTS (LA)	40
MATHEMATICS	30		MATHEMATICS	30
SCIENCE (SCI)	30		SCIENCE (SCI)	30
SOCIAL SCIENCES (SS)	30		SOCIAL SCIENCES (SS)	30
PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)	10		PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)	10
CAREERS & PERSONAL FINANCE (CPF)	5		CAREERS & PERSONAL FINANCE (CPF)	5
SCHOOL TO CAREER (S-C)	5		COMPUTER SCIENCE (CS)	5
HUMANITIES	10		HUMANITIES	10
ELECTIVES	70		ELECTIVES	70
TOTAL	230		TOTAL	230

STUDENTS WHO DO NOT MEET GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES.

Students should have no more than one study hall per day with the exception of seniors who may have two study halls. ISU's (Independent Study Units) will be allowed with instructor approval. A student may take only one (1) ISU per semester. Student aides, office aides, library aides, etc. will not receive credit for those hours.

Early Entries

College CLASSES are available through Peru State College and other area colleges. If interested talk to the Guidance Counselor.

Homework

Definition of Homework: includes objective learning tasks, assigned to students by teachers that are meant to be carried out. Students may also complete during non-class hours, most often at home. Homework may be formative or summative in nature depending on the purpose.

I. Purpose

Homework is an important part of our educational program and should be assigned on a regular basis. Homework assignments should be purposeful and continuations (or extensions) of the instructional program and an integral part of the total evaluation. Homework, appropriate to the student's development level, should be given for the purpose of review, practice, reinforcement, inquiry, application, and enrichment. Homework should help students become responsible, self-directed learners.

II. Evaluation

Students are expected to turn in work on time. Since the successful completion of homework assignments will play an important part in the final evaluation of the student, parents and teachers share a mutual responsibility of encouraging completion of assignments. Homework should be considered in reporting a student's progress to parents; however, **homework should not exceed twenty percent (20%) of a student's academic grade for a marking period.**

Actual time required to complete assignments will vary with each student's study habits, academic skill, and selected course load.

III. Responsibilities of Staff

The following procedures should be implemented to ensure homework is appropriately assigned:

- Assign relevant, challenging and meaningful homework that reinforces classroom learning.
- Provide homework assignments that are specific, within the student's ability and have clearly defined expectations.
- Answer and clarify questions pertaining to the completion of all homework assignments.
- Provide specific and timely feedback on homework assignments.
- Communicate with other teachers.
- Involve parents and contact them if a pattern of late or incomplete homework develops
- Teachers will follow the "late" policy followed in the handbook.

IV. "Late" Policy

Homework that is not handed in on time will be accepted through the assessment of the standard being covered in class. A reduction in grade could be assessed due to an assignment not being handed in on time. No opportunities will be provided for make-up work in the event the assignment was not handed prior to the assessment date without teacher permission.

Honor Roll/Laude System

Nebraska City Public Schools is committed to recognizing the academic success of its students in a variety of ways, including at the high school graduation ceremony. The goal of our laude recognition model is to celebrate academic excellence while at the same time creating a system that eliminates the competition between students that exists in a traditional class rank formula. We believe this will make it possible for students to pursue course offerings that best fit their interests and future goals while at the same time reinforcing the value of a rigorous course of study.

Laude Recognition Criteria at Graduation and by quarter:

- **Summa Cum Laude** ("with the highest honor") - This is the highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate summa cum laude, a student must achieve a 3.9 on a 4.00 scale. *Equates to earning six "1s" and one "2s" per semester.*
- **Magna Cum Laude** ("with great honor") - This is the second highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate magna cum laude, a student must achieve a GPA of at least a 3.70 to 3.89 on a 4.00 scale.

- **Cum Laude** (“with honor”) - This is the third highest recognition awarded at graduation. To graduate cum laude, a student must achieve a GPA of at least a 3.50 to 3.69 on a 4.0 scale.

Recognized at quarter:

- **Honor Roll** - Recognize students who have achieved an academic achievement of 3.0 to 3.49 on the GPA scale.

Incompletes

At the end of the 1st semester, teachers may give an incomplete to a student whose work or make-up hours for the semester is incomplete. However, the student has two calendar weeks from the last day of the semester to complete the work or have time made up. At the completion of two (2) calendar weeks all incompletes must be issued grades. Incompletes at the end of the 2nd semester must be completed within two days after the last day of classes that semester, or before the teacher checks out, unless arrangements are made in advance with the principal. After that time period the incomplete must become a grade.

Mid-Term Graduation Requirements

Students may complete high school in less than four (4) years but the **REQUIREMENTS TO GRADUATE REMAIN THE SAME**. Parent/guardian permission is a requirement. Students wishing to mid-term must inform the school administration or counselor prior to the end of their Junior Year. All graduation requirements must be met prior to mid-term graduation.

Report Cards

Report cards are mailed to the parents at the end of each grading period.

Varsity Academic Letters

Varsity Academic Letters are awarded to students in recognition of outstanding academic excellence. To earn a letter a student must have been on the honor roll for each of the first three quarters of the current school year. Transfer students qualify if they were on the honor roll at their previous school. If that school did not have an honor roll system then NCHS equivalent grades would qualify that student. A student will receive only one chenille academic letter while in high school. Each year a student will receive a silver, or bar and a certificate indicating which honor roll they have qualified for during that given school year.

SECTION THREE

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Board of Education Discipline Policy:

The Board of Education considers the safety of district students, personnel, and visitors of primary importance. Behavior and attitudes are attributing factors lending to the overall safety within the school. The Board has outlined minimum standards of behavior in a Code of Conduct; this code should be the foundation from which all disciplinary actions are based. To be effective it is imperative that the Code of Conduct be consistently administered on all levels.

The Board of Education may authorize the emergency exclusion, short-term or long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment of any student from school for conduct prohibited by the Code of Conduct, the board's rules, or standards as established by LB 503 (1976) as amended by LB 1250 (1994) if such action complies with the procedures required by this act.

Further, the Gun Free Schools Act and LB 658 requires the expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year of any student who is determined to have knowingly and intentionally possessed, used, or transmitted a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle being used for a school purpose, or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event.

Administrative regulations shall be set forth regarding this policy and the Code of Conduct. Each building shall develop action plans to implement and enforce these administrative regulations in a fair and consistent manner. The Superintendent shall report student expulsions or staff removals for cause to the Board President, at his earliest convenience after the discipline has been taken. At the Presidents and/or Superintendent's discretion other board members will be notified.

Code of Conduct...I WILL - Be Safe / Be Respectful / Be Responsible

Treating others with dignity and respect is the responsibility of students, faculty, staff, administrators, board members, parents, and guests involved in or visiting the Nebraska City Public Schools.

General Discipline Philosophy

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school, at school, during lunch, on the way home, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.

5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

Levels of Unacceptable Behavior

LEVEL ONE:

Productive Personal Environment -- Behaviors that occur in the classroom and affect only the learning of the misbehaving student.

Minimum consequence: Teacher making eye contact with student

Maximum consequence: Detention

LEVEL TWO:

Productive Classroom Environment -- Behaviors that occur in the classroom and interfere with the learning of others.

Minimum consequence: Verbal redirection by teacher or recovery room.

Maximum consequence: In-School Suspension

LEVEL THREE:

Orderly Environment -- Behaviors that occur that are not intended to cause physical harm to another individual, are not illegal, but do negatively affect an orderly environment.

Minimum consequences: Verbal redirection by teacher or administrator or recovery room.

Maximum consequences: Short-Term suspension

LEVEL FOUR:

Safe Environment -- Behaviors that are intended to cause another individual physical harm and/or are illegal.

Minimum consequences: One day in-school suspension

Maximum consequences: One year out of school

Forms of School Discipline

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

Recovery Room Behavior Management Process

Students that misbehave in and around school may be sent to the recovery room as a way of managing inappropriate and disruptive behavior. Once at the recovery room, students are expected to fill out a recovery room report and then meet with the staff member involved within two days of the incident. Once a positive student and staff member recovery room conference has been completed, the student may return to class. For each three recovery room referrals accumulated by a student in a semester, a 1-Day ISS will be assigned. Students not reporting to the recovery room when referred or not completing a recovery room conference within the time required will also be assigned a 1 Day ISS. The school administration will make all final decisions as it relates to situations concerning the recovery room process. ***Students will not be permitted to participate in activities until Recovery Rooms are resolved.***

After School Sessions and Detentions

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers. When students are required to stay after school, they will be allowed to telephone parents and advise them of the situation.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

- Teacher assigned detentions will not exceed 30 minutes from the time of dismissal and are to be served in the teacher's room or designated area. A student who fails to attend a detention may face additional disciplinary consequences. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.
- Administrative detentions will be assigned as necessary, served in the detention room designated by the building principal.

Saturday School

The building administrator may require a student to attend Saturday School for four hours on Saturday morning. Saturday School is held from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM in a classroom staffed by teachers. Students follow strict rules and must work on assignments the entire time, except for short breaks. Students who do not follow Saturday School rules will be removed from the classroom and will face further disciplinary action.

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students will be required to serve suspension at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student 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, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal or the Principal's designee shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. In addition, such short-term suspension will be made 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/she is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to explain his/her version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. The student and his/her parent or guardian will be given the opportunity to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference.
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: to be determined by the building principal.

Long-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of 6 to 19 school days (long-term suspension) based on conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is hereinafter set forth.

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion shall mean 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 10 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 10 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 a board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.
3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a

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

4. **Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation.** Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than 19 years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal's designee shall meet with the student's probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal's designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may, with proper consent upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.

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

The following conduct constitutes grounds for 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 that 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, or a single violation if the conduct amounts to a criminal act, 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, sex, 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, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco or imitation, such as 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 as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes 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; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
 - i) Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, 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, or electronic communication 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; and
- k) Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

The length of any suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment shall be as provided or allowed by law.

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 state law that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed by discipline from the school district;
- 4. It is a violation of state law that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students; or
- 5. It is a violation of state law that interferes with school purposes.

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

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

- 1. The Principal shall prepare a written summary of the alleged violation and the evidence supporting the alleged violation with the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- 2. If the Principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent or his or her designee, the 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.
- 3. The Principal or his/her designee shall serve by registered or certified mail or by personal service to the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. Said notice shall include the following:
 - (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension or expulsion including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student as submitted by the Principal or assistant Principal.
 - (b) The penalties to which the student may be subjected and the penalty which the Principal or his or her designee has recommended in the charge.
 - (c) A statement explaining the student's right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
 - (d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by these policies along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.
 - (e) A statement that the administrative representative, legal counsel for school, the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged

misconduct, and the right to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony.

- (f) A form or a request for hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the Principal or his or her designee in person or by registered or certified mail.
- 4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
- 5. In the event that the Principal has not received a request for hearing within five school days following receipt of the written notice, the punishment recommended in the charge by the Principal, or his or her designee, shall automatically go into effect.
- 6. If a hearing is requested more than 5 school days following the actual receipt of the written notice, but not more than 30 calendar days after actual receipt, the student shall be entitled to a hearing; but the punishment imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
- 7. If a request for hearing is not received within 30 calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.
- 8. In the event that a hearing is required to be provided, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer.

Hearing Procedure

- 1. Hearing Officer. The hearing officer shall be any person designated by the Superintendent. The hearing officer shall be an individual who has had no involvement in the charge, will not be a witness at the hearing, and who has not brought the charges against the student. It shall be the duty of the hearing officer to remain impartial throughout all deliberations. The hearing officer shall be available prior to any hearing held pursuant to this policy to answer any questions the administrative representative, the student, the student's parents, or guardian may have regarding the nature and conduct of the hearing.
- 2. Administrative Representative. The Principal may appoint an administrative representative to present the facts and evidence. Such administrative representative may be an attorney or may be represented by an attorney, but any such attorney shall not advise the hearing officer or parties who may review the proceedings as their counsel.
- 3. Notice of Hearing. If a hearing is requested within five school days of receipt of the notice, the hearing officer shall, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the administrative representative, the student, and the student's parents or guardian of the time and place for the hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within a period of five school days after it is requested. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the administrative representative, the student, and the student's parents, or guardian, except with the consent of all of the parties.
- 4. Continuance. Upon written request of the student or the student's parents or guardian, the hearing officer shall have the discretionary authority to continue from time to time the hearing. In addition, the hearing officer may continue the hearing upon any good cause.
- 5. Access to Records. The administrative representative, the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the legal counsel of the student shall have the right to examine the records, affidavits, and the statements of any witnesses in the possession of the Nebraska City Public School Board of Education at any reasonable time prior to the hearing.
- 6. Hearing Procedure. The hearing shall be attended by the hearing officer, the student, the student's parents or guardian, the student's representative if any, and the administrative representative. Witnesses shall be present only when they are giving information at the hearing or with the consent of both parties. The student may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing officer at times when the student's psychological evaluation or emotional problems are being discussed. The student or the student's parents or guardian or both may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing examiner may exclude anyone from the hearing when his/her actions substantially disrupt an orderly hearing. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply at the hearing. The administrative representative shall present to the hearing officer statements, in affidavit form, of any person having information about the student's conduct and the student's records, but not unless such statements and records have been made available to the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative prior to the hearing. The information contained in such records shall be explained and interpreted prior to or at the hearing to the student, parents or guardian, or representative at their request, by appropriate school personnel. The student, the student's parents, guardian, or representative, the

administrative representative, or the hearing officer may ask witnesses to testify at the hearing. Such testimony shall be under oath and the hearing officer shall be authorized to administer the oath. The student, parent, guardian or representative, administrative representative, or the hearing officer shall have the right to question any witness giving information at the hearing. The student may testify in his/her own defense in which case he/she shall be subject to cross-examination. However, a student need not testify; and if he/she chooses not to, no conclusion may be drawn there from. Any person giving evidence by written statement or in person at a hearing shall be given the same immunity from liability as a person testifying in a court case. A single hearing may be conducted for more than one student if in the discretion of the hearing examiner a single hearing is not likely to result in confusion or prejudice to the interest of any of the students involved. If during the conduct of such a hearing, the hearing examiner concludes that any of such student's interests will be substantially prejudiced by a group hearing, or that confusion is resulting, the hearing examiner may order a separate hearing for each or any of said students.

7. Availability of Witnesses. The hearing officer will have the authority to subpoena any witnesses to the hearing and shall make reasonable efforts to assist in obtaining the attendance of any witnesses requested by the student, the student's parents, or guardian or their legal representative.
8. Record. The proceedings of the hearing shall be recorded at the expense of the school district.
9. Findings. Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare and submit to the Superintendent of schools his/her written findings and recommendation as to disposition. This report shall explain, in terms of the needs of both the student and the school board, the reasons for the particular action recommended. Such recommendations may range from no action, through the entire field of counseling, to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.
10. Review by Superintendent. The Superintendent of schools shall review the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and in his/her discretion may also review any of the facts and evidence presented at the hearing; and based upon such report and the facts, shall determine the sanctions to be imposed. However, the Superintendent may not impose a more severe sanction than that imposed by the hearing officer.
11. Notice of Determination. Written notice of the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and the determination of the Superintendent of schools shall be made by certified registered mail or by personal delivery to the student and the student's parents or guardian. Upon receipt of such written notice by the student and/or parents and guardian, the determination of the Superintendent shall take immediate effect.
12. Appeal to Board. The student, student's parents or guardian may, within seven school days following the receipt of the Superintendent's decision, submit to the Superintendent of schools a written request for a hearing before the Board of Education.
13. Review by Board of Education. Upon receipt of the request for review of the Superintendent's determination, the Board of Education or a committee of not less than 3 members shall, within 10 school days, hold a hearing on the matter. Such hearing shall be made on the record except that the board may admit new or additional evidence to avoid substantial threat of unfairness. Such new evidence shall be recorded. The Board of Education or committee thereof may withdraw to deliberate privately upon the record and new evidence. Any such deliberation shall be held in the presence only of board members in attendance at the appeal proceeding, but may be held in the presence of legal counsel who has not previously acted as the administrative representative in presenting the school's case before the hearing officer. If any questions arise during such deliberations which require additional evidence, the Board of Education or committee thereof may require the hearing to receive such evidence, subject to the right of all parties to be present. A record of any such new or additional evidence shall be made and shall be considered as a part of the record; and based upon the evidence presented at the hearing before the hearing officer, and such new or additional evidence, the Board of Education or the committee shall make a final disposition of the matter. The Board may alter the Superintendent's disposition of the case if it finds his/her decision to be too severe, but it may not impose a more severe sanction. A designated method of giving notice by the Board of Education or committee thereof, if required, for any Board review shall be by posting on the schoolhouse door.
14. Final Decision of Board of Education. The final decision of the Board shall be delivered to the student and parents or legal guardian of the student by personally delivering the same or by mailing the same by certified or registered mail.

SECTION FOUR

Student/Parent Activity Handbook

Extracurricular Activity Philosophy

Extracurricular activity programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Extracurricular activity programs are considered an integral part of the school's program of education that provides experiences that will help students physically, mentally and emotionally.

The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. Participation in activities, both as a competitor and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, community and the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge; skill and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better individuals and citizens.

Safety

The District's philosophy is to maintain an activities program that recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, to inform their coach or sponsor when they are injured or have health problems that require their activities be restricted, and to exercise common-sense.

Warning for Participants and Parents

The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

Extracurricular Activity Code of Conduct

Purpose of the Code of Conduct. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The privilege carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, and the community. Participants are not only representing themselves, but also their school and community in all of their actions. Others judge our school on the student participants' conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image.

The student participants' performance and devotion to high ideals and values make their school and community proud. Consequently, participation is dependent upon adherence to this Code of Conduct and the school district's policies, procedures and rules.

Scope of the Code of Conduct.

Activities Subject to the Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district which do not count toward graduation or grade advancement and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school.

Extracurricular activities include but are not limited to: all sports, all school dances, cheerleading, dance team, Lettermen Club, Pep Band, vocal, band, speech and drama, One-Act, FFA, FCCLA, Spanish Club, Art Club, Student Council, National Honor Society, and other school sponsored organizations and activities. The Code of Conduct also applies to participation in school-sponsored activities such as school dances and royalty for such activities.

A participant means a student who participates in, has participated in, or will participate in an extracurricular activity.

When: The Code of Conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

The rules also apply when a student is participating or scheduled to participate in an extracurricular activity that is held outside the school year or the NSAA season. For example, if an FBLA or FCCLA student plans to participate in a conference in July and commits a Code of Conduct infraction in June, the student may be suspended from participating in the conference. Conduct during the summer months may also affect a student's participation under the team selection and playing time guidelines.

Where: The Code of Conduct rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on and off school grounds. If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct. A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in activities during the period of the suspension or expulsion, and may also receive an extended activity suspension.

Grounds for Extracurricular Activity Discipline. Students who participate in extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self-respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. The following conduct rules have been determined by the Board of Education to be reasonably necessary to aid students, further school purposes, and prevent interference with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for suspension from participation in extracurricular activities and grounds for other restrictions or disciplinary measures related to extracurricular activity participation:

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, bullying, harassment or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school or extracurricular activity purposes or making any communication that a reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property, repeated damage or theft involving property or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including a school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect another person shall not constitute a violation.

5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from a student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon, or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks, on school grounds or at a school function or event, or in a manner that is unlawful or contrary to school activity rules.
7. Selling, using, possessing or dispensing alcohol, tobacco, nicotine, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, electronic cigarettes, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. (Note: Refer to "Drug and Alcohol Violations" for further information).
8. Public indecency.
9. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person. Engaging in sexual conduct, even if consensual, on school grounds or at a school function or event.
10. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law, which constitutes a danger to other students, interferes with school purposes or an extracurricular activity, or reflects a lack of high ideals.
11. Repeated violation of any of the school rules.
12. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
13. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to a school employee, school volunteer, or student. 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.
14. Dressing or grooming in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety or a danger to the health and safety of others or repeated violations of dress and grooming standards; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that is lewd or indecent, vulgar or plainly offensive; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that school officials reasonably conclude will materially and substantially disrupt the work and discipline of the school or of an extracurricular activity; dressing, grooming, or engaging in speech that a reasonable observer would interpret as advocating illegal drug use.
15. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Anywhere Public School buses or vehicles used for activity purposes.
16. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of the season. Reporting for one activity may count as reporting on time if there is a change in activity within the season approved by the coach or the supervisor.
17. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an extracurricular activity or event.
18. Failure to attend scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the coach or sponsor will determine the validity of the reason. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or sponsor prior to any missed practice or meeting.
19. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation.
20. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.

All terms used in the Code of Conduct have a less strict meaning than under criminal law and are subject to reasonable interpretation by school officials.

Drug and Alcohol Violations.

Meaning of Terms.

Use or consume includes any level of consumption or use. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation.

Under the influence means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student, or the odor of an illicit drug on the student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

Possession includes having control of the substance and also includes being in the same area where the substance is present and no responsible adult present and responsible for the substance. Possession includes situations where, for example:

- (1) Alcohol is in a vehicle in which the student is present. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that the alcohol is in the vehicle, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol.
- (2) Alcohol is present at a party attended by the student. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that alcohol is at the party and fails to immediately leave the party, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol.

In these situations, a violation would not exist if the alcohol is in the control of a parent or guardian or other responsible adult (age 21 or older) such that students are not allowed to access the alcohol. A violation would also not exist if the student did not know or have a reasonable basis to know that alcohol would be present, and the student leaves the location where the alcohol is present as soon the student could safely do so. (Students are expected to leave immediately, but are not to do so in a manner that would endanger them. For example, you are not to leave in a car being driven by a person who has been drinking just to get away from the alcohol party immediately when there is no other way to get home. Instead, you should call for a safe ride home and, while waiting, clearly distance yourself from the alcohol).

Consequences.

Students may be suspended from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in co-curricular activities for violations of the Code of Conduct. The period of suspension or other discipline for such offenses shall be determined by the school administration.

The disciplinary consequence will be determined based on consideration of the seriousness of the offense, any prior violations, the student's compliance with the self-reporting obligations, the student's level of cooperation and willingness to resolve the matter, and the student's demonstration of a commitment to not commit future violations.

Because of the significance of drug and alcohol violations on the student participants, other students and the school, the following consequences are established for such violations:

Drugs and Alcohol.

An activity participant who violates the drug, nicotine based products, or alcohol rules (other than steroids) shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. First Violation: 20% of all scheduled activities.
2. Second or Any Subsequent Offense: 50% of all scheduled activities.

3. Reduction for Self-Reporting: If the student has self-reported, the first violation shall be reduced to 10% for the first violation. A commensurate reduction (approximately one-half, as determined by the administration) for a second or subsequent violation shall be given for self-reporting.
4. Reduction for Participation in Chemical Dependency Program: If the student and parents agree to participate in a school-approved program for chemical dependency, the consequence will be reduced to only the next activity in which the student was to participate (including at least one contest) in the case of a first violation, and to a commensurate reduction (approximately 80%, as determined by the administration, for a second or subsequent violation).
The program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse and be approved by the school authorities. The student will need to successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program. Proof of successful completion of program must be submitted in writing to the Activities Director. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extracurricular activities for one calendar year. All costs associated with the program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian.
5. More Serious Violations: In the event of more serious drug or alcohol violations, such as students engaging in use of especially serious drug offenses (cocaine, meth, etc.) or procuring alcohol for minors, the consequence of the violation is not restricted by the foregoing, and may be established in the good discretion of the administration.

Steroid Offenses. A student who possesses, dispenses, delivers, or administers anabolic steroids shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. First Violation: 30 school days.
2. Second or Any Subsequent Offense: One calendar year.

When Suspensions Begin. All suspensions begin with the next scheduled activity in which the student is a participant, after the determination by school officials of the sanction to be imposed; provided that the school officials shall have the discretion to establish a time period for the suspension that makes the suspension have a real consequence for the student. During a suspension, participants may be required or permitted to practice at the sole discretion of the coach or activity sponsor. Suspensions in the Spring will be carried over to the Fall when the suspension has not been fully served or when determined appropriate for the suspension to have a real consequence for the student.

Letters and Post-Season Honors. A student who commits a Code of Conduct violation is:

1. Eligible to letter, provided the student meets the criteria of the coach or sponsor.
2. Not eligible to receive honors during the sport or activity in which they are participating at the time of the offense and/or in sports or activities in which they have been suspended due to a code violation. The coach/sponsor, with the Athletic Director's approval, may make an exception where the student has self-reported or otherwise demonstrated excellence in character allowing for such honors.

Self-Reporting. A student who violates the Code of Conduct must self-report. A failure to self-report will lead to a longer suspension or other discipline. The self-report must be made to: the principal, athletic director, or the head coach or sponsor of an activity in which the student participates. The student's parent or guardian may initiate the self-reporting process, but the student will be later required to give a written statement of the self-report. The self-report must be made the earlier of: (1) before the end of the next school day after the conduct occurred and (2) before participation in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity.

In making a self-report, the student must identify the events that took place, what conduct the student engaged in, and any witnesses to the student's conduct, and will be required to put this information in a written statement. In the event the student has received a criminal citation, charge, or ticket, and proclaims innocence of a violation,

the student will be required to self-report such offense and provide information as to why they should be found innocent, not as it relates to the criminal offense, but as it relates to the Code of Conduct.

All students are expected to be honest and forthright with school officials. In the event the coach or activity sponsor or any school administrator asks a student participant for information pertaining to compliance (or lack of compliance) by the student or other student participants with the Code of Conduct or eligibility conditions for participation in activities, the student is expected to fully, completely, and honestly provide the information. Students may be disciplined for a failure to be honest and forthright.

Determining a Violation Has Occurred. A violation of the Code of Conduct will be determined to have occurred based on any of the following criteria:

1. When a student is cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist.
2. When a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a plea of no contest and an adjudication of delinquency by the juvenile court.
3. When a student admits to violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct.
4. When a student is accused by another person of violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct and school officials determine that such information is reliable.
5. When school officials otherwise find sufficient evidence to support a determination that a violation has occurred.

Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline. The following procedures are established for suspensions from participation in extracurricular activities:

1. Investigation. The school official(s) considering the suspension will conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with a school purpose.
2. Meeting. Prior to commencement of the suspension, the school official considering the suspension or their designee will provide the student an opportunity to give the student's side of the story. The meeting for this purpose may be held in person or via a telephone conference.
 - a. The student will be given oral or written notice of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and the opportunity to explain the student's version. Detail is not required where the activity participant has made a self-report or otherwise admits the conduct. Names of informants may be kept confidential where determined to be appropriate.
 - b. The suspension may be imposed prior to the meeting if the meeting cannot reasonably be held before the suspension is to begin. In that case the meeting will occur as soon as reasonably practicable. The student is responsible for cooperating in the scheduling of the meeting.
3. Notice Letter. Within two school days (two business days if school is not in session), or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Athletic Director or the Athletic Director's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian. The statement will describe the student's conduct violation and the discipline imposed. The student and parents or guardian will be informed of the opportunity to request a hearing.
4. Informal Hearing Before Superintendent. The student or student's parent/guardian may request an informal hearing before the Superintendent. The Superintendent may designate the Athletic Director or another administrator not responsible for the suspension decision as the Superintendent's designee to conduct the hearing and make a decision.

- a. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian. A form will be provided with the notice letter or otherwise be made available by request from the Principal's office.
- b. The request for a hearing must be received by the Superintendent's office within five days of receipt of the notice letter.
- c. If a hearing is requested:
 - i. The hearing will be held within ten calendar days of receipt of the request; subject to extension for good cause as determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
 - ii. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing a reasonable time in advance to allow preparation for the hearing.
 - iii. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days (ten calendar days if school is not in session). The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian.
 - iv. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the informal hearing) will be kept by the school if requested sufficiently in advance of the hearing by the parent/guardian.
5. No Stay of Penalty. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending completion of the due process procedures
6. Opportunity for Informal Resolution. These due process procedures do not prevent the student or parent/guardian from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school officials at any stage.

Attendance

Student participants are expected to meet the following attendance expectations:

1. Attend school regularly. Students who have "excessive absences" as determined under the school's attendance policy are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances. Students who have four or more unexcused absences in the semester of participation will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests the participant should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
3. On the day of a contest, performance or other activity, be in attendance for periods 5,6,7,&8. A student who is not in attendance these periods is ineligible for the contest, performance, or activity without administrative approval. In addition, attendance is required the day after a contest. If the student is absent, student will not be able to participate in the next event at that level and must sit out all competitions in between.

Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies. The exception must be approved by the Principal or Athletic Director.

Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

Academic Standards

Participation in extracurricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extracurricular school activities show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement. To be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities students must:

1. Be enrolled in at least 20 credit hours in the semester of participation.
2. Have received credit for 20 hours for the immediate preceding semester.
3. Pass four or more academic classes at the end of the 9-week grading period or be ineligible for the next 9-week period.
4. Academic requirements do not apply to:
 - (A) Instructional field trips which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience; or
 - (B) Activities or events which are a part of the student's grade requirements.
5. Students must also maintain weekly eligibility. In any reporting period any student failing two subjects will become ineligible to compete immediately. Students will remain ineligible for one week at a time during each reporting period.
6. Any exceptions to the eligibility requirements because of exceptional circumstances will be made only after discussion and mutual agreement by the principal, activities director, sponsor, and the teacher(s) of the classes failed.

“Team Selection” and “Playing Time”

“Team selection” and “playing time” decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity. Consistent, however, with the purposes of the activities program, the coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

1. School Representative. Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner that reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.
2. Success. Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of these criteria include the student's: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student's own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach, the school, and the community.

School Dances

A school-sponsored dance is a school activity subject to all provisions of the Student Activity Code, and is a privilege available to students meeting all requirements for participation.

General Rules of Student Conduct at Dances. In addition to all rules of student conduct in the Student handbook, students attending dances shall adhere to the following rules of conduct:

1. Who Can Attend: Only students of Nebraska City Public Schools and their guests may attend.
 - a. Students currently attending Nebraska City High School or another Nebraska high school who have not been restricted from attending extracurricular activities at Nebraska City High School or their own school are generally considered appropriate dates or invited guests.
 - b. Persons who are younger than 16 or older than 19 years of age and not attending high school are generally considered to not be appropriate dates or invited guests for our school dances. No middle school students will be allowed.
 - c. Some school dances may be restricted to students attending specified grades levels at Nebraska City Public Schools.
 - d. Students who have been suspended from school or from extracurricular activities may not attend.
 - e. The school reserves the right to exclude persons who may or do cause a disruption or detract from the event. Dates or invited guests not attending our school are expected to follow the same rules of conduct which apply to our students.
 - f. Rules for dances may restrict students and their guests from leaving dance until the dance ends without written parental permission on a form provided. Generally, once a student leaves the dance he or she will not be permitted to return.
 - g. Students or their guests who engage in inappropriate behavior, whether on or off of the dance floor, may be asked to leave.

2. Prohibited Substances: Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and tobacco are prohibited. Anyone using these or showing the effects of use will not be allowed admission or, if discovered after admission, be removed from the dance. Their parents may be contacted.

Students and their dates may be required to submit to a Breathalyzer prior to gaining entrance. Those who choose not to submit to a Breathalyzer will not gain entrance. Law enforcement will be contacted if there is reasonable suspicion that the student or a student's date is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

3. Appropriate Attire: Students and their guests must meet the dress code requirements established for each dance. Teachers or administrators will make the final decision as to whether or not a student's attire is appropriate. Students will be asked to change unacceptable items, which may mean that the student may have to return home to change the inappropriate clothing. It is advisable to check in advance of the dance with the Principal or staff sponsor for the event if you are uncertain about your attire.

Eligibility for Selection as Royalty. Nomination and selection as royalty for school sponsored dances is an honor awarded by students to those of their peers that exemplify the highest standards of integrity and achievement. Students nominated for dance royalty must have demonstrated through their conduct, academic achievement and activities that they have represented, and will represent, themselves, their classmates, and their school in a manner which reflects outstanding effort, commitment to their school and fellow students, and integrity and good citizenship in the school and in the community. The students selected to be the "royalty" for the Homecoming and Prom or any other school sponsored dance or activity shall meet that general standard as determined by the administration and, in addition, meet the following specific academic, activity and conduct standards:]

1. Achievement, Citizenship and Conduct Qualifications:
 - a. The student must have exhibited sportsmanship and leadership in activity endeavors and participation.

- b. The student must have exhibited a cooperative and respectful attitude toward fellow students, teammates, opponents, sponsors, coaches, and officials.
 - c. The student must have a cumulative grade average of a 2.5.
 - d. The student must not have had excessive violations of school policies and procedures during their high school career.
 - e. The student may not, within twelve months of the of the dance, have engaged in criminal violations involving: (i) alcohol, drugs or tobacco; (ii) driving law violation in which the penalty is a loss of four points or more under the point system; (iii) a Class I, II, III, or IIIA or Class W misdemeanor; or (iv) a felony. Criminal violations will be deemed to have occurred where: (a) a student was cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist or (b) a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a plea of no contest and an adjudication of delinquency by the juvenile court.
2. Royalty Candidate Eligibility and Selection: The determination of whether a student meets the foregoing conduct and citizenship qualification standards shall be made by a committee appointed by the Principal for each dance at which royalty is to be selected ("Royalty Candidate Eligibility and Selection Committee"). The committee will ordinarily include the Principal, Activity Director and the certificated staff sponsors.
3. Pre-Qualification of and Acceptance by Student: All students nominated for dance royalty shall meet with the Principal. At the meeting the Principal will review the eligibility requirements for the honor of dance royalty. The student will be required to confirm that the student meets all eligibility requirements. The student will be required to confirm his or her acceptance of the nomination for dance royalty and the responsibilities of such an all school honor. The Principal or designee may contact local, county and/or state law enforcement and judicial authorities to confirm a student's eligibility for the honor of being nominated for or awarded dance royalty.

Relationships Between Parents and Coaches/Sponsors

Both parenting and coaching are very difficult vocations. By establishing an understanding between coaches and parents, both are better able to accept the actions of the other and provide a more positive experience for everyone.

Parents have the right to know the expectations placed on them and their children. Coaches and sponsors have the right to know that if parents have a concern, they will discuss it with the coach at the appropriate time and place.

Parents' Role in Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities

Communicating with your children

- Make sure that your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction.

- Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be “out there trying,” to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don’t compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
- Don’t compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Get to know the coach(es). Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

Communicating with the coach

- Communication you should expect from your child’s coach includes:
 - o Philosophy of the coach
 - o Expectations the coach has for your child
 - o Locations and times of all practices and contests
 - o Team requirements
 - o Procedure should your child be injured
 - o Discipline that results in the denial of your child’s participation
- Communication coaches expect from parents
 - o Concerns expressed directly to the coach
 - o Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
 - o Specific concerns in regard to a coach’s philosophy and/or expectations
- Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
 - o The treatment of your child, mentally, and physically
 - o Ways to help your child improve
 - o Concerns about your child’s behavior
 - o Injuries or health concerns. Report injuries to the coach immediately!! Tell the coach about any health concerns that may make it necessary to limit your child’s participation or require assistance of trainers. Students are sometimes unwilling to tell coaches when they are injured, so please make sure the coach is told.
- Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:
 - o Playing time
 - o Team strategy
 - o Play calling
 - o Other student-athletes (except for reporting activity code violations)
- Appropriate procedures for discussing concerns with the coaches:
 - o Call to set up an appointment with the coach
 - o Do not confront a coach before or after a contest or practice ((these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution)
- What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution?
 - o Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.
 - o At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

Good Sportsmanship—Behavior Expectations of Spectators

Good sportsmanship is expected to be exhibited by all coaches, sponsors, students, parents and other spectators. The school can be punished by NSAA for a lack of good sportsmanship at NSAA sanctioned events. More importantly, activities are more enjoyable for the students when good sportsmanship is displayed.

Responsibilities of Spectators Attending Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities

1. Show interest in the contest by enthusiastically cheering and applauding the performance of both teams.
2. Show proper respect for opening ceremonies by standing at attention and remaining silent when the National Anthem is played.
3. Understand that a ticket is a privilege to observe the contest, not a license to verbally attack others, or to be obnoxious. Maintain self-control.
4. Do not “boo,” stamp feet or make disrespectful remarks toward players or officials.
5. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
6. Know that noisemakers of any kind are not proper for indoor events.
7. Obey and respect officials and faculty supervisors who are responsible for keeping order. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials.
8. Stay off the playing area at all times.
9. Do not disturb others by throwing material onto the playing area.
10. Show respect for officials, coaches, cheerleaders and student-athletes.
11. Pay attention to the half-time program and do not disturb those who are watching.
12. Respect public property by not damaging the equipment or the facility.
13. Know that the school officials reserve the right to refuse attendance of individuals whose conduct is not proper.
14. Refrain from the use of alcohol and drugs on the site of the contest.

Nebraska City Middle School 2025-2026

Home of the Pioneers

909 1st Corso
Nebraska City, NE 68410
Phone: 402-873-5591
Fax: 402-873-5641

NCMS Website: <http://www.nebcityps.org>

Mr. Ethan Pellatz
Principal

THIS PLANNER BELONGS TO:

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ GRADE: _____

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WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook.

There are several forms available on PowerSchool that must be read, signed, and submitted no later than August 22nd, 2025. These forms are available for review at the end of this handbook.

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher or speak with the building principal.

Sincerely,

Ethan Pellatz

Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Each student must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word “parents” refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents and legal guardians.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract” with parents, students or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mr Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at Central Office.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org, or in person at Central Office. The School District’s specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link:

https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/915/Nebraska_City_Public_Schools/4570487/Title_IX_Policy_3057.pdf

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator: Mr. Mark Fritch at 402-873-6033, mfritch@nebcityps.org, or in person at Central Office. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination

or harassment should contact Mr. Ethan Pellatz at 402-873-5591, epellatz@nebcityps.org, or in person at school.

Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

AVISO DE NO DISCRIMINACION

El distrito escolar no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, discapacidad o edad en sus programas y actividades y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados. El distrito escolar prohíbe la discriminación sexual en cualquier programa o actividad que opere. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de actos ilícitos discriminación o acoso debido a sus discapacidad, o otras inquietudes tienen preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador de la Sección 504 : Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de discriminación o acoso ilegal debido a su sexo, o que tengan otras inquietudes o preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador del Título IX: Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. El Aviso de no discriminación específico del Distrito Escolar en el se puede acceder a Bases del Sexo en el siguiente enlace:

https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/915/Nebraska_City_Public_Schools/4570487/Title_IX_Policy_3057.pdf Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de discriminación ilegal o acoso debido a su raza, color o origen nacional, o que tengan otras inquietudes o preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador del Título VI: Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de cualquier otra discriminación o acoso ilegal deben comunicarse con el Sr. Ethan Pellatz al 402-873-5591, epellatz@nebcityps.org, o en persona en la escuela. Los estudiantes pueden denunciar discriminación o acoso a cualquier miembro del personal, quien luego lo enviará al coordinador o administrador correspondiente. El miembro del personal seguiría la políticas del distrito escolar para responder al informe.

MISSION STATEMENT:

“Inspiring a culture of excellence that engages all students in lifelong learning.”



BELIEF STATEMENTS

We believe all students will:

Be safe, respectful, and responsible citizens
Thrive in a culturally diverse environment
Learn through cooperative efforts
Think and solve problems creatively
Become technologically proficient
Develop visionary thinking
Be life-long learners

SECTION ONE

BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES

Accidents

The School (School district) will not be responsible for any medical costs incurred by any student who is injured while attending school, any class, any school function on the premises of the school or at any off premises location at any activity authorized or sanctioned by the school.

Attendance / Loss of Credit

Students are expected to attend school every day it is in session. They must attend school regularly and be on time in order to be successful. Parents are obligated to insure that their students attend school every day they are able. The school will recognize outstanding attendance with special awards at the end of the school year.

Parents must contact the office of their student's building before 9:00 a.m. on the day the student will not be in school. Students may not call to inform the school of their own absence. The school will telephone parents to notify them when their student is not in school. *If called out for lunch, students need to be back by the end of the lunch period.*

Absences may be excused for reasons of: 1) personal illness (*if Doctor note provided*), 2) family emergencies/events, 3) school activities.

The school district will send parents written notice when a student has accumulated five (5) absences during a semester. A subsequent letter will be mailed home every five (5) absences. A conference (*such as a phone call or in-person visit*) may be held which will include the student, parent, teacher(s) and/or principal/asst. principal to review the reason(s) for the absences and the consequences for future absences. The principal may require a physician's verification for absences related to illness.

Each student will be allowed eight (8) absences per semester, (absences due to school-sponsored activities will not be included in this total). *Once a student accumulates 8 absences they may be required to attend Saturday support.*

When students accumulate more than five (5) unexcused absences, the school district may report the student's absences to the county attorney for truancy and/or withhold class credit. A conference will be held which will include the student, parent, teacher and administration to review the reasons for the absences and possible consequences for future absences. *The welfare and safety of our students is a priority and regular attendance is an important factor in meeting this priority.*

The District will not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy.

Absences due to illness

The school district will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school. A student who is absent due to illness should contact their teachers to collect and complete assignments in a timely manner. Assignments missed due to illness will be monitored through district grading and assignment resources.

Planned absences

Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must call the school or send a written note at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical appointments, *vacations* or school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours when possible.

Students are obligated to:

- 1) complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated;
- 2) be in attendance ½ day prior to attending practice or participating in a scheduled student activity except in cases of family emergencies or pre-arranged absences;
- 3) check out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day; and
- 4) make up any and all work that is assigned by teachers as make-up work for the instructional time that has been missed.

Parents are obligated to:

- 1) call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence; and
- 2) submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness that exceeds five days.
- 3) *ensure students are in attendance whenever possible*

Audio and Video Recordings

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

This policy applies to students 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. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student's education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit

recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student's education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules.

An exception will be made to this policy if photographs or audio or video recordings are necessary to accommodate a student's disability or are required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

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. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Bed Bugs

Students found to have bed bugs will be removed from the classroom and inspected by the school nurse. Any bugs found should be removed and collected for identification. If an active bed bug is discovered, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and prompt, proper treatment will be required. Any other students residing in the same household or otherwise at risk of infection should be inspected as soon as possible after the initial diagnosis.

The student will not be excluded from school the day of the diagnosis unless the student has been diagnosed previously and attempts at treatment have failed. No healthy child should be excluded from or allowed to miss school time because of bed bugs unless efforts to remedy an infestation have been unsuccessful.

If bed bugs are found in a classroom or elsewhere in the building, the school will notify parent(s) and guardian(s) of all students so that the students' clothing and other belongings may be inspected before bringing them into the home. The school will not be closed due to a bed bug presence. If pest management is necessary, it will be provided to affected areas of the school.

Bills

Students should pay bills for supplies, fines, shop materials, clothing orders, etc. in the school bookkeeper's office. Any check for these payments should be made out to Nebraska City Public Schools unless otherwise instructed. Pursuant to board policy, the district will assess an additional penalty of \$30 for any check returned from the bank for insufficient funds.

Books and Supplies

Students must take care of Chromebooks, books and other supplies provided by the district. The school will assess fines for damage to books and school property.

Students must supply their own consumable items such as pens, pencils, tablets, notebooks, erasers, and crayons. Each classroom teacher will prepare a supply list for students at the beginning of the school year.

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards are maintained throughout the building to communicate general information, material, and school announcements. Students should check the bulletin boards carefully each school day. A copy of daily announcements will be made available each day.

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

1. All postings must be approved by the appropriate building principal or designee. Students may not post any material containing any statement or expression that is libelous, obscene, or vulgar; that would violate board of education policies, including the student code of conduct; or that is otherwise inappropriate for the school environment.
2. All postings must identify the student or the student organization posting or publishing the notice.
3. Material shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards or electronic publishing media.

Bullying

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as “any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The District’s administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Reporting Bullying

Students who experience or observe bullying behavior must immediately report what happened to a teacher or administrator. Students can use the district’s anonymous platform Safe 2 Help to make this report. Students may always confer with their parents or guardians about bullying they experience or witness, but the students must also ultimately report the situation to a teacher or administrator.

Cell Phones, Pagers and Other Electronic Devices

Students may not use cellular (cell) phones, tablets or other personal electronic devices while at school. Students should not use or have devices on their person during the instructional day (8:05 to 3:32). Exceptions may be made for educational purposes by staff members with permission from the administrator. It is understandable to want to have contact with their child during the instructional day, however, it is necessary for students to be in a safe and distraction-free environment. Students can be reached by calling the building office.

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

Students who violate this policy, through possession of their personal electronic device, will have their cell phones or other electronic devices confiscated immediately. Students who refuse to comply will receive consequences for noncompliance. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student's parent or guardian after meeting with the parent or guardian to discuss the 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.

A separate Chromebook Handbook will be utilized to spell out all necessary actions related to the use of District provided chromebooks.

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

Child Abuse and/or Neglect

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; (6) placed in a situation to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking of a minor as defined in state law or by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to engage in debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or (7) placed in a situation to be a trafficking victim as defined in state law.

Class Dismissal

Classes are in session from the ringing of the tardy bell until the teacher dismisses the class. The bell at the end of the period is not a dismissal bell, and students may not leave their classrooms until their classroom teacher has excused them.

Classroom Behavior

Student behavior and attitude in the classroom must be cooperative and distraction-free. All students must:

- arrive to class on time;
- be prepared for class with all necessary materials;
- be considerate of others;
- *cooperate* promptly to all directions of the teacher; and
- take care of school property and the property of others.

Teachers will establish classroom conduct rules that students must obey.

Teachers will establish classroom conduct rules which align with the Positive Behavior Schools philosophy of, "BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE and *BE RESOURCEFUL*" and promote a productive learning environment.

Closed Campus

Students may not leave the building without permission from the administration and checking out in the office. Once students are on campus for the day, they must stay on campus until dismissed or otherwise released. Students will not be released to anyone under the age of 18. Exceptions to this guideline can be made by the administration only.

Communicating with Parents

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. ~~The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing.~~ The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact. Official transcripts of student progress, grades, and attendance will be sent to other school systems upon the student's transfer when the district receives a written request signed by the student's parent or guardian or upon being notified that the student has enrolled in another school.

Computer Network Use by Students

Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The board of education has adopted the following procedures and guidelines to ensure appropriate use of the Internet.

1. **Acceptable Use.** Students may use the Internet for the following purposes:

- a) Conducting research assigned by teachers.
- b) Conducting research for classroom projects.
- c) Accessing information about current events.
- d) Conducting research for school-related activities.
- e) Any other appropriate educational purpose.

2. **Unacceptable Use.** Students may not use school computers for the following purposes or do the following things:
 - a) Accessing material that is sexually explicit, obscene, pornographic, "harmful to minors," or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
 - b) Engaging in any illegal activities, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
 - c) Participating in electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers.
 - d) Participating in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 file-sharing systems including, but not limited to, Napster, Aimster, and Freenet on school computers.
 - e) Disclosing personal information such as their names, school, addresses, and telephone numbers outside of the school network.
 - f) Commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
 - g) Publishing web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school without the express written permission of the system administrator.
 - h) Erasing, renaming, or making unusable anyone else's computer files, programs or disks.
 - i) Using or trying to discover another user's password. Students and staff shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individuals.
 - j) Copying, changing or transferring any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.
 - k) Writing, producing, generating, copying, propagating, or attempting to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan Horse, or a similar name.
 - l) Configuring or troubleshooting computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by the teacher or the system administrator.
 - m) Students may not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.
 - n) Forging electronic mail messages or web pages.
3. **Enforcement**
 - a) The school district owns the computer system and monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. Electronic files on the system are treated as school property and are subject to search and inspection at any time.
 - b) The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with district policy. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
 - c) Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
 - d) District staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.
4. **Consequences for Violation of this Policy**
 - a) Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any violation of school district policy and rules may result in:
 - 1) Loss of computer privileges;

- 2) Short-term suspension, long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; and
 - 3) Other discipline as school administration and the school board deem appropriate.
- b) Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to complaints unless the complaint is subject to a different procedure required by law, policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When those efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth in any specific policy addressing those areas or the procedures set forth below. Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

References to "coordinator" in this policy refer to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

A preponderance of the evidence will be required to discipline a party accused of misconduct. This means that the investigator must conclude that it is more likely than not that misconduct occurred.

Complaint and Appeal Process

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.

2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.

- a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
- b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
- c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
- d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted at any time during the complaint procedure to the applicable coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S.

Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268- 0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.

3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

- a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
- b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
- c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, to determine:
 - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
- d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.

4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.

- a) The appeal must be in writing.
- b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.
- c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.
- d) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.

5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its

administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:

- a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;
- b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
- c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.

6. If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.

- a) This appeal must be in writing.
- b) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) calendar days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
- c) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
- d) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.
- e) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.

7. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:

- a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.
- b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
- c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting by the full board.

d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.

e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

No Retaliation. The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities. Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special

Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings. The purpose of the complaint procedure is to resolve complaints at the lowest level possible within the chain of command. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c) at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (c) for purposes inconsistent with the efficient operations of the district may be dismissed by the superintendent without providing final resolution other than noting the dismissal. There is no appeal from dismissals made pursuant to this section.

Conferences

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences during the first semester and second semester.

In addition to formal conferences, classroom teachers will communicate with parents as necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

Copyright and Fair Use

The school district complies with federal copyright laws. Students must comply with copyright laws when using school equipment or working on school projects and assignments. Federal law prohibits the unauthorized reproduction of works of authorship, regardless of the medium in which they were created.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Students who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their teacher or building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

Contact Information

Parents must supply the school with their student's address and telephone number as well as information about how to reach a responsible adult during the school day. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

Damage to School Property

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be required to pay to replace or restore the property, at the discretion of the administration.

Dating Violence

The board prohibits behavior that has a negative impact on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Incidents of dating violence will not be tolerated on school grounds, in district vehicles, or at school sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

Dating violence is defined as a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner. Dating partner means any person, regardless of gender, involved in an intimate relationship with another person primarily characterized by the expectation of affectionate involvement whether casual, serious or long-term.

The district will provide appropriate training to staff and incorporate within its educational program age-appropriate dating violence education that shall include, but not be limited to, defining dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and identifying characteristics of healthy dating relationships.

Dress Code/Appearance

Students must come to school dressed in clean, neat and appropriate clothing to conform with educational standards. *Parents and students are encouraged to contact the school if they are in need of appropriate clothing.*

Students are prohibited from wearing, or displaying permanent or temporary body art, with the following attire:

1. Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
2. Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance
3. Caps, hats, sunglasses, hoods, bandannas (and the like) during the school day
4. Airpods (and the like) will not be worn unless given permission by staff
5. Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
6. Short-shorts, biker shorts, or cutoff shorts
7. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
8. Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened
9. Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions
10. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
11. Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments (sagging)
12. Pants that drag on the floor
13. Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts
14. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
15. Clothing with tears, holes, or a fit that expose undergarments
16. Extreme makeup, face paint, jewelry, piercings, or hairstyles are not allowed.
17. Students are not allowed to use or carry blankets during the school day.

Students who violate dress code guidelines will be required to correct the violation by changing into something appropriate at school or returning home to change. A detention or suspension may be given to make up the time away from school. Students will also receive zeros for any class time they miss while correcting the violation. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.

Drug Free Schools

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing or selling any drug, alcohol or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity or in a school vehicle. In addition, students who participate

in the school's activities program should refer to the Activities Handbook which prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco at all times.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

Emergency Operations

- Nebraska City School Board is committed to providing all students and staff a safe environment. Emergency Operations teams are in place to: perform threat assessment, provide safety training, and respond in times of crisis.
- **Threat Assessment:** The Emergency Operations team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations.
- **Safety Training:** Provide information and training to students and staff including, but not limited to:
 - **Evacuate and Bus Drills** - Evacuate and Bus evacuation drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given everyone obeys orders promptly and clears the building or vehicles by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom or vehicle will give the students instructions.
 - **Lockdown Procedures** - A lockdown may be called by the building principal or other designee if he or she has reason to believe that the students and staff may be in danger. In such cases, students and staff will remain in a locked classroom. They must move away from windows and doors. Students and staff must remain quiet at all times. In the event of a lockdown, for their safety, students will not be allowed to leave the building. Parents will not be free to pick up their child during the lockdown. The Nebraska City Police Department will be notified of the school lockdown and required to offer assistance.
 - **Secure Procedures** – A lockout may be called by the building principal or other designee if he or she has reason to believe that a threat is possible from outside the building. In such cases, all exterior doors will be locked with no one (including parents and staff) being allowed to enter or exit the building. All classes will proceed as normal within the building.

- **Shelter Drill-** The alarm for an adverse weather drill will be an intercom announcement. Students will proceed to the first floor, and then all boys will use the west stairway to the shower area of the boy's locker room. Girls will use the east stairway to the girl's locker room. At all times during the drill, THERE WILL BE SILENCE so as to hear approaching danger and to be able to hear instructions. Once in the locker rooms students must remain quiet until the "ALL CLEAR" is sounded. A verbal announcement will send students back to classes.
- **Crisis:** Emergency Operation team members will be available to students and staff in the event of a crisis. Information will be communicated to stakeholders through parent email and/or mass phone call/text.

Eye Exams

All students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring into the school district from out of state must undergo a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.

Field Trips

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent, or "caregiver" as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, must authorize a student to participate in a field trip by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

First-Aid

First-aid items may only be used by school staff. Students who need first aid should ask for assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

Food and Drink Regulations

No open containers may be brought into the building. This includes but is not limited to opened bottles, sports bottles, cups, drinks from restaurants, and other containers that are not sealed. Any food items brought into the building will not be allowed to leave the designated eating area. Special exceptions may be made by the building administration. Water bottles may be used throughout the day but must be empty. Water bottles can be filled at the bottle filling stations within the school.

Students bringing cold lunch must store food in an appropriate lunch bag and store properly in their designated locker so as not to jeopardize the school issued electronic device.

Food Service Program

The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students.

Breakfast

The school will serve breakfast daily from 7:35 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast. The school district charges students \$2.25 and adults \$2.25 for breakfast.

Lunch

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives. Lunch for 6-8 is \$ 3.50.

Payment for Meals

Students are encouraged to pay for meals several weeks in advance. Payment should be made to the bookkeeper in the office.

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will have a regular meal and the account will be charged accordingly.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. Collection efforts may continue into a new school year.

Guidance

Guidance services are available for every student in the school. These services include assistance with educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information, study help, help with home, school and/or social concerns, or any question the student may feel they would like to discuss with the counselor. Students are encouraged to make full use of the guidance services.

Group Disturbance and Walk Away You Get To Stay Regulation:

NCMS administration will incorporate the usage of the "Walk Away" strategy to handle group disturbances and situations between various students. Students will be instructed to "Walk Away" from any volatile situation dealing with groups or individuals and get "To Stay" in school or the regular classroom setting. Students that do not "Walk Away" from volatile situations and continue to be incorporated in such occurrences may be suspended as well as being issued a citation by local law enforcement officials.

Head Lice

Upon discovering the presence of live lice or louse eggs, the school will notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). The student will be isolated from contact with other students and their belongings, and a parent or guardian must pick the child up from school immediately.

By Nebraska DHHS regulation, students are not permitted to return to school until the student is treated such that no live lice or louse eggs can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined. The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Health Problems

Parents who do not want their children to play outdoors or participate in physical education for health reasons must send a written request to school. If a student persistently requests to be excused from these activities, the building principal or classroom teacher may require a doctor's verification.

Parents should notify the principal or superintendent if their student has any special health problems such as diabetes, asthma, and the like.

Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless students generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable state and federal law.

It is the school's policy not to stigmatize or segregate homeless students on the basis of their status of being homeless. Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency. Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is the Director of Student Services, who may be contacted at 402-873-6033.

Illness or Injury at school

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary. When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital.

Immunizations

All students must furnish to school officials proof of adequate immunizations from mumps, measles, rubella; diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus; polio; varicella and hepatitis B.

A signed medical exemption is accepted when immunization would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or member of the student's household or family, but the parents/guardian must submit dates of immunization for all other diseases. A signed religious waiver is accepted when immunization conflicts with the student's personal and sincerely followed religious beliefs. Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

Provisional Enrollment.

Students shall be provisionally enrolled so long as they continue to get the required immunizations as fast as medically possible.

Students who are exempted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

Initiations and Hazing

Initiations and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or non-approved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law.

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person,

forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

Lockers and Other School Property

The school district owns and exercises exclusive control over student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration. The assignment of a locker is on a temporary basis and may be revoked at any time. School officials may inspect student lockers without any suspicion or reasonable cause.

Lost and Found

All lost and found articles are to be taken to the main office. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

Medications

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When it is necessary for school personnel to administer medication to students, the school district will comply with the Nebraska Medication Aide Act, the requirements of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, (promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education and entitled *Methods of Competency Assessment of School Staff Who Administer Medication*), and all state and federal regulations. Parents and guardians who wish to have their child receive medication from school personnel must comply with the following procedures:

Prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication. (2) Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication. (3) The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.

Non-prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication. (2) The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer's container. (3) The container must be labeled with the child's name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

Emergency Response to Life-Threatening Asthma or Systemic Allergic Reactions (Anaphylaxis)

It shall be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools, in the event of a life threatening respiratory emergency to administer medications as directed on the student's Emergency Action Plan. If that plan does not lead to relief of symptoms or there is no plan in place, Epinephrine by EpiPen and albuterol by nebulizer will be administered per standing order, which has been reviewed by a physician and mandated by the State Department of Education. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to a medical facility by rescue squad at the family's expense.

Media Center

Students must check out materials from the librarian on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name. Each student is responsible for any fine that accumulates on a book charged to him/her. If a book is lost and not found by the end of the year, the student must pay for it. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to library books.

Parental Involvement

The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parent and family engagement in the Title I program. Parent and family engagement in the Title I Program shall include, but is not limited to:

An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.

An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination, and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.

Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities, such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of these parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.

The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program. Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.

Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.

The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.

The district will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of the contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

Personal Items

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator. Students who violate this policy, through possession of personal items, may have their item confiscated immediately. Students who refuse to comply will receive consequences for noncompliance. **The school is not responsible for damaged or lost personal items or equipment.**

Physical Exam

Students entering kindergarten and the seventh grade, and those entering school from another state, are statutorily required to show evidence that they have had a physical examination within six months prior to the date of entering school. Exceptions to this rule will be based on recommendations from the Nebraska School Activities Association and/or the Southeast Nebraska Health Department.

Pictures

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of the date. Included in the individual packet is a class composite. Parents who want pictures of their students or of their student's class composite may purchase them directly from the photographer.

Playground Rules

Students must follow these rules to keep the playground safe when they are using the playground as part of the school day:

1. Students must obey the playground supervisor at all times.
2. Students may not enter the street/highway to retrieve a ball unless given permission by the playground supervisor.
3. Students must play away from the school windows.
4. Touch and flag football are permitted, but tackle football is prohibited. Students may only play football on grassy areas.
5. Students may throw balls and other authorized play equipment. They may not throw rocks, gravel, snowballs, and clothing.
6. Students must use the playground equipment properly and in a safe manner.
7. Students may not leave the playground after they have arrived at school for the day.

Students who violate these rules will be disciplined with the loss of recess or other privileges, detention, and/or other consequences.

The school's playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas are generally not supervised. Staff will supervise students when the students are using these areas as part of the school day or as part of a school activity. At all other times and in all other circumstances, the school district does not provide supervision of its playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas.

Police Questioning and Apprehension

Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall make a reasonable attempt to inform parents when law enforcement officers seek access to their student prior to the student being questioned unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Members of the school district staff will comply with board policy regarding police questioning of students.

Protection of Student Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. The approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information as defined in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy is scheduled are as follows: Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

Public Displays of Affection

Students may not engage in public displays of affection that are disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others. Prohibited conduct includes hugging, kissing, touching or any other display of affection that a staff member determines to be inappropriate.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

Students may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term "custodial parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students' records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on

a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent's request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

School Day

The school day typically begins at 8:05 a.m. and ends at 3:32 p.m. Students are to leave the school grounds after dismissal. School staff will provide supervision for students on school grounds 15 minutes before the school day begins and 15 minutes after the school day ends. **There will be no supervision provided by the school before or after these times.** Parents must arrange for their children to leave school promptly at the end of the day.

Searches

School representatives may search lockers, personal belongings, and vehicles that students drive to school when there is reasonable cause to do so. This includes, but is not limited to, clothes, book bags, purses, books, and gym bags. The district superintendent or designee may authorize the use of a canine trained in the detection of narcotics, explosives or any other contraband at any time. The district superintendent or designee may authorize the use of preliminary breath tests (or alcohol sensors) or metal wands on school property and/or school sponsored activities.

Sexual Harassment

The school district clearly and unequivocally prohibits sexual harassment of students. Sexual harassment of students is defined as:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's educational opportunities or creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive learning environment.

Any sexual, physical, verbal, or mental (emotional) harassment/intimidation of any student is prohibited. The disciplinary consequences for harassment will depend on the frequency, duration, severity and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including expulsion. Students who feel they have been sexually harassed should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Smoking

The use or possession of any tobacco product, including the use of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or any other such look-alike product, is not permitted on school property at any time.

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

The administration is authorized to use sniffer dogs to minimize the presence of illicit items on school grounds. Students and staff are specifically notified of the following:

1. Lockers may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
2. Vehicles parked on school property may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time.
3. Classrooms and other common areas may be sniffed by sniffer dogs at any time students and staff are not present.
4. If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Staff Qualifications

Upon request, the school district will give parents the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The teacher's baccalaureate degree and major. Parents may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

Upon request, the school district will inform parents whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications. The request for such information should be made to the appropriate building administrator.

Student Assistance

Parents who believe their students have any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that they believe are not being addressed by the school district should contact the student's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of the student.

Student Fees

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. The district also provides activities, programs, and services that extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the district is permitted to charge students fees for these activities or to require students to provide specialized equipment and attire for certain purposes. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or board regulations. Students are encouraged to contact their building administration, their teachers or their coaches, and sponsors for further specifics.

A. Definitions

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.

2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.
3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

B. Listing of Fees Charged by this District

1. Guidelines for Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities

Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course or activity.

2. Safety Equipment and Attire

The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

3. Personal or Consumable Items

The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.

4. Materials Required for Course Projects

The district will provide students with the materials necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. In courses where students choose to produce a project that requires materials beyond the basic materials provided by the district, the students will furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.

Fees may include:

Band \$10.00

6th Grade Exploratory classes \$10 or

- o Art--\$2.00
- o I-tech--\$6.00

- o FACS--\$2.00
- o Computers - \$2.00

7th Grade Exploratory classes \$10 or

- o Art--\$2.00
- o I-tech--\$6.00
- o FACS--\$2.00
- o Computers - \$5.00

8th Grade Exploratory classes \$10 or

- o 3-D Design--\$5.00
- o Murals--\$5.00
- o Digital Imaging--\$5.00
- o Careers--\$5.00
- o Painting--\$5.00
- o Drawing--\$5.00
- o Computers - \$5.00
- o I-tech--not to exceed \$25.00 (depends upon selection of project)
- o FACS--\$5.00

5. Transportation Costs

The district may charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the district to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

The maximum dollar amount of the transportation fee charged by this district shall be \$130.

6. Copies of Student Files or Records

The district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such students. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

The district will charge a fee of \$0.10 per page for reproduction of student records.

7. Participation in Before-and-After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services

The district may charge reasonable fees for participation in before-and-after school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

8. Participation in Summer School or Night School

The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for summer and night school shall be \$250.00.

9. Charges for Food Consumed by Students

The district will charge for items that students purchase from the district's breakfast and lunch programs. The fees charged for these items will be set according to applicable federal and state statutes and regulations. The district will charge students for the cost of food, beverages, and the like that students purchase from a school store, vending machine, booster club or from similar sources. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for the breakfast and lunch programs is as follows:

- Breakfast Program – Grades 6-12
 - Regular Price \$2.25
 - Reduced Price \$0.30

- Lunch Program – Grades 6-12
 - Regular Price \$3.50
 - Reduced Price \$0.40

10. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities.

Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. For musical extracurricular activities, the school district will require students to provide the following equipment and/or attire:

- Band students must provide their own instruments and marching band shoes, which must be white, rubber-soled sneakers

- Swing Choir Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be \$1000.00

C. Waiver Policy.

Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) materials for course projects, and (3) the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Actual participation in the free or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for the waivers provided in this section. The district is not obligated to provide any particular type or quality of

equipment or other material to eligible students. Students who wish to be considered for waiver of a particular fee must submit a completed fee waiver application to their building principal.

D. Distribution of Policy.

This policy will be published in the Student Handbook or its equivalent that will be provided to students at no cost.

E. Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs

The district will, when appropriate, request donations of money, materials, equipment or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements and staff members of the district are directed to clearly communicate that fact to students, parents and patrons.

F. Fund-Raising Activities

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extracurricular activities in which they participate. Students who decline to participate in fund-raising activities are not eligible under this policy for waiver of the costs or fees which the fund-raising activity was meant to defray.

G. Student Fee Fund.

The school board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund that will not be funded by tax revenue, and that will serve as a depository for all monies collected from students for (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) post-secondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school courses. Monies in the Student Fee Fund shall be expended only for the purposes for which they were collected from students.

Student Passes

Students are not to be out of the classroom during class unless it is necessary or an emergency. Each student will have access to a digital copy of the student handbook and may be provided with a planner at the beginning of each school year or when they enroll in school. The goal of the classroom is to provide a distraction-free learning environment. Students who demonstrate a pattern of leaving the classroom may lose the opportunity to do so if deemed necessary by the staff. Students with documented health needs may be given exception to the general practices of the classroom environment. Each and every student must have a pass signed by staff prior to leaving the classroom.

Student Records

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

Directory Information

FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children.

The school district has designated the following as directory information:

Name	Major field of study
Address	Telephone number, including student's cell number
Date and place of birth	Participation in activities and sports
Dates of attendance	Degrees and awards received
The image or likeness of the student in pictures, videotape, film or other medium	Weight and height of members of athletic teams
Certain class work intended for publication on the Internet	Most recent previous school attended
Classroom assignment and/or Homeroom teacher	E-mail address

Directory information about students may also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or manufacture class rings, sell student photographs or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses and telephone listings of high or middle school students unless parents have notified the school district that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent.

Parents who **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than October 1st.

Non-Directory Information

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is contained in this school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

Complaints

Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Student Schedule Changes

Student schedule changes are made solely at the discretion of the Assistant Principal and/or the Principal. Students and parents may contact the school to request a schedule change at any time.

Tardiness

Students are expected to arrive on time for school each day. Students who are repeatedly tardy to school will be referred to the administration. Students tardy to class(es) interrupt the lesson or discussion and generally cause a minor disruption by entering late. Initial instances of tardiness will be handled between the student and the staff member. If the tardies become excessive, the situation will be referred to the office. A student is tardy if he/she is not in the classroom when the bell rings.

Telephone Calls

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff. Students are not permitted to use cellular telephones during school hours without the express permission of a member of the staff.

Threat Assessment and Response

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff, and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Obligation to Report threatening Statements or Behaviors.

All staff and students must report any threatening statements or behavior to a member of the administration. Staff and students must make such a report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were

threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

2. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team should include the superintendent of schools, building principal(s), and local law enforcement. It also could include the school nurse, guidance counselor, members of the mental health profession who would be willing to work with the school. It should not include parents or board members.] The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response.

3. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

All reports of violent, threatening, stalking, or other behavior or statements which could be interpreted as posing a threat to school safety will immediately be forwarded to a member of the team. Upon receipt of an initial report of any threat, the team will take steps to verify the information, make an initial assessment, and document any decision involving further action. This investigation may include interviews with the person who made the statement(s) or engaged in the behavior of concern, interviews with teachers and other staff members who may have information about the individual of concern, interviews with the target(s) of the threatening statements or behavior, interviews of family members, physical searches of the individual of concern's person, possessions, and home (as allowed by law and in cooperation with law enforcement), and any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the team will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The team is authorized to disclose the results of its investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The team may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of its investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

4. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

To the extent possible, the team will keep members of the school community informed about possible threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, and communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence if that individual is a minor.

Transportation Services

The district operates school buses as a convenience for students and parents. They represent a substantial investment, and students are expected to care for and respect them.

Transportation to School

Students who ride the bus to school will arrive in time for them to eat breakfast at school. Parents must contact their bus driver if a student will not ride the bus on a given day. Bus drivers endeavor to adhere to their schedule, and will wait for riders only a short period of time so as not to jeopardize the time remaining for the rest of their schedule.

Non-resident or option enrollment students may ride the buses, but they will be charged a fee to be established by the board of education. The Superintendent will schedule bus routes, and questions concerning them should be directed to that office.

Bus Regulations

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. The bus drivers have the same authority as teachers while transporting students. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in school vehicles. If misconduct is recurring, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

a. Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:

1. Students must obey the driver promptly.
2. Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
3. Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment, or horseplay.
4. Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.
5. Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
6. Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.
7. Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
8. Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, or animals onto the vehicle.
9. Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
10. Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
11. Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident
12. Students must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
13. Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary, and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.
14. Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.
15. Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

b. Consequences

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include a note home to parents, suspension of bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, short term or long term suspension from school, and/or expulsion.

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

c. Records

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Requests to be dropped off at a point **not** on the regular route will not be accommodated, unless extenuating circumstances arise and the request is approved by the transportation director or administration.

Students who are not regular route riders may not ride the bus home with a friend, unless the parent of the non-route student presents written permission to the bus driver ahead of time. The written permission should include the date, the non-route rider's name, the signature of the non-rider's parent, and the place approved for drop off. Such requests may not be granted if they cause overcrowding of the vans or buses (Vans-10 riders only, plus driver).

Transportation to Activities

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to take private transportation home from a school event must submit a release form to the sponsor that has been signed by that student's parent.

UNIVERSAL SCREENING The District will conduct various screenings (such as the SAEBRS universal screener) throughout the year to identify students with academic, behavioral, or social-emotional concerns. All District screening tools are norm-referenced and research-based. Any parent/guardian who does not consent to the screening of his/her student must notify the Director of Student Services at the beginning of the school year.

Visitors to the Building

Visitors (including parents) are to report to the office when entering the building. As a rule students will not be allowed to visit school unless it is cleared through the office of the principal in advance.

Weather-Related School Closing

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow or ice. School closings will be announced on local media outlets. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if

there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

Withdrawal From School

Students who are moving from the district must notify the school office.

SECTION TWO

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

GRADE	PERCENTILE RANGE	GPA
A	93-100	4.00
A-	90-92	3.67
B+	87-89	3.33
B	83-86	3.00
B-	80-82	2.67
C+	77-79	2.33
C	73-76	2.00
C-	70-72	1.67
D+	67-69	1.33
D	63-66	1.00
D-	60-62	0.67
F	0-59	0.00

Band Enrollment

Band may be added or dropped during the first seven school days of either semester. If band class is dropped at other times it may be recorded as a failing grade. Students may enroll in band class with the permission of the instructor and administration. Band enrollment decisions, after the first seven school days of the school year, will need to be made after contacting the band director, then in consultation with the asst. principal and/or principal. As always, communication with the student, the student's family, instructor, and administration are important in making these decisions.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in any academic dishonesty in any form. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person to obtain credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
- Lying.
- Copying another person's work or answers.
- Utilizing websites or artificial intelligence (AI), without teacher permission, to complete assignments, projects, assessments or any other work designed to assess student ability.
- Discussing the answers or questions on a test or assignment unless specifically authorized by the teacher.

- Taking or receiving copies of a test without the permission of the teacher.
- Using or displaying notes, “cheat sheets,” or other sources of unauthorized information.
- Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
- Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.
- Failing to give credit for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions which rightfully belong to another person.
- Failing to use quotation marks or other appropriate means of attribution when quoting directly from another person or source.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Homework

Classroom teachers will often assign homework. Each student is expected to spend some time preparing for studies outside of school hours. The amount of time expected will fluctuate based on productive use of class time, quantity of assignments, and involvement in school activities. Students who struggle to complete assignments or who must spend an inordinate amount of time completing an assignment should seek the help and advice of their teachers and consult with the principal and/or the school counselor. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should first contact the teacher/s with their concerns. Parents should refer to the complaint procedure on page 12-13 if concerns remain.

Honor Roll

The Honor Roll consists of the following:

Bronze Honor Roll:	GPA of 3.50 to 3.74 for the quarter
Silver Honor Roll:	GPA of 3.75 to 3.99 for the quarter
Gold Honor Roll:	GPA of 4.00 for the quarter

Students who earn a 4 or a 5 in any class will be excluded from the honor roll, this includes exploratory classes.

Incompletes

Students are expected to complete assignments within the provided time frame or assigned due date. Students who struggle to regularly complete their assignments may be given additional time to complete these assignments during lunch, outside of regular school hours, or during one of the Saturday support dates. Refusal to complete assignments may result in disciplinary actions for non-compliance or defiance. Students who may require additional time to complete assignments must meet with the teacher to discuss appropriate timelines and support they may need. Students and/or parents should meet with appropriate staff if extenuating circumstances may apply. Assignments and grades must be completed by the end of the grading period for which the assignment was given.

At the end of each grading period (Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4), teachers may give an incomplete to a student whose work for that term is incomplete.

PowerSchool

Parents have the ability to view their child's academic progress through the Internet. Parents can request a username and password for each child that would allow them to monitor homework completion and current grade status. Once this request is made, parents are required to come to school to pick up this confidential information. Due to privacy issues, usernames and passwords will not be mailed, sent home with students, or emailed. Grades will be updated on a regular basis

Promotion Guidelines

Middle school students take a variety of classes. Core classes (Math, English/Language Arts, Science and Social Studies) comprise a bulk of the time in which they are in school. It is the goal that each and every student successfully completes all courses in which they are registered. Nebraska City Middle School staff provides support for the successful completion of course work through our Guidance office, conferences, summer school, homework support clubs and Saturday support sessions as well as before, after, and during school support opportunities. Promotion to the following grade will be based on the successful passing and completion of the core classes. If a student fails 3 or more quarters, of the available 16 quarters of the 4 core classes, they may receive an academic hearing. Promotion to the following grade will be determined by the academic hearing team. (Parents, teachers, administrators, and student will be included on this team.)

Report Cards

These are given either to the students or parents at the end of each grading period.

Top 10%

Top 10% certificates are awarded to students in the spring of each year and are based upon the grades students have earned for the current school year. Students earning top 10% recognition will be noted at Honors Night.

SECTION THREE

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Board of Education Discipline Policy:

The Board of Education considers the safety of district students, personnel, and visitors of primary importance. Behavior and attitudes are attributing factors lending to the overall safety within the school. The Board has outlined minimum standards of behavior in a Code of Conduct; this code should be the foundation from which all disciplinary actions are based. To be effective it is imperative that the Code of Conduct be consistently administered on all levels.

The Board of Education may authorize the emergency exclusion, short-term or long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment of any student from school for conduct prohibited by the Code of Conduct, the board's rules, or standards as established by LB 503 (1976) as amended by LB 1250 (1994) if such action complies with the procedures required by this act.

Further, the Gun Free Schools Act and LB 658 requires the expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year of any student who is determined to have knowingly and intentionally possessed, used, or transmitted a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle being used for a school purpose, or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event.

Administrative regulations shall be set forth regarding this policy and the Code of Conduct. Each building shall develop action plans to implement and enforce these administrative regulations in a fair and consistent manner. The Superintendent shall report student expulsions or staff removals for cause to the Board President, at his earliest convenience after the discipline has been taken. At the Presidents and/or Superintendent's discretion other board members will be notified.

Code of Conduct...I WILL - Be Safe / Be Respectful / Be Responsible / Be Resourceful

Treating others with dignity and respect is the responsibility of students, faculty, staff, administrators, board members, parents, and guests involved in or visiting the Nebraska City Public Schools.

General Discipline Philosophy

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school while using district transportation, at school, during lunch, on the way home while using district transportation, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.

3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

The Student Activity Handbook governs extracurricular activities including athletics, band, chorus, and club activities. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

Levels of Unacceptable Behavior

LEVEL ONE:

Productive Personal Environment -- Behaviors that occur in the classroom and affect only the learning of the misbehaving student. The behaviors are addressed by the classroom teacher.

Minimum consequence: Teacher making eye contact with student

Maximum consequence: Detention

LEVEL TWO:

Productive Classroom Environment -- Behaviors that occur in the classroom and interfere with the learning of others. Will likely result in a recovery room.

Minimum consequence: Verbal redirection by teacher/administrator

Maximum consequence: In-School Suspension

LEVEL THREE:

Orderly Environment -- Behaviors that occur that are not intended to cause physical harm to another individual, are not illegal, but do negatively affect an orderly environment.

Minimum consequences: Verbal redirection by teacher/administrator or Recovery Room

Maximum consequences: Short-Term suspension

LEVEL FOUR:

Safe Environment -- Behaviors that are intended to cause another individual physical harm and/or are illegal.

Minimum consequences: Suspension

Maximum consequences: One year out of school

Forms of School Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior that are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent

conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day or mandatory attendance at Saturday school. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, Saturday School, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures; a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

In this section, 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 section 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 section 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.

After School Sessions and Detentions

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers. When students are required to stay after school, they will be allowed to telephone parents and advise them of the situation.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

- Teacher-Assigned Detentions will not exceed 30 minutes from the time of dismissal and are to be served in the teacher's room or designated area. A student who fails to attend a detention may be given a detention by the teacher or may face additional disciplinary consequences. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.
- Administration-Assigned Detentions will be assigned as necessary, served in the detention room designated by the building principal or asst. principal.

Saturday School

The building administrator may require a student to attend Saturday School for four hours on Saturday morning. Saturday School is held from 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM in a classroom staffed by teachers. Students follow strict rules and must work on assignments the entire time, except for short breaks. Students who do not follow Saturday School rules will be removed from the classroom and will face further disciplinary action.

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students will be required to serve suspension at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student 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, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

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/she is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to explain his/her 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 conditions determined by the building principal.

Long-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of 6 to 19 school days (long-term suspension) based on conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is hereinafter set forth.

Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion shall mean 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 10 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 10 school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.

2. **Summer Review.** Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.
3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate. In lieu of other authorized educational programs to which the student may be assigned, such school, class, or program may be offered as a community-centered classroom and may include experiences for the student as an observer or aide in governmental functions, as an on-the-job trainee, and as a participant in specialized tutorial experiences or individually prescribed educational and counseling programs. Such programs shall include an individualized learning program to enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. At the conclusion of the designated period: (1) if the student has satisfactorily participated in the school, class, or program to which such student has been assigned, the student shall be reinstated and permitted to return to the school of former attendance or to attend other programs offered by the district; and action to expunge the record of the expulsion action may be taken at the discretion of the Superintendent or his or her designee, or (2) if the student's conduct has been unsatisfactory, the expulsion action shall be enforced. The Principal or the Principal's designee shall make the determination whether or not the student's participation and conduct has been satisfactory.
4. **Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation.** Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than 19 years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal's designee shall meet with the student's probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives

provided by the Principal or the Principal's designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may, with proper consent upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.

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

The following student conduct shall constitute 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 that 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, or a single violation if the conduct amounts to a criminal act, 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, sex, 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, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco or imitation, such as 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 as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes 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; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile

substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;

- i. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, 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 email 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; and
- k. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

In addition, a student who engages in the following conduct occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

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

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

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

1. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
2. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
3. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building, and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such a plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
4. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

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 state law that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of state law that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students; or
5. It is a violation of state law that interferes with school purposes.

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

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

1. The Principal shall prepare a written summary of the alleged violation and the evidence supporting the alleged violation with the Superintendent or his/her designee.
2. If the Principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent or his or her designee, the 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.
3. The Principal or his/her designee shall serve by registered or certified mail or by personal service to the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. Said notice shall include the following:

- (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension or expulsion including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student as submitted by the Principal or assistant Principal.
 - (b) The penalties to which the student may be subjected and the penalty which the Principal or his or her designee has recommended in the charge.
 - (c) A statement explaining the student's right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
 - (d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by these policies along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.
 - (e) A statement that the administrative representative, legal counsel for school, the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony.
 - (f) A form or a request for hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the Principal or his or her designee in person or by registered or certified mail.
- 4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
 - 5. In the event that the Principal has not received a request for hearing within five school days following receipt of the written notice, the punishment recommended in the charge by the Principal, or his or her designee, shall automatically go into effect.
 - 6. If a hearing is requested more than 5 school days following the actual receipt of the written notice, but not more than 30 calendar days after actual receipt, the student shall be entitled to a hearing; but the punishment imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
 - 7. If a request for hearing is not received within 30 calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.
 - 8. In the event that a hearing is required to be provided, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer.

Hearing Procedure

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

4. Continuance. Upon a written request of the student or the student's parents or guardian, the hearing officer shall have the discretionary authority to continue from time to time the hearing. In addition, the hearing officer may continue the hearing upon any good cause.
5. Access to Records. The administrative representative, the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the legal counsel of the student shall have the right to examine the records, affidavits, and the statements of any witnesses in the possession of the Nebraska City Public School Board of Education at any reasonable time prior to the hearing.
6. Hearing Procedure. The hearing shall be attended by the hearing officer, the student, the student's parents or guardian, the student's representative if any, and the administrative representative. Witnesses shall be present only when they are giving information at the hearing or with the consent of both parties. The student may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing officer at times when the student's psychological evaluation or emotional problems are being discussed. The student or the student's parents or guardian or both may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing examiner may exclude anyone from the hearing when his/her actions substantially disrupt an orderly hearing. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply at the hearing. The administrative representative shall present to the hearing officer statements, in affidavit form, of any person having information about the student's conduct and the student's records, but not unless such statements and records have been made available to the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative prior to the hearing. The information contained in such records shall be explained and interpreted prior to or at the hearing to the student, parents or guardian, or representative at their request, by appropriate school personnel. The student, the student's parents, guardian, or representative, the administrative representative, or the hearing officer may ask witnesses to testify at the hearing. Such testimony shall be under oath and the hearing officer shall be authorized to administer the oath. The student, parent, guardian or representative, administrative representative, or the hearing officer shall have the right to question any witness giving information at the hearing. The student may testify in his/her own defense in which case he/she shall be subject to cross-examination. However, a student need not testify; and if he/she chooses not to, no conclusion may be drawn there from. Any person giving evidence by written statement or in person at a hearing shall be given the same immunity from liability as a person testifying in a court case. A single hearing may be conducted for more than one student if at the discretion of the hearing examiner a single hearing is not likely to result in confusion or prejudice to the interest of any of the students involved. If during the conduct of such a hearing, the hearing examiner concludes that any of such student's interests will be substantially prejudiced by a group hearing, or that confusion is resulting, the hearing examiner may order a separate hearing for each or any of said students.
7. Availability of Witnesses. The hearing officer will have the authority to subpoena any witnesses to the hearing and shall make reasonable efforts to assist in obtaining the attendance of any witnesses requested by the student, the student's parents, or guardian or their legal representative.
8. Record. The proceedings of the hearing shall be recorded at the expense of the school district.
9. Findings. Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare and submit to the Superintendent of schools his/her written findings and recommendation as to disposition. This report shall explain, in terms of the needs of both the student and the school board, the reasons for the particular action recommended. Such recommendations may range from no action, through the entire field of counseling, to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.
10. Review by Superintendent. The Superintendent of schools shall review the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and in his/her discretion may also review any of the facts and evidence presented at the hearing; and based upon such report and the facts, shall determine the

sanctions to be imposed. However, the Superintendent may not impose a more severe sanction than that imposed by the hearing officer.

11. Notice of Determination. Written notice of the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and the determination of the Superintendent of schools shall be made by certified registered mail or by personal delivery to the student and the student's parents or guardian. Upon receipt of such written notice by the student and/or parents and guardian, the determination of the Superintendent shall take immediate effect.
12. Appeal to Board. The student, student's parents or guardian may, within seven school days following the receipt of the Superintendent's decision, submit to the Superintendent of schools a written request for a hearing before the Board of Education.
13. Review by Board of Education. Upon receipt of the request for review of the Superintendent's determination, the Board of Education or a committee of not less than 3 members shall, within 10 school days, hold a hearing on the matter. Such hearing shall be made on the record except that the board may admit new or additional evidence to avoid substantial threat of unfairness. Such new evidence shall be recorded. The Board of Education or committee thereof may withdraw to deliberate privately upon the record and new evidence. Any such deliberation shall be held in the presence only of board members in attendance at the appeal proceeding, but may be held in the presence of legal counsel who has not previously acted as the administrative representative in presenting the school's case before the hearing officer. If any questions arise during such deliberations, which require additional evidence, the Board of Education or committee thereof may require the hearing to receive such evidence, subject to the right of all parties to be present. A record of any such new or additional evidence shall be made and shall be considered as a part of the record; and based upon the evidence presented at the hearing before the hearing officer, and such new or additional evidence, the Board of Education or the committee shall make a final disposition of the matter. The Board may alter the Superintendent's disposition of the case if it finds his/her decision to be too severe, but it may not impose a more severe sanction. A designated method of giving notice by the Board of Education or committee thereof, if required, for any Board review shall be by posting on the schoolhouse door.
14. Final Decision of Board of Education. The final decision of the Board shall be delivered to the student and parents or legal guardian of the student by personally delivering the same or by mailing the same by certified or registered mail.

SECTION FOUR

Activities

Activities-

This activity policy applies to all activities including athletics, clubs, drama, speech, performances, dances etc. ALL ACTIVITIES.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY PROCEDURES

Definitions

Participant: Any student currently a member of an activity in the Nebraska City Public Schools.

School Equipment

Equipment owned and issued by the Nebraska City Public Schools.

Event

All Sports and athletic events.

Any type of competition, performance, conference or convention to include but not limited to music, speech, drama, plays, musical concerts, Before and After School Clubs, Student Council, Math Counts, etc.

Also a leadership conference, quiz bowl, math, or science contest.

School Dances.

Any type of activity that has Nebraska City Middle School students representing the Nebraska City Public Schools in an individual, small group or large group event, performance or contest.

If the event involved would also impact a student's grade in a class the student will be allowed to do an alternative assignment to earn credit for missing the event. The alternative assignment would be determined by the teacher/sponsor and approved by the administration.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship involves two things; first, it is skill in or devotion to activities. Second (and equally important), it is a standard of conduct while engaged in activities involving honest rivalry and graceful acceptance of results.

Transportation

STUDENTS WILL RIDE ON SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION (unless other arrangements are made with the principal, sponsor/coach and parent in advance). Unless a coach/sponsor has a more stringent policy, students will also return home on school transportation unless a parent has filled out the necessary forms for alternative transportation. See Activities Director for forms.

Officials

Contest officials should always be treated with respect. At home contests they are our guests and should be treated as such by coaches and players.

Profanity

The use of profanity is evidence of poor sportsmanship and is offensive to squad members, coaches/sponsors and the general public. Its use is not acceptable by students, staff members, or the public.

Practice and Participation:

1--Whenever an athlete is participating in an official practice session of an athletic team, a coach or faculty member must be present.

2--In order to participate in practice or competition, individual participants must have been in attendance in school the preceding one/half day (all of periods 6,7, 8, & 9). If the activity or sport or its departure time is during the school day, the student must be in attendance the four preceding class periods.

3--If the activity or sport or its departure time is prior to fifth period, the Student will be in school that entire day until departure time. Any exception to this rule must have prior approval by the Athletic Director and Principal.

4--If a student misses or is late the morning following a school activity the evening before, he or she will not be allowed to participate in the next contest after the second offense. (EXAMPLE: Tuesday contest – misses or is late on Wednesday. 1st Offense. Thursday contest – misses or is late on Friday. 2nd Offense. Though not necessarily consecutive, the student cannot participate after the 2nd Offense in the next contest.)

School Equipment

1--Each participant has the responsibility for taking care of school equipment.

2--School equipment should not be worn at any time other than at authorized times.

3--The student to whom such equipment was issued must pay for equipment lost or damaged at any time.

4--Students or participants seen wearing equipment belonging to Nebraska City Public Schools will:

--Return such equipment.

--Participant could possibly lose eligibility.

Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship is one of the major goals of the Nebraska City Public School activity program.

Participants and fans are to set a good example of sportsmanship at all times and follow all rules set forth by NCPS and the NSAA.

RULES AND STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY NEBRASKA CITY MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Because of the nature of activities and the purpose of activities, the coaches/sponsors of Nebraska City Middle School, along with the Administration and the Board of Education, Believe that the students have an obligation to themselves and to activities which requires high standards of conduct, personal habits and behavior.

Students should understand that the use of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs are harmful to the body and hinder maximum effort and performance. Therefore, students are prohibited from using and/or possessing tobacco, alcohol or other drugs during the times they are representing NCPS. The following minimum rules and standards, which will govern students participating in activities, have been adopted by the Nebraska City Board of Education.

Academic Activity Eligibility

All students participating in any activities at NCMS will be required to meet the following academic and procedural expectations listed below.

1. In-season academic eligibility will be monitored every week through the normal academic reporting process. (PowerSchool)
2. In any reporting period a student failing any subject/s will become ineligible to compete the following reporting period (week). Students will remain ineligible for one week at a time. If during that one-week of ineligibility students are able to raise their grades they will be eligible to compete the following week.
3. During ineligibility students will still be allowed and expected to attend all practices.
4. In Jeopardy checks are conducted on Wednesday at the conclusion of school.
5. Final determination of eligibility is made on Friday at the conclusion of the school day. If no school is scheduled on Friday, final eligibility will be determined the final day of school that calendar week.
6. Eligibility weeks are from Monday to Saturday.
7. Any student determined to be ineligible will not be able to participate in school-sanctioned activities not related to the curriculum. (ex. Dances, after school clubs, athletics etc.)

Attendance Patterns of Activity Participants

Students participating in activities must observe good attendance patterns at school. Any student in activities that has accumulated detention hours as a result of non-attendance will not be allowed to leave school early to attend games until all attendance detention hours have been completed.

Decorum

All participants in NCMS activities will be expected to maintain a standard of personal conduct, behavior, and appearance that will promote pride in NCMS activities and provide a favorable example to young people within the community who look with admiration toward the student. If this high standard of

decorum is violated that student will have to miss the next activity that they would normally participate in (includes games, concerts, plays, etc.).

Activities Participants Standards of Conduct and Sanctions:

Activity participants are to comply with drug, alcohol and tobacco standards of conduct at all times. Participants may also be sanctioned if found guilty of a felony or are found by school administration to have displayed conduct that is detrimental to our school's purpose. This rule applies from June 1 to May 31 as a calendar year. Violations of the standards of conduct shall result in additional sanctions as set forth below. Sanctions will be imposed based upon the next activity the student will participate. Notification of conduct violations will be determined by being cited by a law enforcement professional, personal admittance of a conduct violation, or being observed by a staff member of Nebraska City Public Schools. The Nebraska City Public Schools may impose more severe sanctions than the minimums listed below depending on the severity of any violations.

Conduct Violation

Possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs, controlled substances, medication drugs not prescribed by a physician, behavior-affecting substances, look-alike drugs, alcohol, alcohol beverages, look-alike alcoholic beverages, and or drug paraphernalia, the possession, use or distribution of tobacco, tobacco products or look-alike tobacco products, in any form (this includes smokeless tobacco products)... Participants may also be sanctioned if found guilty of a felony or are found by the high or middle school administration to have displayed conduct that is detrimental to our school's purpose.

Minimum Conduct Sanctions

First Violation will result in a suspension from activities for 20% of all scheduled activities. Scheduled activities shall mean all games or activities scheduled by the activities director or principal prior to the start of the individual season. In figuring all contest suspensions, the activities director will round up to the nearest contest. In the event that there are not enough contests left in the individual season to fulfill the imposed suspension, the suspension will carry over to the next sport or activity the student participates in. Suspensions will not carry over from year to year. The District Administration will have final authority in all judgment decisions. The student must continue to attend and participate in all practices during the suspension. Students electing to participate in a diversion program to divert an offense from the court system may write a letter to the school administration requesting their activity sanction be reduced by 50%. This option may be exercised one time.

Second Violation will result in a suspension from activities for 50% of all scheduled activities. Scheduled activities shall mean all games or activities scheduled by the activities director or principal prior to the start of the individual season. In figuring all contest suspensions, the activities director will round up to the nearest contest. In the event that there are not enough contests left in the individual season to fulfill the imposed suspension, the suspension will carry over to the next sport or activity the student participates in. Suspensions will not carry over from year to year. The District Administration will have final authority in all judgment decisions. The student must continue to attend and participate in all practices during the suspension.

Third Violation will result in a suspension from activities, including practices, for the rest of the school year.

Certification of Suspension

Students being in violation of any conduct code as listed above will have to serve the appropriate suspension in relation to their offense. Suspensions will be served during an activity that the student is involved in. For any suspension to be certified as a completed suspension the students must stay with that team or group until their season is over. Voluntary separation from any team or activity during or after any suspension will result in that suspension not being certified by the school administration and thus the suspension will be carried to the next activity that the student participates in. This certification of suspension rule will not allow students to quit or voluntarily separate from an activity as a result of disciplinary actions taken against them for a conduct violation.

Special Regulations by Activity Coach/Sponsor

A coach/sponsor may require additional standards, which are applicable to a certain sport, or activity, provided the standards are approved by the administration and are communicated in written form to the students and their parents before the particular activity begins.

Philosophy

A great activity tradition is not built overnight – it takes the hard work and dedication of many individuals over many years. As a member of an interscholastic team the student has certain responsibilities to uphold. Our tradition at Nebraska City Public School has been to win so that honor comes to our community, our school and our students. Such a tradition is worthy of the best efforts of all concerned, the followers, the coaching/sponsoring staff, the participants, and the student body. By participating in the interscholastic program, we hope that all students are able to derive some of the individual values and benefits of the program.

Responsibilities to Yourself:

We like to think of a student participating in activities as being someone special in that certain responsibilities are imposed on him/her. A student participant is one who accepts these responsibilities and broadens them and develops strength of character. Students owe it to themselves to get the greatest possible good from their school experiences, their studies, and their participation in activities. You owe it to yourself to always do whatever you do in life to the best and fullest of your ability.

Responsibilities to the School

By being in activities you have the responsibility to your school to always do your best. Always follow the guidelines that are set forth. By being in activities you are representing your school and your community. You automatically assume a leadership role when you are on an activity team. The student body and citizens of the Nebraska City Community know you. You are on the stage with the spotlight on you. The student body, the community, and other communities judge our school on your conduct and attitudes, both on and off the field.

Because of this leadership role, you can contribute to our school spirit and community image. Make your school proud of you and your community proud of your school, by your performance and your devotion to high ideals. The younger students are watching you. They will imitate you in many ways. Do not let them observe negative ideals to copy.

Responsibilities of the coach/sponsor

Since there is a great tradition behind activities at Nebraska City Public Schools, the coaches/sponsors feel that they have the responsibility to give the community the best possible team with the available talent each year. Coaches/Sponsors of Nebraska City High School and Nebraska City Middle School are dedicated to this fact, as they are well aware of the tradition that has been built up over the years. Winning will always be important in every coach/sponsor's mind, but they are well aware of what must be done to win and win in the proper manner.

All coaches/sponsors will follow the

Nebraska Coaches Creed which reads...

I BELIEVE interschool sports (activities) have an important place in the general education scheme and pledge myself to cooperate with others in the field of education to administer them so that their values shall never be questioned.

I BELIEVE the other coaches (sponsors) of interschool sports (activities) are earnest in their desire to keep the interschool program high on the plane of citizenship training and I shall do all that I can to further their efforts.

I BELIEVE my own actions should be so regulated as to reflect credit to this profession.

I SHALL abide by the rules of the games (activity) in letter and spirit.

I BELIEVE proper administration of all sports (activities) offers effective laboratory methods for development of high ideals of sportsmanship, qualities of cooperation, courage, unselfishness and self control, desires for clean healthful living and respect for wise discipline and authority.

I BELIEVE these admirable characteristics, properly instilled by me through teaching and demonstration, will have a long carry over and will aid each one connected with the sport (activity) to become a better citizen.

I BELIEVE in and will support all reasonable moves to improve athletic (activity) conditions, to provide for adequate equipment, and to promote the welfare of an increased number of participants. Those of you who want to be a part of this great tradition established for you will have to accept the responsibilities which are set up for every member of all teams of interscholastic activities at Nebraska City High School.

These guidelines are drawn from the philosophies of the present coaching/sponsoring staff and administration, present participants, existing policies of schools of our size, and from the policies set up by the Nebraska Association of High School Activities.

Dances

When the student leaves the building they will not be allowed to return to the dance. Middle school dances are for NCMS students only. The student dress code will be observed at school dances. Provisions shall be made for formal dance attire but will still be expected to be appropriate and in good taste. Appropriate dancing at dances is required. Dancing that is explicit or sexual in nature will not be allowed.

Student Council

To be considered for a position as a Student Council member a student must:

1. Student Council eligibility will be determined using the same method outlined on page forty (40) in the Academic/Activity eligibility section.
- ~~2. Elections will take place in the fall of the current school year.~~
- ~~3. The student will have to make two (2) posters to be displayed in a hallway according to the date set by the Student Council Advisor.~~
- ~~4. Students will write and give a speech detailing why they should be elected to student council, the time they will devote to student council and a project idea for student council to consider.~~
5. Two recommendations from teachers will be due by the date set by the Student Council Advisor.
6. On a date set by the Student Council Advisor, the classes will meet to vote by ballot for Student Council representatives.
7. Students may be removed from the student council for behavior that does not represent the school appropriately. This decision will be made by the school administration and the student council advisor.

Before and After School Clubs

All students who voluntarily sign up to participate in the 21st Century Before and After School program do so with the understanding that all school rules outlined in this handbook are applicable.

Board of Education	
Mr. Jim NemecMrs. Lisa Chaney	Board President
Mr. Kent BlumBrent Shanholtz	Board Vice-President
Mrs. Patti Lant	Board Member
Mrs. Sally Schreiner	Board Member
Mr. Rob Elson	Board Member
Mr. Jim Nemec	Board Member
Mr. Kent Blum	Board Member
Mr. John Hodges	Board Member
Ms. Stacie Higgins	Board Member

District Administrative Staff:	
Mr. Mark Fritch	Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Jason Hippen	Director of Student Services
Ms. Kate Sherwin	Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Mr. Brian Hoover	High School Principal
Mr. Ethan Pellatz	Middle School Principal
Ms. Tammy Schaefer	Hayward Elementary Principal
Ms. Mikki Wilcox	Northside Elementary Principal
Mr. Matt Thompson	High School Assistant Principal/Activities Director

Middle School Contacts:	
Mr. David Purdham	MS Assistant Principal/Activities Director
Mrs. Katie Meredith	School Counselor
Mrs. Jenifer Tietz	Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Jaime Fritch	Administrative Assistant

***Parent and Physician Permission
For Administration of Medication by School Personnel***

Medication should be scheduled to eliminate the need for giving during school hours whenever possible. It is necessary for school personnel to administer the following medication:

Name of Student _____ Grade _____

Name of Medication _____

Amount to be given _____

Time(s) to be given _____

Length of Administration _____ number of days _____ entire school year

If "entire school year" is checked a physician's signature is required

Reason for Medication _____

Significant Side Effects _____

(Parent/Guardian Signature)

(Date)

(Physician's Signature)

(Date)

I hereby request that the School District, or its authorized representative, administer the drug named above to my child named above, in accordance with the prescribing physician's instructions, and agree to:

1. Submit this request to office personnel.
2. Make sure that the medication is brought to school in its original container and/or packaging.
3. Make sure the container in which the drug is dispensed is marked with the student's name, the drug name, dosage, interval dosage, and date after which no administration should be given.
4. Any medications left at school will be destroyed at the end of the school year.
5. Over the counter medications must be labeled for use of the age of your child.
6. Medications will not be administered past the expiration date.

7. Release the School District and the Board of Education of the School District and all employees, agents, and the representatives of the School District from any liability concerning the giving or non-giving of the drug to the student.

Nebraska City Middle School
Title I (2025-2026)
Student-Parent-School Learning Compact

*Parent/Guardian: I understand that my participation in my child's education will help his/her achievement and attitude. I agree to carry out the following responsibilities:

- 1) Provide a quiet place to study each day.
- 2) Spend at least 15 minutes drilling and practicing basic mathematical skills.
- 3) Encourage and praise my child.
- 4) Communicate with the math teacher.
- 5) Monitor Power School.

*Student: I know my education is important to me. It will help me become a better person. I agree to do the following:

- 1) Do my best at school.
- 2) Ask questions if I do not understand something.
- 3) Check Power School.
- 4) Conference with teachers before, during, or after school.
- 5) Study and prepare for tests and quizzes.
- 6) Ask for extra help if needed.
- 7) Show my work where applicable.

*Teacher: I understand the importance of the school experience to every student and my role as a teacher. I agree to carry out the following responsibilities:

- 1) Encourage and praise all children with high expectations.
- 2) Determine each student's strengths and build on them as well as work to develop the weak areas.
- 3) Offer extra support where applicable.
- 4) Be willing to conference with students before and after school.
- 5) Maintain regular communication with parents and guardians.
- 6) Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards.

SIGNATURES:

Student: _____

Date: _____

Parent: _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Hayward Elementary School
Home of the Pioneers
2025-2026

306 S. 14th
Phone: 402-873-6641

Nebraska City, NE 68410
Fax: 402-873-9274

Mr. Mark Fritch
Superintendent

Ms. Tammy Schaefer
Principal

PRINCIPALS' MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to Nebraska City Public Schools! We are pleased to have you and your child(ren) as part of the Hayward Elementary community. Our dedicated staff is committed to fostering a positive, supportive, and enriching learning environment for every student.

This handbook has been prepared to help you and your child become familiar with our school and to ensure a smooth transition into the school community. It is our hope that the information provided will help you feel more at home with us. Please note that all references to "parents" throughout this handbook are intended to include all legal guardians. Throughout the school year, we will continue to share important updates and announcements through newsletters and other communications. We encourage you to review these materials carefully and refer to this handbook as needed.

We consider Hayward Elementary to be a "home away from home" for your child. This booklet offers insights into our daily operations and policies, and is designed to strengthen the partnership between home and school. While it contains important guidelines and procedures, it is not intended to serve as a binding contract. The administration reserves the right to make decisions on a case-by-case basis as necessary.

Your child's success is our shared goal. With open communication and strong collaboration between school and family, we are confident that we can create the best possible experience for every student. Working together, there is no challenge we cannot overcome.

Thank you for choosing Nebraska City Public Schools. We look forward to a successful and rewarding year with you and your child.

Educationally,

Tammy Schaefer
Hayward Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspiring a culture of excellence that engages all students in lifelong learning.



Statements of Belief:

We believe all students will:

Be safe, respectful, and responsible citizens
Thrive in a culturally diverse environment
Learn through cooperative efforts
Think and solve problems creatively
Become technologically proficient
Develop visionary thinking
Be life-long learners

Academic Goal: All students will increase Reading skills across content areas.

Behavior Goal: All Students will Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible!

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INTENT OF HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Each student must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word “parents” refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents and legal guardians.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract” with parents, students or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mr Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at Central Office. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org, or in person at Central Office. The School District’s specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link:

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org, 1700 W.14th ave. Nebraska City, Ne 68410 or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the Title IX coordinator at 402-873-6033, or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district **Policy 3053 - Nondiscrimination**.

Aviso de no discriminación

El distrito escolar no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, discapacidad o edad en sus programas y actividades y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados. El distrito escolar prohíbe la discriminación sexual en cualquier programa o actividad que opere. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de actos ilícitos discriminación o acoso debido a sus discapacidad, o otros inquietudes tienen preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador de la Sección 504 : Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de discriminación o acoso ilegal debido a su sexo, o que tengan otras inquietudes o preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador del Título IX: Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. El Aviso de no discriminación específico del Distrito Escolar en el se puede acceder a Bases del Sexo en el siguiente enlace:

https://core-docs.s3.us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/915/Nebraska_City_Public_Schools/4570487/Title_IX_Policy_3057.pdf Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de discriminación ilegal o acoso debido a su raza, color o origen nacional, o que tengan otras inquietudes o preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador del Título VI: Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de cualquier otra discriminación o acoso ilegal deben comunicarse con el Sr. Brian Hoover al 402-873-3360, bhoover@nebcityps.org, o en persona en la escuela. Los estudiantes pueden denunciar discriminación o acoso a cualquier miembro del personal, quien luego lo enviará al coordinador o administrador correspondiente. El miembro del personal seguiría la políticas del distrito escolar para responder al informe.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Nebraska City Public Schools complies with the Nebraska Compulsory Education Law.

Pupils are expected to be in attendance everyday that school is in session. Good attendance is one of the best indicators of future success in school. If a child is not present in school he/she is counted absent regardless of the reason for the absence.

The parents of any student, who is absent four (4) days from school for any reason, will receive a letter from the principal. A second letter will be sent home at eight (8) absences and every four (4) absences thereafter. Parents of students who are absent ten (10) days in a semester may be requested to conference with the building principal. The purpose of the conference is to develop a plan to improve attendance.

A letter may be sent to the county attorney if absences exceed twenty (20) days cumulative. Building administrators will take documented medical issues and family crises into consideration.

ABSENCES AND TARDINESS

Parents/Guardians should notify the elementary school office on the morning of a child’s absence before 8:30 a.m. If you have not made contact by 8:30 a.m., the school will attempt to make contact with you. It is important that we confirm the whereabouts of your child. It is essential that students arrive at school on time and stay for the entire day. Valuable information may be missed if they arrive late or leave early. Students are to be in their classrooms at the start of the day and are expected to remain the entire school day. If tardies become excessive (4 in a quarter) a letter the building principal may call the parents in order to develop a plan to correct the issue. Students are considered tardy if they arrive at school five minutes after school has started.

A Student who arrives after **9:45 a.m.** or leaves before **1:45 p.m.** and does not return to school will be marked a ½ day absent. Appointments that cause a student to miss more than an 1 ½ hours during the school day will also be counted as a ½ day absent.

ACCIDENTS

The School (School District) shall not be responsible for any medical costs incurred by any student who is injured while attending School, any class, any School function, on the premises of the School or at any off premises location at any activity authorized or sanctioned by the School (School District).

ADDRESS CHANGE

Parents should notify the office immediately of any change in address, phone number or family doctor. All unlisted numbers will be kept confidential. All new students or transfers should contact the school principal as soon as possible. If transfer is known in advance, we would appreciate early notice.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Children are not to arrive on school grounds earlier than 20 minutes before school begins unless riding the bus. No adult supervision is provided before then. Children get cold and discipline problems arise when students arrive too early before school starts. If consistently arriving at school prior to the time supervision is provided administrators may contact parents about this situation.

BELL SCHEDULES

Northside

Supervision Begins	7:50
Morning Bell.....	8:10
Tardy Bell.....	8:15
Dismissal Bell.....	3:20

Hayward

Supervision Begins	7:50
Morning Bell.....	8:10
Tardy Bell.....	8:20
Dismissal Bell.....	3:20

BICYCLES

Students are to park their bikes in the appropriate bike racks or where designated. Students are advised but not required to keep their bicycles locked. Under no circumstances is any student to borrow or tamper with a bicycle that is not their own. Once a bicycle is parked in the morning it should not be ridden until school is dismissed.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Board Policy requires that all new enrolling students must show a certified birth certificate. A copy will be made for school files and the original will be returned to the parent or guardian. If there are any questions, the school principal should be consulted.

BULLYING

Nebraska City Public Schools strives to maintain a positive educational atmosphere for students. The school district recognizes the negative impact that bullying has on student health, welfare, safety, and the school’s learning environment. Bullying is defined as an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds or at school sponsored activities. Nebraska City Public Schools have adopted strategies and practices to reinforce positive behaviors and to discourage inappropriate behaviors. Behaviors defined as bullying will result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school administrator. **Students who experience or witness bullying should immediately report the incident to a teacher or school administrator.**

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation is provided between the elementary buildings, and for rural students. Residential students wishing to ride the bus should go to the Northside or Hayward buildings by 7:40 a.m. A bus will take them to their school. A bus will also return them to their neighborhood school at the end of the day. Union and rural students will work out their schedules with the transportation department.

BUS RULES

In the interest of safety, students riding in a bus will be expected to listen to the bus driver and follow all bus rules. It is a privilege, not a right, for students to ride the bus. The administration reserves the right to suspend bus-riding privileges at any time regardless of the number of violations committed. The bus driver does not administer the below actions, the school administration does. Direct all questions to the transportation supervisor and/or school administration.

Basic Rules- (Not intended to cover all situations)

Obey bus driver	Sit down
No profanity	Face the front
No bullying	No fighting or play fighting
Keep hands & objects inside the bus	Don't throw objects inside or outside of bus

1st - Violation: the driver will give a verbal warning. If the behavior continues the bus driver, transportation supervisor or elementary principal will fill out a bus referral form. This report will be given to the elementary principal who will notify the parents. Additional consequences may be given at this time.

2nd - Violation: same as above, except that privileges of riding the bus will be suspended for 1 week (5 school days).

3rd - Violation: same as #1, except that privileges of riding the bus will be suspended for 2 weeks (10 school days).

4th - Violation: same as #1, except that privileges of riding the bus may be suspended for the rest of the semester.

CELL PHONES

Students are required to shut off their cell phones and put them in their backpack or locker during school hours. If students violate this rule their cell phones will be taken and held in the principal's office until the end of the school day.

Students are solely responsible for the care and security of their personal cell phones and electronic devices. The school district is not liable for any loss, left, damage or unauthorized use of these devices, therefore it is highly recommended that devices remain at home.

1st - Violation: Cell phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day and parents will be notified.

2nd - Violation: Cell phone will only be returned to parent or guardian.

3rd - Violation: Cell phone will only be returned to parent or guardian. The Principal may assign additional consequences.

CLASSROOM VISIT PROCEDURES

To assure a successful school observation, teachers and administrators ask visitors to follow these guidelines:

1. Parents/guardians are invited to make appointments with the building principal to visit classes and other instructional activities. The principal shall give permission after determining that parental/guardian observation would not disrupt the activity.
2. All observation sessions will be planned in advance so as not to create conflict with the teacher and student schedule. Therefore, arrangements must be made prior to the day of the classroom visit or observation. The principal will limit the duration of any observation to 60 minutes in order to avoid distraction or disruption to the teacher's schedule and classroom atmosphere. Additional observation time will not be permitted absent unusual circumstances, in the sole discretion of the building principal. No parent may observe or visit a classroom during an assessment.
3. The principal reserves the right to decline the request for classroom observation if it is determined that such an observation would cause undue disruption in the educational process.
4. For security reasons, visitors are required to sign in at the school office, to receive a visitor's badge, and indicate the name of the teacher or destination before proceeding to contact any other person in the building or on the school grounds. All visitors are asked to sign out when leaving the building.
5. To protect the learning environment, the parent/guardian should be the only visitor in the classroom during the observation. An observer, other than the parent/guardian, must be approved by the principal and have written consent from the parent/guardian describing the reason for the visit and/or observation. Out of respect for the teaching environment, parents/guardians are asked not to bring younger siblings or children while observing in the classroom or to utilize any electronic equipment such as cell phones while in the classroom. Observers should not disrupt the learning environment by engaging students or the teacher in conversation. A follow-up meeting may be scheduled as needed to answer questions or concerns.
6. During the observation, the principal or his/her designee may be present in the observed setting in order to accommodate follow-up discussion or clarify questions that may arise.

*All aspects of individual student confidentiality must be preserved and respected.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements, and the board encourages patrons and school staff to discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems. When such efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below:

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person with whom he or she is dissatisfied, or to who is responsible for the practice or regulation with which he or she is dissatisfied. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
 - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted to the superintendent of schools.
 - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted to the president of the board of education.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator, the administrator shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the administrator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the staff member, the administrator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Interview the complainant to determine:
 - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution, which the complainant seeks.
 - d) Respond to the complainant.
4. A complainant who is not satisfied with the building principal's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the superintendent.
 - a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) The superintendent will investigate, as he or she deems appropriate.
 - c) Upon completion of this investigation, the superintendent will inform the complainant in writing of his or her decision.
5. A complainant who is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the board.
 - a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) The board may, but is not required to, receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal.
 - c) The board will notify the complainant in writing of its decision.
 - d) There is no appeal from a decision of the board.
6. When a formal complaint about the superintendent of schools has been filed with the president of the board, the president shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to refer the matter to the board of education for consideration at a regular or special meeting.

CODE OF CONDUCT / STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Board of Education Discipline Policy:

The Board of Education considers the safety of district students, personnel, and visitors of primary importance. Behavior and attitudes are attributing factors lending to the overall safety within the school. The Board has outlined minimum standards of behavior in a Code of Conduct; this code should be the foundation from which all disciplinary actions are based. To be effective it is imperative that the Code of Conduct be consistently administered on all levels.

The Board of Education may authorize the emergency exclusion, short-term or long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment of any student from school for conduct prohibited by the Code of Conduct, the board's rules, or standards as established by LB 503 (1976) as amended by LB 1250 (1994) if such action complies with the procedures required by this act.

Further, the Gun Free Schools Act and LB 658 requires the expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year of any student who is determined to have knowingly and intentionally possessed, used, or transmitted a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle being used for a school purpose, or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event.

Administrative regulations shall be set forth regarding this policy and the Code of Conduct. Each building shall develop action plans to implement and enforce these administrative regulations in a fair and consistent manner. The Superintendent shall report student expulsions or

staff removals for cause to the Board President, at his earliest convenience after the discipline has been taken. At the Presidents and/or Superintendent's discretion other board members will be notified.

I WILL - Be Safe / Be Respectful / Be Responsible

Treating others with dignity and respect is the responsibility of students, faculty, staff, administrators, board members, parents, and guests involved in or visiting the Nebraska City Public Schools.

Definition of Discipline

An ongoing process designed to teach, model, and use appropriate strategies to promote the behaviors necessary to ensure a safe and productive learning environment by changing unacceptable behavior to acceptable behavior.

Belief Statements

1. Teaching and learning of the intended curriculum for all students is the highest priority. Therefore, the misbehavior of one student - a) will not be allowed to interfere with the learning opportunities of another student, b) will not be allowed to interfere with the teacher's responsibility to teach all students, and c) will not excuse the misbehaving student from also successfully completing the learning objectives.
2. Changing behavior takes time.
3. Discipline is a part of the daily routine--not a disruption.
4. Self-discipline is the expected outcome.
5. Every discipline situation is an opportunity to teach expected behavior.
6. Teaching and modeling appropriate behavior, along with implementing consequences for inappropriate behavior, is the best way to help change unacceptable behaviors to acceptable behaviors.
7. Expected behaviors must be communicated, taught, and modeled on a daily basis throughout the school year.
8. Punishment by itself cannot change behaviors.
9. In handling unacceptable behaviors, the focus will be on judging the behavior of a student, not on judging the student.
10. Staff members will not respond to misbehavior as if it were a personal attack on them.
11. Staff will show respect to students and parents at all times, regardless of the students' and parents' behavior.
12. Parents have a responsibility to ensure their children's behaviors do not take away from a safe and productive learning environment for others.
13. Staff will handle all discipline situations in a professional manner.

Discipline Expectations

1. Students and staff will demonstrate self-respect, respect for others, and respect for all things in their environment.
2. A safe and productive learning environment will be maintained for all individuals at school and at school-related activities.
3. Conflicts will be handled without the use of violence or threats of violence and with respect for the rights of all.
4. Staff and students will be expected to be on task at all times while in the classroom or at other learning activities.
5. Staff will provide learning opportunities for misbehaving students with support from parents and guardians.
6. Staff, students, and parents will assist misbehaving students to change their unacceptable behavior to acceptable behavior.

General Discipline Philosophy

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school while using district transportation, at school, during lunch, on the way home while using district transportation, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

1. The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:
2. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
3. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
4. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
5. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
6. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

Levels of Unacceptable Behavior

- LEVEL ONE:** Productive Personal Environment -- Behaviors that occur in the classroom and affect only the learning of the misbehaving student.
Minimum consequence: Teacher making eye contact with student
Maximum consequence: Detention
- LEVEL TWO:** Productive Classroom Environment -- Behaviors that occur in the classroom and interfere with the learning of others.
Minimum consequence: Teacher making eye contact with student
Maximum consequence: In-School Suspension
- LEVEL THREE:** Orderly Environment -- Behaviors that occur that are not intended to cause physical harm to another individual, are not illegal, but do negatively affect an orderly environment.
Minimum consequences: teacher making eye contact with student
Maximum consequences: short-term suspension
- LEVEL FOUR:** Safe Environment -- Behaviors that are intended to cause another individual physical harm and/or are illegal.
Minimum consequences: one day out-of-school suspension
Maximum consequences: one year out of school

Examples of Unacceptable Behaviors

LEVEL ONE: incomplete work, sleeping, inattentiveness, loitering, wearing hats in building

LEVEL TWO: leaving the room without permission, inappropriate movements, disruption of environment (noises, faces, improper attire etc.), talking without permission, failure to abide by classroom rules

LEVEL THREE: petty theft, derogatory remarks, improper language, elementary grade fighting, racial remarks, disrespect, destruction of property, noncompliance, intimidation, public displays of affection, going to parking lot or leaving the campus without permission, any other words or actions that would negatively affect an orderly environment.

LEVEL FOUR: weapons, arson, bomb threats, sexual harassment, felony theft, drugs or look-a-likes, tobacco, alcohol, physical assault (fighting), bodily harm or threatening bodily harm, lewdness, engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of Nebraska which constitutes a danger to others or substantially interferes with school purposes.

Forms of School Discipline

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

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students will be required to serve suspension at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student 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, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal or the Principal's designee shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. In addition, such short-term suspension will be made 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/she is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to explain his/her version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. The student and his/her parent or guardian will be given the opportunity to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference.

Long-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of 6 to 19 school days (long-term suspension) based on conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is hereinafter set forth.

Expulsion

1. Meaning of Expulsion. Expulsion shall mean 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 10 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 10 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 a board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

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

4. Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation. Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than 19 years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal's designee shall meet with the student's probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal's designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may, with proper consent upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.

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

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

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

6. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, inhalants, or being under the influence of any of the above; possessing drug paraphernalia; or engaging in the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401. (Note: the term “under the influence” for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant);
7. Public indecency;
8. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. In addition, if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults, the student is subject to suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment regardless of where the conduct took place. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault shall mean sexual assault in the first degree and sexual assault in the second degree as defined in sections 28-319 and 28-320, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
9. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities;
10. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities;
11. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
12. Dressing in a manner which 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, distractive or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
13. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding the school district’s buses;
14. Sexting (a combination of sex and texting) - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically;
15. Bullying as defined by Nebraska law;
16. Repeated and/or willful violation of the district’s acceptable use rules regarding computers or other electronic devices;
17. 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. This provision will be enforced for conduct that occurs off school grounds if it causes or may reasonably be expected to cause a substantial interference with school purposes; or
18. Repeated violation of any rules and standards validly established by the Board of Education or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes;

In addition, a student who engages in the following conduct that occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect. If the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

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

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

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

1. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student’s teacher, building administrator and parent.
2. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
3. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building, and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
4. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

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

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

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

2. If the Principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent or his or her designee, the 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.
3. The Principal or his/her designee shall serve by registered or certified mail or by personal service to the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. Said notice shall include the following:
 - (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension or expulsion including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student as submitted by the Principal or assistant Principal.
 - (b) The penalties to which the student may be subjected and the penalty which the Principal or his or her designee has recommended in the charge.
 - (c) A statement explaining the student's right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
 - (d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by these policies along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.
 - (e) A statement that the administrative representative, legal counsel for school, the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony.
 - (f) A form or a request for hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the Principal or his or her designee in person or by registered or certified mail.
4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. In the event that the Principal has not received a request for hearing within five school days following receipt of the written notice, the punishment recommended in the charge by the Principal, or his or her designee, shall automatically go into effect.
6. If a hearing is requested more than 5 school days following the actual receipt of the written notice, but not more than 30 calendar days after actual receipt, the student shall be entitled to a hearing; but the punishment imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
7. If a request for hearing is not received within 30 calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.
8. In the event that a hearing is required to be provided, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer.

Hearing Procedure

1. **Hearing Officer.** The hearing officer shall be any person designated by the Superintendent. The hearing officer shall be an individual who has had no involvement in the charge, will not be a witness at the hearing, and who has not brought the charges against the student. It shall be the duty of the hearing officer to remain impartial throughout all deliberations. The hearing officer shall be available prior to any hearing held pursuant to this policy to answer any questions the administrative representative, the student, the student's parents, or guardian may have regarding the nature and conduct of the hearing.
2. **Administrative Representative.** The Principal may appoint an administrative representative to present the facts and evidence. Such administrative representative may be an attorney or may be represented by an attorney, but any such attorney shall not advise the hearing officer or parties who may review the proceedings as their counsel.
3. **Notice of Hearing.** If a hearing is requested within five school days of receipt of the notice, the hearing officer shall, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the administrative representative, the student, and the student's parents or guardian of the time and place for the hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within a period of five school days after it is requested. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the administrative representative, the student, and the student's parents, or guardian, except with the consent of all of the parties.
4. **Continuance.** Upon written request of the student or the student's parents or guardian, the hearing officer shall have the discretionary authority to continue from time to time the hearing. In addition, the hearing officer may continue the hearing upon any good cause.
5. **Access to Records.** The administrative representative, the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the legal counsel of the student shall have the right to examine the records, affidavits, and the statements of any witnesses in the possession of the Public School Board of Education at any reasonable time prior to the hearing.
6. **Hearing Procedure.** The hearing shall be attended by the hearing officer, the student, the student's parents or guardian, the student's representative if any, and the administrative representative. Witnesses shall be present only when they are giving information at the hearing or with the consent of both parties. The student may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing officer at times when the student's psychological evaluation or emotional problems are being discussed. The student or the student's parents or guardian or both may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing examiner may exclude anyone from the hearing when his/her actions substantially disrupt an orderly hearing. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply at the hearing. The administrative representative shall present to the hearing officer statements, in affidavit form, of any person having information about the student's conduct and the student's records, but not unless such statements and records have been made available to the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative prior to the hearing. The information contained in such records shall be explained and interpreted prior to or at the hearing to the student, parents or guardian, or representative at their request, by appropriate school personnel. The student, the student's parents, guardian, or representative, the administrative representative, or the hearing officer may ask witnesses to testify at the hearing. Such testimony shall be under oath and the

hearing officer shall be authorized to administer the oath. The student, parent, guardian or representative, administrative representative, or the hearing officer shall have the right to question any witness giving information at the hearing. The student may testify in his/her own defense in which case he/she shall be subject to cross-examination. However, a student need not testify; and if he/she chooses not to, no conclusion may be drawn there from. Any person giving evidence by written statement or in person at a hearing shall be given the same immunity from liability as a person testifying in a court case. A single hearing may be conducted for more than one student if in the discretion of the hearing examiner a single hearing is not likely to result in confusion or prejudice to the interest of any of the students involved. If during the conduct of such a hearing, the hearing examiner concludes that any of such student's interests will be substantially prejudiced by a group hearing, or that confusion is resulting, the hearing examiner may order a separate hearing for each or any of said students.

7. Availability of Witnesses. The hearing officer will have the authority to subpoena any witnesses to the hearing and shall make reasonable efforts to assist in obtaining the attendance of any witnesses requested by the student, the student's parents, or guardian or their legal representative.

8. Record. The proceedings of the hearing shall be recorded at the expense of the school district.

9. Findings. Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare and submit to the Superintendent of schools his/her written findings and recommendation as to disposition. This report shall explain, in terms of the needs of both the student and the school board, the reasons for the particular action recommended. Such recommendation may range from no action, through the entire field of counseling, to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

10. Review by Superintendent. The Superintendent of schools shall review the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and in his/her discretion may also review any of the facts and evidence presented at the hearing; and based upon such report and the facts, shall determine the sanctions to be imposed. However, the Superintendent may not impose a more severe sanction than that imposed by the hearing officer.

11. Notice of Determination. Written notice of the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and the determination of the Superintendent of schools shall be made by certified registered mail or by personal delivery to the student and the student's parents or guardian. Upon receipt of such written notice by the student and/or parents and guardian, the determination of the Superintendent shall take immediate effect.

12. Appeal to Board. The student, student's parents or guardian may, within seven school days following the receipt of the Superintendent's decision, submit to the Superintendent of schools a written request for a hearing before the Board of Education.

13. Review by Board of Education. Upon receipt of the request for review of the Superintendent's determination, the Board of Education or a committee of not less than 3 members shall, within 10 school days, hold a hearing on the matter. Such hearing shall be made on the record except that the board may admit new or additional evidence to avoid substantial threat of unfairness. Such new evidence shall be recorded. The Board of Education or committee thereof may withdraw to deliberate privately upon the record and new evidence. Any such deliberation shall be held in the presence only of board members in attendance at the appeal proceeding, but may be held in the presence of legal counsel who has not previously acted as the administrative representative in presenting the school's case before the hearing officer. If any questions arise during such deliberations which require additional evidence, the Board of Education or committee thereof may require the hearing to receive such evidence, subject to the right of all parties to be present. A record of any such new or additional evidence shall be made and shall be considered as a part of the record; and based upon the evidence presented at the hearing before the hearing officer, and such new or additional evidence, the Board of Education or the committee shall make a final disposition of the matter. The Board may alter the Superintendent's disposition of the case if it finds his/her decision to be too severe, but it may not impose a more severe sanction. A designated method of giving notice by the Board of Education or committee thereof, if required, for any Board review shall be by posting on the schoolhouse door.

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

DELIVERIES

It is the practice at the Elementary buildings that deliveries of flowers, balloons, etc. for students will be held in the office until the end of the day. No flower/balloon type deliveries for students will be accepted for Valentine's Day.

These practices are to minimize classroom disruptions and hurt feelings.

DISCIPLINE

In the classroom, discipline problems will be the responsibility of the teacher. However, discipline problems that continue to disrupt the learning environment may be referred to the Principal. Exclusion from class for a brief time may be necessary in order to provide time for the Principal and teacher to confer with parents in regard to a solution of the problem. A teacher stands in the place of the parent while the pupils are under his/her control and has the same right to command and enforce obedience, which the parent has in the home.

DISMISSAL

Children will not be dismissed from school before dismissal time without direct, phone, or note permission from their parents or an authorized adult. Instruct your child never to leave school with a stranger.

Children who are not waiting for a ride or involved in a supervised activity are to leave the school grounds promptly after dismissal. Children may return to use the playground after 5:00 p.m. on days when school is in session.

DRESS FOR STUDENTS

The school administration and teachers encourage all to dress in a fashion that reflects a style appropriate for a school day or school activity. Students are prohibited from wearing the following attire at school or at school-sponsored events: This list is not inclusive of all items, which may be excluded:

1. Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
2. Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance
3. Headgear including hats, bandannas, sweatbands, stocking caps, do-rags, scarves, and visors are prohibited.
4. All shorts/dresses/skirts are to reach to mid-thigh or longer. With the arm hanging at the side and fingers extended, the length of the shorts/dresses/skirts must extend beyond the tip of the longest finger.
5. Hairstyles, which distract from the learning process or the health and safety for either the student or others
6. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
7. Clothing or articles, which are soiled, torn, ragged, or sagging.
8. Costumes of any kind except for those allowed on designated days.
9. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
10. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
11. Clothing with tears or holes that expose flesh or underclothes

Students who violate dress code guidelines will be required to correct the violation by changing into something appropriate at school or returning home to change. Repeated dress code violations may result in additional consequences.

For playing outdoors in wet and snowy weather your child needs snow boots/rubber boots and snow pants. Shoes should be sent with the boots for indoor wear. Be sure boots, mittens, caps, scarves, etc. are labeled with your child's name. If the temperature drops below 15 degrees F with or without wind chill, children will stay indoors.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents/guardians must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents/guardians must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

GRADING SCALE

Grade	Percentile Range
A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	0-59

HEAD LICE

Upon discovering the presence of live lice or louse eggs, the school will notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). The student will be isolated from contact with other students and their belongings, and a parent or guardian must pick the child up from school immediately.

By Nebraska DHHS regulation, students are not permitted to return to school until the student is treated such that no live lice or louse eggs can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined. The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

HEALTH

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services prescribes a schedule for screenings based on current medical and public health practice. The schedule requires a physical screening by the school nurse for all kindergarten through fourth grade students. The results of the screening will be recorded on their permanent record. Parents will receive a written notice of any defective symptoms found, and are urged to correct them as soon as possible. The school DOES NOT diagnose or treat an illness or injury. Our policies are:

1. First-aid for sudden illness or injury.
2. In the event of a life threatening respiratory emergency, the school will administer medications as directed on any student's Emergency Action Plan. If that plan does not lead to relief of symptoms or there is no plan in place, Epinephrine by EpiPen and albuterol by nebulizer will be administered per standing order, which has been reviewed by a physician and mandated by the State Department of Education. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to medical facility by rescue squad at the family's expense.
3. The school's obligation continues until after the emergency has been placed in the care of the family or physician of their choice.
4. Exclusion of children: having a temperature of 100 degrees or more for 24 hours after symptoms have stopped; with a suspicious contagion; symptoms of vomiting, headaches, active head lice; etc.
5. Any pupil with a rash that the school nurse cannot identify must be excluded until the disappearance of the rash and any other symptoms. If the parent has consulted their family physician and he recommended readmission with a written notice to this effect, then admittance is acceptable.
6. Children with cases of chickenpox must be excluded from school until each sore has developed a scab, and they no longer have a fever.

Parents can help the school health program by completing the health appraisal form sent home. You are asked to do this just once during your child's school term, with short forms being sent out each year thereafter, requesting only new information regarding illness, etc., which has occurred during the past school year and summer.

Nebraska State Law requires a physical examination for all children entering school in Nebraska for the first time. This includes all kindergarten students and any transfer students who are coming from another state.

It is necessary to have a telephone number other than your own to call in case of an emergency. Be sure this party is aware that you have given the school their number to call.

Children, who must remain indoors because of health reasons, must bring a note to that effect. The school takes special care in maintaining respect for each child's health and well-being. No child will be sent outside during inclement weather if it in any way would jeopardize his/her health. We ask parents to cooperate by not sending notes asking for their child to remain inside during recess period unless it is an absolute necessity. A note from the doctor may be required of requests for keeping children in from recesses for extended periods of time.

HOMEWORK

The teachers may require homework if it is a requirement of the curriculum or they feel that it will be a benefit to the student. This assignment will be given with the thought of what is best for your child and is designed as an extension of the school instruction, not as busy work. We appreciate any help you may give the child, but doing their homework for them is not helpful. Encouraging them to finish and turn in their homework on time is important. Thank you for teaching them to be responsible.

IMMUNIZATIONS

State law requires students to be immunized against hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and varicella prior to enrollment in school. Students are required to be immunized against varicella or provide month/year the student had the chickenpox. Proof of immunizations is required. You must either have met immunization requirements for enrollment or be working toward completing requirements as fast as medically possible to be provisionally enrolled or receive an exemption.

The cost of immunizations and any required documentation shall be borne by the parent or guardian, not the Nebraska City Public School district.

LIBRARY

Books may be checked out of the library for two weeks. The student is responsible for any damage to the book and if any book is lost, report cards can be held until restitution is made.

Each elementary school has a library collection, accessible to students and teachers at all times. A library aide is usually on duty or available for assistance.

LOST AND FOUND

The school office will manage all lost and found items turned into the office. Parents and students are encouraged to check in with the office if an item was lost at school. The school is not liable for any items that were brought to school and lost on school grounds. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

Pupils are discouraged from bringing costly items or large sums of money to school. Parents are advised to mark children's clothing and possessions.

MEDICATIONS

Please do not send any medication to school with your child unless absolutely necessary. Dosages for medicines should be arranged to be given during non-school hours if possible. If medications must be given during school hours, the medication must be kept in the office. A permission form listing the student's name, the name of the medication, amount of medicine to be given, and the reason for the medication must be filled

out and given to the office. For any long-term prescription medications, the form must have a doctor's signature. Forms are available in the office. Over-the-counter medications must be in the original container and age appropriate. Prescription medications must be in the original prescription bottle, labeled with the student's name, name of the medication, dosage, and directions for administering. Parents assume responsibility for monitoring the effects of the medication.

NEBRASKA READS ACT

A student's ability to read is a critical predictor of academic and lifelong success. The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act (Section 79-2601-79-2607) ensures all students are ready for success in and beyond school. Starting in kindergarten, a strong reading policy and research-based programs help students get on track to grade level reading. The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and the Nebraska READS initiative are designed to give students every opportunity to gain proficiency in early literacy skills that will support the later growth of comprehension skills and analysis of complex text.

To comply with the Nebraska Reads Act, Nebraska City schools will utilize the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment to identify students who qualify for the Nebraska Reads Act in grades K-3. The MAP assessment will be given three times during the school year. If a child qualifies based on the state determined scores, parents will be notified and a Individualized Reading Plan (IRiP) will be developed for the child. If a child who previously qualified, scores at or above the state score for two assessments in a row they will be exited from the IRiP.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

We are going to request at least two scheduled conferences with you during the 1st and 3rd quarters. Additional conferences may be initiated by either the parent or the teacher at any time. Conferences help the teacher to understand the child and in many cases bring the parents into a closer working relationship with the school.

PARTIES & PARTY INVITATIONS

Various parties may be held each year: This includes: Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day. Times will vary and will be determined by the staff in each school.

Please try and arrange for private party invitations to be delivered outside of the school day.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator. The school is not responsible for damaged or lost personal items or equipment.

PETS

Please see that dogs and other pets are kept home and not allowed to follow pupils to school. If a child has a special pet he would enjoy showing to his classmates, he may do so if previous arrangements have been made with his teacher and that a parent accompanies the pet to the classroom for a short visit. It has been the school's policy to call the dog pound or police for unclaimed or unidentified pets.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs and videos of students may be used for educational purposes in demonstrations and web pages. Individual students will not be identified in photographs and videos used in educational demonstrations and web pages without parent permission.

PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS

Students will be charged for malicious damage to school property. Fines will be assessed at the end of the school year for lost or damaged books.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are given out at the end of each quarter.

SEARCHES

All property owned by the Nebraska City Public School District including lockers assigned to students, book bags, and vehicles on property owned by the Nebraska City Public Schools may be inspected by school authorities at any time. Items found as a result of such inspections will be turned over to the building principal.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

In all cases of inclement weather or for any other reason that schools are closed, the information will be given over the local radio stations. If school is closed in the middle of the day, schools will be kept open until all children have left. The principal may excuse teachers when they are no longer needed to supervise pupils.

Parents who have baby-sitters should give them the above information and any other information pertaining to school activities.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 gives parents the right to acquire information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, the Nebraska City Public Schools will give parents the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.

2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. Parents may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline or the certification or degree.

NCPS will also, upon request and in a timely manner, tell parents whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to the administrator of the child's building. The District will also give parents timely notice if the child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the NCLB Act.

TELEPHONE CALLS

Students must ask permission of a teacher or the secretary before using the school telephone. Phone calls are to be limited to those of necessity only. Students will not be called out of class for a telephone call unless it is an emergency.

VISITORS

Parents are encouraged to visit school anytime except the first week and the last two weeks of school. For safety reasons, all visitors are required to check in at the Office to receive a Visitor's Badge. If you plan to observe a classroom or other instructional activity please refer to our *classroom visit procedures* on page 5-6.

Section II

CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT

The Code of Nebraska requires all school employees to report suspected child abuse or willful neglect. Reporting shall be both written and orally to the Child Abuse Center of the local Department of Public Welfare. If there is reason to believe that immediate protection for the child is advisable, an oral report shall also be made to any appropriate law enforcement agency. Anyone participating in good faith in these procedures shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal. Laws providing communication shall not apply in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect. Any school employee who knowingly and willfully fails to report suspected child abuse is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Emergency Operations

Nebraska City School Board is committed to providing all students and staff a safe environment. Emergency Operations teams are in place to: perform threat assessment, provide safety training, and respond in times of crisis.

Threat Assessment: The Emergency Operations team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations.

Safety Training: Provide information and training to students and staff including, but not limited to:

Evacuate and Bus Drills - Evacuate and Bus evacuation drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given everyone obeys orders promptly and clears the building or vehicles by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom or vehicle will give the students instructions.

Lockdown Procedures - A lockdown may be called by the building principal or other designee if he or she has reason to believe that the students and staff may be in danger. In such cases, students and staff will remain in a locked classroom. They must move away from windows and doors. Students and staff must remain quiet at all times. In the event of a lockdown, for their safety, students will not be allowed to leave the building. Parents will not be free to pick up their child during the lockdown. The Nebraska City Police Department will be notified of the school lockdown and required to offer assistance.

Secure Procedures - A lockout may be called by the building principal or other designee if he or she has reason to believe that a threat is possible from outside the building. In such cases, all exterior doors will be locked with no one (including parents and staff) being allowed to enter or exit the building. All classes will proceed as normal within the building.

Shelter Drill- The alarm for an adverse weather drill will be an intercom announcement. Students will proceed to the first floor, and then all boys will use the west stairway to the shower area of the boy's locker room. Girls will use the east stairway to the girl's locker room. At all times during the drill, **THERE WILL BE SILENCE** so as to hear approaching danger and to be able to hear instructions. Once in the locker rooms students must remain quiet until the **"ALL CLEAR"** is sounded. A verbal announcement will send students back to classes.

Crisis: Emergency Operation team members will be available to students and staff in the event of a crisis. Information will be communicated to stakeholders through parent email and/or mass phone call/text.

EVIDENCE OF BIRTH DATE

Upon admission to the Nebraska City Public Schools the parents/legal guardian of any child preschool to grade 12, shall furnish (a) a certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, or (b) other reliable proof of the child's identify and age, (i.e. naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records) accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

An affidavit is defined as a notarized statement by an individual who can verify the reason a copy of the birth certificate cannot be produced. If the parents/legal guardian fails to provide this information, they will receive in writing a statement explaining the need for them to provide this information within thirty days. If the parents/legal guardian fails to comply with this request within 30 days the school shall notify them in writing that they need to comply within 10 days. If compliance is not obtained within that 10-day period, the school shall immediately report the matter to the Nebraska City Police Department for investigation. If the affidavit requested appears inaccurate or suspicious in form or content, this shall be reported immediately to the Nebraska City Police Department.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. Nebraska City Public Schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- o School officials with legitimate educational interest
- o Other schools to which a student is transferring
- o Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes
- o Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student
- o Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school
- o Accrediting organizations
- o To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena
- o Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies
- o State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification for Nebraska City Public Schools is accomplished through student handbooks, the district newsletter, in the annual report, and on the district website at <http://www.nebcity.esu6.org>. If you as a parent do not want directory information shared, please submit this request in writing to the building principal by September 1st of each year.

MISSING PERSONS:

A missing person shall mean a person 16 years or younger reported to any law enforcement agency as abducted or lost. Upon notification by the Nebraska State Patrol of a missing student, the school will flag the student's records in such a way that any personnel looking at such birth certificate or record shall be alerted to the fact that that birth certificate or record is of a missing person. Any school requested to forward a copy of a transferred student's record shall not forward such record to the requesting school if the record has been flagged as that of a missing person. The school will notify the Nebraska City Police Department of the request and that the student is a reported missing person. Any school or person acting on behalf of a school shall be immune from civil and criminal liability for acts or omissions, which occur as a result of the requirements of the Missing Children Identification Act.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Nebraska City Public Schools, after having conducted a public hearing concerning parental involvement and participation in the school district, determined that it shall be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to provide access to parents to all textbooks, tests, curriculum materials, and any other instructional materials used by the school.

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools, in the event that any parent has a complaint or objection concerning any materials to make available personal conferences for the parent and appropriate school personnel to discuss those concerns identified. The district will prepare a complaint form, which may be used by any parent to express objections to particular instructional materials. The complaint forms will seek information including, but not limited to, the specific instructional material that has been identified for the complaint, the reason for the complaint, and a proposed solution for resolving the complaint from the parent's perspective. The Administration will respond in writing to the person filing the complaint with an appropriate response. (Ref. 79-4, 244 [1])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to permit parents, upon a reasonable advance request, to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other activities (such as FBLA, DECA, FFA, etc). (Ref. 79-4, 244 [2])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to encourage communications from parents concerning when a parent believes it to be appropriate for their student to be excused from testing, classroom instruction, and other school experiences that the parent finds objectionable. The school district shall include a provision in the complaint form to receive information from a parent concerning what specific testing, classroom instruction, or other school experience the parent finds objectionable, the basis for the parent's objection, and proposed solution for dealing with the objection that would be satisfactory to the parent. (Ref. 79-4, 244[3])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to provide full access to the records of the students to the parent or guardian as set forth in State of Nebraska Law 79-4,157 and the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act during regular business hours of the school or wherever the student's records may regularly be maintained by the district. (Ref. 79-4, 244[4])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to notify, through normal means (i.e. school newsletters), a parent or guardian of any student who will be asked to complete a standard norm referenced or criterion referenced test. Parents will be notified, when it is reasonable to do so, where a sample of these tests might be reviewed and the date upon which the tests will be administered. (Ref. 79-4, 244 [5]) Prior to any school sponsored survey being administered to the students of the district, it shall be the duty of the schools to notify the parent or guardian of each student involved in the survey the nature of the survey, the date and time when the survey will be administered, and the proposed use of the survey results. Any parent, who requests in writing that their student be excused from completing the survey, shall have the request honored. (Ref. 79-4, 244 [6])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to prohibit any diminution in grade, credit, or other detriment to the student as a result of having been excused from any school experience or school activity because of objections by their parent or guardian under this policy. This policy shall be reviewed, on a periodic basis, by the Education Committee of the Nebraska City Public Schools Board of Education. Policy Approved August 11, 2003.

PHYSICAL EXAM AND VISION EVALUATION

Physical Exam:

*Admission to school requires submission of evidence of a physical examination within six months prior to entrance into the beginner grade (Kindergarten or, if Kindergarten is not attended, the first grade) and in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any grade.

*Evidence of a physical examination is also required within six months prior to entrance in the seventh grade.

Vision Evaluation:

*Admission to school requires submission of evidence of a visual evaluation within six months prior to entrance into the beginner grade (Kindergarten or, if Kindergarten is not attended, the first grade) and in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any grade.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, or if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given.

The cost of the physical examination and vision evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian.

RIGHTS OF CUSTODIAL & NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term "custodial parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students' records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent's request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated in the Nebraska City Public Schools. Students should report any concerns or questions to a teacher, school counselor, or the administration. The incident will be investigated and appropriate actions may be taken.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE

The Nebraska City Public Schools provide a service designed to identify children (birth to age 21) who may be at risk for learning and could benefit from special services. Children who display delays in learning, coordination, emotional development, language and speech development, or have physical, visual, or hearing impairments may qualify to receive free assistance if you live in the Nebraska City Public School District.

If your child is found eligible for services, an individual educational program will be developed by you, the parent, with the people who will help you meet your child's special needs. These people can include a teacher, speech pathologist, occupational and physical therapists or others. The program will build on your child's strengths and improve areas of weakness. The program will provide support, encouragement, and assistance for you in working with your child. For more information, contact your school principal.

Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

STUDENT FEES, MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS AND FINES POLICY

The Board of Education of the Nebraska City Public Schools authorizes the school staff to assess fees, charges or fines to students, as provided by the Public Elementary and Secondary Fee Authorization Act. Student fees authorized by this act include:

- Participation in school sponsored extracurricular activities, which do not count toward graduation.
- Admission fees and transportation charges for spectators attending extracurricular activities.

- Post secondary education costs for tuition and other expenses associated with obtaining credit from a post secondary educational institution.
- Transportation for option enrollment students.
- Reimbursement for school district property lost or damaged by a student.
- Summer school or night school.
- Breakfast and lunch programs.

Students and their parents are expected to provide minor personal or consumable items for specific courses and activities, such as pencils, pens, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, paper, folders, markers, erasers, glue sticks, notebooks, binders, tissues, rulers, calculators, computer disks, book bags, physical education clothing / shoes that conform to the general guideline for student dress and other supplies as needed.

A public hearing on student fees will be held on the proposed fees and other items expected to be furnished by students. The adopted fee policy will be published in the student handbooks.

When a student maintains possession of project course materials upon completion, the student and their parent may provide the materials for that project or pay the school for the consumable materials used for that project.

All money collected from the students will be deposited in the Student Fee Fund. Money will be expended from the Student Fee Fund for the purposes for which the money was collected from students.

The Board recognizes that some students and their families are not financially able to pay the fees or provide the items expected by the school. Fees may be waived for students that qualify for the federal free and reduced lunch program. Applications to have fees waived are available upon request and must be filled out prior to fees being waived. Students qualifying for, but not participating in, the free or reduced lunch program may still submit the student waiver fee.

The board will annually determine the dollar amount to be charged to students or others for fees. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Nebraska City Public Schools will provide telecommunications access to students and staff for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of educational services and improving the productivity of offices, departments, and other organizations within the district. This access is limited to educational, career, and professional development activities.

The use of this telecommunication access is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in limitation or cancellation of such privileges. Actions taken for inappropriate use will be determined by the district's disciplinary codes as well as local, state, and federal laws.

The district will enforce acceptable use regulations by providing for the supervision and regulation of learning activities requiring access to telecommunication systems.

THREAT ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Definitions

- a. A **threat** is an expression of a willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.
 - i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.
 - ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
 - iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.
- b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of identifying and responding to serious threats in a systematic, data-informed way.
 - i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
 - ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such reports regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

3. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of NCPS administration, NCPS staff, and Nebraska City Police Department. Not every team member needs to participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations. The threat assessment team shall be familiar with mental health resources available to students, staff and patrons and shall collaborate with local mental health service providers as appropriate.

4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

When a threat is reported, the school administrator shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and, in consultation with members of the threat assessment team, make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The school administrator must contact law enforcement if the administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the threat assessment team will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The team may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the team will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The team is authorized to disclose the results of its investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The team may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of its investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and Nebraska law.

5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

The team will keep members of the school community appropriately informed about substantive threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, or communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

6. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The threat assessment team will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's School Safety Plan.

TITLE IX- Notice of Non-Discrimination
Policy to be attached upon School Board approval
[Notice of Non-Discrimination Link](#)

UNIVERSAL SCREENING

The District will conduct various screenings (such as the SAEBRS universal screener) throughout the year to identify students with academic, behavioral, or social-emotional concerns. All District screening tools are norm-referenced and research-based. Any parent/guardian who does not consent to the screening of his/her student must notify the Director of Student Services at the beginning of the school year.

USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the school district. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

VIDEO and AUDIO RECORDINGS

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

This policy applies to students 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. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student's education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student's education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules.

An exception will be made to this policy if photographs or audio or video recordings are necessary to accommodate a student's disability or are required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

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. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Nebraska City Public Schools

Title 1 School-Parent-Child Compact

This compact outlines how parents, school staff, and the students at Hayward Elementary will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement, and the means by which the school and parents will maintain ongoing communication to build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

This school-parent-child compact is in effect during the 2024-2025 school year.

Hayward Staff	Parents	Students
Small group instruction based on student need.	Monitor attendance	Put forth our best effort throughout the school day.
Hold parent-teacher conferences two times a year, during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.	Participating in parent policy and advisory groups, to the extent possible.	Do homework every day and ask for help, when needed.
Provide at least four progress reports during the school year.	Participate in decisions related to our children's education.	Read every day, outside of school time.
Provide parents reasonable access to teachers through flexible appointments.	Promoting positive use of our children's time outside of school.	Give our parents all notices and information received from school each day.
Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities.	Make sure homework is complete.	Ask questions if you don't understand something.
Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards.	Stay informed about our children's education and communicate with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school and responding, as appropriate.	

Northside Elementary School
Home of the Pioneers
2025-2026

1200 14th Avenue
Phone: 402-874-9193

Nebraska City, NE 68410
Fax: 402-874-9200

Mr. Mark Fritch
Superintendent

Ms. Michaela Wilcox
Principal

PRINCIPALS' MESSAGE

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

Welcome to Northside Elementary and Nebraska City Public Schools! We're excited to begin another school year with you and your family. At Northside, our number one priority is keeping students safe while helping them grow socially, emotionally, and academically. Our dedicated staff is committed to creating a positive, nurturing environment where every child can thrive.

This handbook is designed to help you and your child become more familiar with our school. We hope it gives you a sense of connection, and helps you understand how we operate day to day. References to "parents" throughout this handbook include all guardians and caregivers.

Additional information will be shared throughout the school year through newsletters, bulletins, and other communication channels. We encourage you to read this handbook carefully and refer to it as needed.

Please know that Northside is truly a "home away from home" for our students. This guide outlines many of our procedures and expectations, though it is not intended to cover every possible situation or serve as a binding contract. Our school administration reserves the right to make decisions based on individual circumstances when needed.

Thank you for being a part of the Nebraska City Public Schools family. We wish you and your child a safe, happy, and successful school year!

Sincerely,

Michaela Wilcox
Northside Principal

MISSION STATEMENT

Inspiring a culture of excellence that engages all students in lifelong learning.



Statements of Belief:

We believe all students will:

Be safe, respectful, and responsible citizens
Thrive in a culturally diverse environment
Learn through cooperative efforts
Think and solve problems creatively
Become technologically proficient
Develop visionary thinking
Be life-long learners

Academic Goal: All students will increase Reading skills across content areas.

Behavior Goal: All Students will Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible!

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INTENT OF HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Each student must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word “parents” refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents and legal guardians.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract” with parents, students or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org or in person at Central Office. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org, or in person at Central Office. The School District’s specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link:

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator: Mr. Jason Hippen at 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org, 1700 W.14th ave. Nebraska City, Ne 68410 or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the Title IX coordinator at 402-873-6033, or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy **3053** - Nondiscrimination.

Aviso de no discriminación

El distrito escolar no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, discapacidad o edad en sus programas y actividades y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y otros grupos juveniles designados. El distrito escolar prohíbe la discriminación sexual en cualquier programa o actividad que opere. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de actos ilícitos discriminación o acoso debido a sus discapacidad, o otros inquietudes tienen preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador de la Sección 504 : Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de discriminación o acoso ilegal debido a su sexo, o que tengan otras inquietudes o preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador del Título IX: Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. El Aviso de no discriminación específico del Distrito Escolar en el se puede acceder a Bases del Sexo en el siguiente enlace:

https://core-docs.s3-us-east-1.amazonaws.com/documents/asset/uploaded_file/915/Nebraska_City_Public_Schools/4570487/Title_IX_Policy_3057.pdf Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de discriminación ilegal o acoso debido a su raza, color o origen nacional, o que tengan otras inquietudes o preguntas relacionadas, deben comunicarse con el siguiente Coordinador del Título VI: Sr Jason Hippen al 402-873-6033, jhippen@nebcityps.org o en persona en la Oficina Central. Los estudiantes que crean que han sido objeto de cualquier otra discriminación o acoso ilegal deben comunicarse con el Sr. Brian Hoover al 402-873-3360, bhoover@nebcityps.org, o en persona en la escuela. Los estudiantes pueden denunciar discriminación o acoso a cualquier miembro del personal, quien luego lo enviará al coordinador o administrador correspondiente. El miembro del personal seguiría la políticas del distrito escolar para responder al informe.

ATTENDANCE POLICIES

Nebraska City Public Schools complies with the Nebraska Compulsory Education Law. Pupils are expected to be in attendance everyday that school is in session. Good attendance is one of the best indicators of future success in school. If a child is not present in school he/she is counted absent regardless of the reason for the absence.

The parents of any student, who is absent four (4) days from school for any reason, will receive a letter from the principal. A second letter will be sent home at eight (8) absences and every four (4) absences thereafter. Parents of students who are absent ten (10) days in a semester may be requested to conference with the building principal. The purpose of the conference is to develop a plan to improve attendance.

A letter may be sent to the county attorney if absences exceed twenty (20) days cumulative. Building administrators will take documented medical issues and family crises into consideration.

ABSENCES AND TARDINESS

Parents/Guardians should notify the elementary school office on the morning of a child's absence before 8:30 a.m. If you have not made contact by 8:30 a.m., the school will attempt to make contact with you. It is important that we confirm the whereabouts of your child.

It is essential that students arrive at school on time and stay for the entire day. Valuable information may be missed if they arrive late or leave early. Students are to be in their classrooms at the start of the day and are expected to remain the entire school day.

If tardies become excessive (4 in a quarter) a letter the building principal may call the parents in order to develop a plan to correct the issue. Students are considered tardy if they arrive at school five minutes after school has started.

A Student who arrives after **9:45 a.m.** or leaves before **1:45 p.m.** and does not return to school will be marked a ½ day absent. Appointments that cause a student to miss more than an 1 ½ hours during the school day will also be counted as a ½ day absent.

ACCIDENTS

The School (School District) shall not be responsible for any medical costs incurred by any student who is injured while attending School, any class, any School function, on the premises of the School or at any off premises location at any activity authorized or sanctioned by the School (School District).

ADDRESS CHANGE

Parents should notify the office immediately of any change in address, phone number or family doctor. All unlisted numbers will be kept confidential.

All new students or transfers should contact the school principal as soon as possible. If transfer is known in advance, we would appreciate early notice.

ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

Children are not to arrive on school grounds earlier than 20 minutes before school begins unless riding the bus. No adult supervision is provided before then. Children get cold and discipline problems arise when students arrive too early before school starts. If consistently arriving at school prior to the time supervision is provided administrators may contact parents about this situation.

BELL SCHEDULES

Northside

Supervision Begins	7:50
Morning Bell.....	8:10
Tardy Bell.....	8:15
Dismissal Bell.....	3:20

Hayward

Supervision Begins	7:50
Morning Bell.....	8:10
Tardy Bell.....	8:20
Dismissal Bell.....	3:20

BICYCLES

Students are to park their bikes in the appropriate bike racks or where designated. Students are advised but not required to keep their bicycles locked. Under no circumstances is any student to borrow or tamper with a bicycle that is not their own. Once a bicycle is parked in the morning it should not be ridden until school is dismissed.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

Board Policy requires that all new enrolling students must show a certified birth certificate. A copy will be made for school files and the original will be returned to the parent or guardian. If there are any questions, the school principal should be consulted.

BULLYING

Nebraska City Public Schools strives to maintain a positive educational atmosphere for students. The school district recognizes the negative impact that bullying has on student health, welfare, safety, and the school's learning environment. Bullying is defined as an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds or at school sponsored activities. Nebraska City Public Schools have adopted strategies and practices to reinforce positive behaviors and to discourage inappropriate behaviors. Behaviors defined as bullying will result in disciplinary action as deemed appropriate by the school administrator. **Students who experience or witness bullying should immediately report the incident to a teacher or school administrator.**

BUS TRANSPORTATION

Bus transportation is provided between the elementary buildings, and for rural students. Residential students wishing to ride the bus should go to the Northside or Hayward buildings by 7:40 a.m. A bus will take them to their school. A bus will also return them to their neighborhood school at the end of the day. Union and rural students will work out their schedules with the transportation department.

BUS RULES

In the interest of safety, students riding in a bus will be expected to listen to the bus driver and follow all bus rules. It is a privilege, not a right, for students to ride the bus. The administration reserves the right to suspend bus-riding privileges at any time regardless of the number of violations committed. The bus driver does not administer the below actions, the school administration does. Direct all questions to the transportation supervisor and/or school administration.

Basic Rules- (Not intended to cover all situations)

Obey bus driver	Sit down
No profanity	Face the front
No bullying	No fighting or play fighting
Keep hands & objects inside the bus	Don't throw objects inside or outside of bus

1st - Violation: the driver will give a verbal warning. If the behavior continues the bus driver, transportation supervisor or elementary principal will fill out a bus referral form. This report will be given to the elementary principal who will notify the parents. Additional consequences may be given at this time.

2nd - Violation: same as above, except that privileges of riding the bus will be suspended for 1 week (5 school days).

3rd - Violation: same as #1, except that privileges of riding the bus will be suspended for 2 weeks (10 school days).

4th - Violation: same as #1, except that privileges of riding the bus may be suspended for the rest of the semester.

CELL PHONES

Students are required to shut off their cell phones and put them in their backpack or locker during school hours. If students violate this rule their cell phones will be taken and held in the principal's office until the end of the school day. **Students are solely responsible for the care and security of their personal cell phones and electronic devices. The school district is not liable for any loss, theft, damage, or unauthorized use of these devices therefore it is highly recommended that devices remain at home.**

1st - Violation: Cell phone will be returned to the student at the end of the school day and parents will be notified.

2nd - Violation: Cell phone will only be returned to parent or guardian.

3rd - Violation: Cell phone will only be returned to parent or guardian. The Principal may assign additional consequences.

CLASSROOM VISIT PROCEDURES

To assure a successful school observation, teachers and administrators ask visitors to follow these guidelines:

1. Parents/guardians are invited to make appointments with the building principal to visit classes and other instructional activities. The principal shall give permission after determining that parental/guardian observation would not disrupt the activity.
2. All observation sessions will be planned in advance so as not to create conflict with the teacher and student schedule. Therefore, arrangements must be made prior to the day of the classroom visit or observation. The principal will limit the duration of any observation to 60 minutes in order to avoid distraction or disruption to the teacher's schedule and classroom atmosphere. Additional observation time will not be permitted absent unusual circumstances, in the sole discretion of the building principal. No parent may observe or visit a classroom during an assessment.
3. The principal reserves the right to decline the request for classroom observation if it is determined that such an observation would cause undue disruption in the educational process.
4. For security reasons, visitors are required to sign in at the school office, to receive a visitor's badge, and indicate the name of the teacher or destination before proceeding to contact any other person in the building or on the school grounds. All visitors are asked to sign out when leaving the building.
5. To protect the learning environment, the parent/guardian should be the only visitor in the classroom during the observation. An observer, other than the parent/guardian, must be approved by the principal and have written consent from the parent/guardian describing the reason for the visit and/or observation. Out of respect for the teaching environment, parents/guardians are asked not to bring younger siblings or children while observing in the classroom or to utilize any electronic equipment such as cell phones while in the classroom. Observers should not disrupt the learning environment by engaging students or the teacher in conversation. A follow-up meeting may be scheduled as needed to answer questions or concerns.
6. During the observation, the principal or his/her designee may be present in the observed setting in order to accommodate follow-up discussion or clarify questions that may arise.

*All aspects of individual student confidentiality must be preserved and respected.

COMPLAINT PROCEDURE

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements, and the board encourages patrons and school staff to discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems. When such efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below:

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person with whom he or she is dissatisfied, or to who is responsible for the practice or regulation with which he or she is dissatisfied. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
 - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted to the superintendent of schools.
 - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted to the president of the board of education.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator, the administrator shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the administrator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the staff member, the administrator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Interview the complainant to determine:
 - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution, which the complainant seeks.
 - d) Respond to the complainant.
4. A complainant who is not satisfied with the building principal's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the superintendent.
 - a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) The superintendent will investigate, as he or she deems appropriate.
 - c) Upon completion of this investigation, the superintendent will inform the complainant in writing of his or her decision
5. A complainant who is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a complaint may appeal the decision to the board.
 - a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) The board may, but is not required to, receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal.
 - c) The board will notify the complainant in writing of its decision.
 - d) There is no appeal from a decision of the board.
6. When a formal complaint about the superintendent of schools has been filed with the president of the board, the president shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to refer the matter to the board of education for consideration at a regular or special meeting.

CODE OF CONDUCT / STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Board of Education Discipline Policy:

The Board of Education considers the safety of district students, personnel, and visitors of primary importance. Behavior and attitudes are attributing factors lending to the overall safety within the school. The Board has outlined minimum standards of behavior in a Code of Conduct; this code should be the foundation from which all disciplinary actions are based. To be effective it is imperative that the Code of Conduct be consistently administered on all levels.

The Board of Education may authorize the emergency exclusion, short-term or long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment of any student from school for conduct prohibited by the Code of Conduct, the board's rules, or standards as established by LB 503 (1976) as amended by LB 1250 (1994) if such action complies with the procedures required by this act.

Further, the Gun Free Schools Act and LB 658 requires the expulsion from school for a period of not less than one year of any student who is determined to have knowingly and intentionally possessed, used, or transmitted a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle being used for a school purpose, or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event.

Administrative regulations shall be set forth regarding this policy and the Code of Conduct. Each building shall develop action plans to implement and enforce these administrative regulations in a fair and consistent manner. The Superintendent shall report student expulsions or staff removals for cause to the Board President, at his earliest convenience after the discipline has been taken. At the Presidents and/or Superintendent's discretion other board members will be notified.

I WILL - Be Safe / Be Respectful / Be Responsible

Treating others with dignity and respect is the responsibility of students, faculty, staff, administrators, board members, parents, and guests involved in or visiting the Nebraska City Public Schools.

Definition of Discipline

An ongoing process designed to teach, model, and use appropriate strategies to promote the behaviors necessary to ensure a safe and productive learning environment by changing unacceptable behavior to acceptable behavior.

Belief Statements

1. Teaching and learning of the intended curriculum for all students is the highest priority. Therefore, the misbehavior of one student - a) will not be allowed to interfere with the learning opportunities of another student, b) will not be allowed to interfere with the teacher's responsibility to teach all students, and c) will not excuse the misbehaving student from also successfully completing the learning objectives.
2. Changing behavior takes time.
3. Discipline is a part of the daily routine--not a disruption.
4. Self-discipline is the expected outcome.
5. Every discipline situation is an opportunity to teach expected behavior.
6. Teaching and modeling appropriate behavior, along with implementing consequences for inappropriate behavior, is the best way to help change unacceptable behaviors to acceptable behaviors.
7. Expected behaviors must be communicated, taught, and modeled on a daily basis throughout the school year.
8. Punishment by itself cannot change behaviors.
9. In handling unacceptable behaviors, the focus will be on judging the behavior of a student, not on judging the student.
10. Staff members will not respond to misbehavior as if it were a personal attack on them.
11. Staff will show respect to students and parents at all times, regardless of the students' and parents' behavior.
12. Parents have a responsibility to ensure their children's behaviors do not take away from a safe and productive learning environment for others.
13. Staff will handle all discipline situations in a professional manner.

Discipline Expectations

1. Students and staff will demonstrate self-respect, respect for others, and respect for all things in their environment.
2. A safe and productive learning environment will be maintained for all individuals at school and at school-related activities.
3. Conflicts will be handled without the use of violence or threats of violence and with respect for the rights of all.
4. Staff and students will be expected to be on task at all times while in the classroom or at other learning activities.
5. Staff will provide learning opportunities for misbehaving students with support from parents and guardians.
6. Staff, students, and parents will assist misbehaving students to change their unacceptable behavior to acceptable behavior.

General Discipline Philosophy

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school while using district transportation, at school, during lunch, on the way home while using district transportation, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

1. The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:
2. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
3. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
4. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
5. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
6. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

Levels of Unacceptable Behavior

LEVEL ONE: Productive Personal Environment -- Behaviors that occur in the classroom and affect only the learning of the misbehaving student.

Minimum consequence: Teacher making eye contact with student

Maximum consequence: Detention

LEVEL TWO: Productive Classroom Environment -- Behaviors that occur in the classroom and interfere with the learning of others.

Minimum consequence: Teacher making eye contact with student

Maximum consequence: In-School Suspension

LEVEL THREE: Orderly Environment -- Behaviors that occur that are not intended to cause physical harm to another individual, are not illegal, but do negatively affect an orderly environment.

Minimum consequences: teacher making eye contact with student

Maximum consequences: short-term suspension

LEVEL FOUR: Safe Environment -- Behaviors that are intended to cause another individual physical harm and/or are illegal.

Minimum consequences: one day out-of-school suspension

Maximum consequences: one year out of school

Examples of Unacceptable Behaviors

LEVEL ONE: incomplete work, sleeping, inattentiveness, loitering, wearing hats in building

LEVEL TWO: leaving the room without permission, inappropriate movements, disruption of environment (noises, faces, improper attire etc.), talking without permission, failure to abide by classroom rules

LEVEL THREE: petty theft, derogatory remarks, improper language, elementary grade fighting, racial remarks, disrespect, destruction of property, noncompliance, intimidation, public displays of affection, going to parking lot or leaving the campus without permission, any other words or actions that would negatively affect an orderly environment.

LEVEL FOUR: weapons, arson, bomb threats, sexual harassment, felony theft, drugs or look-a-likes, tobacco, alcohol, physical assault (fighting), bodily harm or threatening bodily harm, lewdness, engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of Nebraska which constitutes a danger to others or substantially interferes with school purposes.

Forms of School Discipline

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

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students will be required to serve suspension at a designated location where they will study and participate in campus clean up. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Short-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student 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, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal or the Principal's designee shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. In addition, such short-term suspension will be made 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/she is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to explain his/her version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. The student and his/her parent or guardian will be given the opportunity to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference.

Long-Term Suspension

The Principal or the Principal's designee may exclude a student from school or any school function for a period of 6 to 19 school days (long-term suspension) based on conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth. The process for long-term suspension is hereinafter set forth.

Expulsion

1. Meaning of Expulsion. Expulsion shall mean 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 10 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 10 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 a board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

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

4. Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation. Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than 19 years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal's designee shall meet with the student's probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal's designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may, with proper consent upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.

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

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

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

6. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, inhalants, or being under the influence of any of the above; possessing drug paraphernalia; or engaging in the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401. (Note: the term “under the influence” for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant);
7. Public indecency;
8. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. In addition, if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults, the student is subject to suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment regardless of where the conduct took place. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault shall mean sexual assault in the first degree and sexual assault in the second degree as defined in sections 28-319 and 28-320, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
9. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities;
10. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities;
11. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
12. Dressing in a manner which 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, distractive or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
13. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding the school district’s buses;
14. Sexting (a combination of sex and texting) - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically;
15. Bullying as defined by Nebraska law;
16. Repeated and/or willful violation of the district’s acceptable use rules regarding computers or other electronic devices;
17. 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. This provision will be enforced for conduct that occurs off school grounds if it causes or may reasonably be expected to cause a substantial interference with school purposes; or
18. Repeated violation of any rules and standards validly established by the Board of Education or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes;

In addition, a student who engages in the following conduct that occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect. If the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

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

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

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

1. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student’s teacher, building administrator and parent.
2. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
3. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building, and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
4. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

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

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

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

2. If the Principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent or his or her designee, the 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.
3. The Principal or his/her designee shall serve by registered or certified mail or by personal service to the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. Said notice shall include the following:
 - (a) The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension or expulsion including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student as submitted by the Principal or assistant Principal.
 - (b) The penalties to which the student may be subjected and the penalty which the Principal or his or her designee has recommended in the charge.
 - (c) A statement explaining the student's right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
 - (d) A description of the hearing procedures provided by these policies along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.
 - (e) A statement that the administrative representative, legal counsel for school, the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony.
 - (f) A form or a request for hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the Principal or his or her designee in person or by registered or certified mail.
4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. In the event that the Principal has not received a request for hearing within five school days following receipt of the written notice, the punishment recommended in the charge by the Principal, or his or her designee, shall automatically go into effect.
6. If a hearing is requested more than 5 school days following the actual receipt of the written notice, but not more than 30 calendar days after actual receipt, the student shall be entitled to a hearing; but the punishment imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
7. If a request for hearing is not received within 30 calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.
8. In the event that a hearing is required to be provided, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer.

Hearing Procedure

1. **Hearing Officer.** The hearing officer shall be any person designated by the Superintendent. The hearing officer shall be an individual who has had no involvement in the charge, will not be a witness at the hearing, and who has not brought the charges against the student. It shall be the duty of the hearing officer to remain impartial throughout all deliberations. The hearing officer shall be available prior to any hearing held pursuant to this policy to answer any questions the administrative representative, the student, the student's parents, or guardian may have regarding the nature and conduct of the hearing.
2. **Administrative Representative.** The Principal may appoint an administrative representative to present the facts and evidence. Such administrative representative may be an attorney or may be represented by an attorney, but any such attorney shall not advise the hearing officer or parties who may review the proceedings as their counsel.
3. **Notice of Hearing.** If a hearing is requested within five school days of receipt of the notice, the hearing officer shall, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the administrative representative, the student, and the student's parents or guardian of the time and place for the hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within a period of five school days after it is requested. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the administrative representative, the student, and the student's parents, or guardian, except with the consent of all of the parties.
4. **Continuance.** Upon written request of the student or the student's parents or guardian, the hearing officer shall have the discretionary authority to continue from time to time the hearing. In addition, the hearing officer may continue the hearing upon any good cause.
5. **Access to Records.** The administrative representative, the student, the student's parent or guardian, and the legal counsel of the student shall have the right to examine the records, affidavits, and the statements of any witnesses in the possession of the Public School Board of Education at any reasonable time prior to the hearing.
6. **Hearing Procedure.** The hearing shall be attended by the hearing officer, the student, the student's parents or guardian, the student's representative if any, and the administrative representative. Witnesses shall be present only when they are giving information at the hearing or with the consent of both parties. The student may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing officer at times when the student's psychological evaluation or emotional problems are being discussed. The student or the student's parents or guardian or both may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing examiner may exclude anyone from the hearing when his/her actions substantially disrupt an orderly hearing. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply at the hearing. The administrative representative shall present to the hearing officer statements, in affidavit form, of any person having information about the student's conduct and the student's records, but not unless such statements and records have been made available to the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative prior to the hearing. The information contained in such records shall be explained and interpreted prior to or at the hearing to the student, parents or guardian, or representative at their request, by appropriate school personnel. The student, the student's parents, guardian, or representative, the administrative representative, or the hearing officer may ask witnesses to testify at the hearing. Such testimony shall be under oath and the

hearing officer shall be authorized to administer the oath. The student, parent, guardian or representative, administrative representative, or the hearing officer shall have the right to question any witness giving information at the hearing. The student may testify in his/her own defense in which case he/she shall be subject to cross-examination. However, a student need not testify; and if he/she chooses not to, no conclusion may be drawn there from. Any person giving evidence by written statement or in person at a hearing shall be given the same immunity from liability as a person testifying in a court case. A single hearing may be conducted for more than one student if in the discretion of the hearing examiner a single hearing is not likely to result in confusion or prejudice to the interest of any of the students involved. If during the conduct of such a hearing, the hearing examiner concludes that any of such student's interests will be substantially prejudiced by a group hearing, or that confusion is resulting, the hearing examiner may order a separate hearing for each or any of said students.

7. Availability of Witnesses. The hearing officer will have the authority to subpoena any witnesses to the hearing and shall make reasonable efforts to assist in obtaining the attendance of any witnesses requested by the student, the student's parents, or guardian or their legal representative.

8. Record. The proceedings of the hearing shall be recorded at the expense of the school district.

9. Findings. Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, the hearing officer shall prepare and submit to the Superintendent of schools his/her written findings and recommendation as to disposition. This report shall explain, in terms of the needs of both the student and the school board, the reasons for the particular action recommended. Such recommendation may range from no action, through the entire field of counseling, to long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment.

10. Review by Superintendent. The Superintendent of schools shall review the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and in his/her discretion may also review any of the facts and evidence presented at the hearing; and based upon such report and the facts, shall determine the sanctions to be imposed. However, the Superintendent may not impose a more severe sanction than that imposed by the hearing officer.

11. Notice of Determination. Written notice of the findings and recommendations of the hearing officer and the determination of the Superintendent of schools shall be made by certified registered mail or by personal delivery to the student and the student's parents or guardian. Upon receipt of such written notice by the student and/or parents and guardian, the determination of the Superintendent shall take immediate effect.

12. Appeal to Board. The student, student's parents or guardian may, within seven school days following the receipt of the Superintendent's decision, submit to the Superintendent of schools a written request for a hearing before the Board of Education.

13. Review by Board of Education. Upon receipt of the request for review of the Superintendent's determination, the Board of Education or a committee of not less than 3 members shall, within 10 school days, hold a hearing on the matter. Such hearing shall be made on the record except that the board may admit new or additional evidence to avoid substantial threat of unfairness. Such new evidence shall be recorded. The Board of Education or committee thereof may withdraw to deliberate privately upon the record and new evidence. Any such deliberation shall be held in the presence only of board members in attendance at the appeal proceeding, but may be held in the presence of legal counsel who has not previously acted as the administrative representative in presenting the school's case before the hearing officer. If any questions arise during such deliberations which require additional evidence, the Board of Education or committee thereof may require the hearing to receive such evidence, subject to the right of all parties to be present. A record of any such new or additional evidence shall be made and shall be considered as a part of the record; and based upon the evidence presented at the hearing before the hearing officer, and such new or additional evidence, the Board of Education or the committee shall make a final disposition of the matter. The Board may alter the Superintendent's disposition of the case if it finds his/her decision to be too severe, but it may not impose a more severe sanction. A designated method of giving notice by the Board of Education or committee thereof, if required, for any Board review shall be by posting on the schoolhouse door.

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

DELIVERIES

It is the practice at the Elementary buildings that deliveries of flowers, balloons, etc. for students will be held in the office until the end of the day. No flower/balloon type deliveries for students will be accepted for Valentine's Day.

These practices are to minimize classroom disruptions and hurt feelings.

DISCIPLINE

In the classroom, discipline problems will be the responsibility of the teacher. However, discipline problems that continue to disrupt the learning environment may be referred to the Principal. Exclusion from class for a brief time may be necessary in order to provide time for the Principal and teacher to confer with parents in regard to a solution of the problem. A teacher stands in the place of the parent while the pupils are under his/her control and has the same right to command and enforce obedience, which the parent has in the home.

DISMISSAL

Children will not be dismissed from school before dismissal time without direct, phone, or note permission from their parents or an authorized adult. Instruct your child never to leave school with a stranger.

Children who are not waiting for a ride or involved in a supervised activity are to leave the school grounds promptly after dismissal. Children may return to use the playground after 5:00 p.m. on days when school is in session.

DRESS FOR STUDENTS

The school administration and teachers encourage all to dress in a fashion that reflects a style appropriate for a school day or school activity. Students are prohibited from wearing the following attire at school or at school-sponsored events: This list is not inclusive of all items, which may be excluded:

1. Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
2. Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance
3. Headgear including hats, bandannas, sweatbands, stocking caps, do-rags, scarves, and visors are prohibited.
4. All shorts/dresses/skirts are to reach to mid-thigh or longer. With the arm hanging at the side and fingers extended, the length of the shorts/dresses/skirts must extend beyond the tip of the longest finger.
5. Hairstyles, which distract from the learning process or the health and safety for either the student or others
6. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
7. Clothing or articles, which are soiled, torn, ragged, or sagging.
8. Costumes of any kind except for those allowed on designated days.
9. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
10. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
11. Clothing with tears or holes that expose flesh or underclothes

Students who violate dress code guidelines will be required to correct the violation by changing into something appropriate at school or returning home to change. Repeated dress code violations may result in additional consequences.

For playing outdoors in wet and snowy weather your child needs snow boots/rubber boots and snow pants. Shoes should be sent with the boots for indoor wear. Be sure boots, mittens, caps, scarves, etc. are labeled with your child's name. If the temperature drops below 15 degrees F with or without wind chill, children will stay indoors.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents/guardians must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

HEAD LICE

Upon discovering the presence of live lice or louse eggs, the school will notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s). The student will be isolated from contact with other students and their belongings, and a parent or guardian must pick the child up from school immediately.

By Nebraska DHHS regulation, students are not permitted to return to school until the student is treated such that no live lice or louse eggs can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined. The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

HEALTH

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services prescribes a schedule for screenings based on current medical and public health practice. The schedule requires a physical screening by the school nurse for all kindergarten through fourth grade students. The results of the screening will be recorded on their permanent record. Parents will receive a written notice of any defective symptoms found, and are urged to correct them as soon as possible. The school DOES NOT diagnose or treat an illness or injury. Our policies are:

1. First-aid for sudden illness or injury.
2. In the event of a life threatening respiratory emergency, the school will administer medications as directed on any student's Emergency Action Plan. If that plan does not lead to relief of symptoms or there is no plan in place, Epinephrine by EpiPen and albuterol by nebulizer will be administered per standing order, which has been reviewed by a physician and mandated by the State Department of Education. Any individual treated for symptoms with epinephrine at school will be transferred to medical facility by rescue squad at the family's expense.
3. The school's obligation continues until after the emergency has been placed in the care of the family or physician of their choice.
4. Exclusion of children: having a temperature of 100 degrees or more for 24 hours after symptoms have stopped; with a suspicious contagion; symptoms of vomiting, headaches, active head lice; etc.
5. Any pupil with a rash that the school nurse cannot identify must be excluded until the disappearance of the rash and any other symptoms. If the parent has consulted their family physician and he recommended readmission with a written notice to this effect, then admittance is acceptable.
6. Children with cases of chickenpox must be excluded from school until each sore has developed a scab, and they no longer have a fever.

Parents can help the school health program by completing the health appraisal form sent home. You are asked to do this just once during your child's school term, with short forms being sent out each year thereafter, requesting only new information regarding illness, etc., which has occurred during the past school year and summer.

Nebraska State Law requires a physical examination for all children entering school in Nebraska for the first time. This includes all kindergarten students and any transfer students who are coming from another state.

It is necessary to have a telephone number other than your own to call in case of an emergency. Be sure this party is aware that you have given the school their number to call.

Children, who must remain indoors because of health reasons, must bring a note to that effect. The school takes special care in maintaining respect for each child's health and well-being. No child will be sent outside during inclement weather if it in any way would jeopardize his/her health. We ask parents to cooperate by not sending notes asking for their child to remain inside during recess period unless it is an absolute necessity. A note from the doctor may be required of requests for keeping children in from recesses for extended periods of time.

HOMEWORK

The teachers may require homework if it is a requirement of the curriculum or they feel that it will be a benefit to the student. This assignment will be given with the thought of what is best for your child and is designed as an extension of the school instruction, not as busy work. We appreciate any help you may give the child, but doing their homework for them is not helpful. Encouraging them to finish and turn in their homework on time is important. Thank you for teaching them to be responsible.

IMMUNIZATIONS

State law requires students to be immunized against hepatitis B, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus and varicella prior to enrollment in school. Students are required to be immunized against varicella or provide month/year the student had the chickenpox. Proof of immunizations is required. You must either have met immunization requirements for enrollment or be working toward completing requirements as fast as medically possible to be provisionally enrolled or receive an exemption.

The cost of immunizations and any required documentation shall be borne by the parent or guardian, not the Nebraska City Public School district.

LIBRARY

Books may be checked out of the library for two weeks. The student is responsible for any damage to the book and if any book is lost, report cards can be held until restitution is made.

Each elementary school has a library collection, accessible to students and teachers at all times. A library aide is usually on duty or available for assistance.

LOST AND FOUND

The school office will manage all lost and found items turned into the office. Parents and students are encouraged to check in with the office if an item was lost at school. The school is not liable for any items that were brought to school and lost on school grounds. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

Pupils are discouraged from bringing costly items or large sums of money to school. Parents are advised to mark children's clothing and possessions.

MEDICATIONS

Please do not send any medication to school with your child unless absolutely necessary. Dosages for medicines should be arranged to be given during non-school hours if possible. If medications must be given during school hours, the medication must be kept in the office. A permission form listing the student's name, the name of the medication, amount of medicine to be given, and the reason for the medication must be filled out and given to the office. For any long-term prescription medications, the form must have a doctor's signature. Forms are available in the office. Over-the-counter medications must be in the original container and age appropriate. Prescription medications must be in the original prescription bottle, labeled with the student's name, name of the medication, dosage, and directions for administering. Parents assume responsibility for monitoring the effects of the medication.

NEBRASKA READS ACT

A student's ability to read is a critical predictor of academic and lifelong success. The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act (Section 79-2601-79-2607) ensures all students are ready for success in and beyond school. Starting in kindergarten, a strong reading policy and research-based programs help students get on track to grade level reading. The Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and the Nebraska READS initiative are designed to give students every opportunity to gain proficiency in early literacy skills that will support the later growth of comprehension skills and analysis of complex text.

To comply with the Nebraska Reads Act, Nebraska City schools will utilize the NWEA Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment to identify students who qualify for the Nebraska Reads Act in grades K-3. The MAP assessment will be given three times during the school year. If a child qualifies based on the state determined scores, parents will be notified and a Individualized Reading Plan (IRiP) will be developed for the child. If a child who previously qualified, scores at or above the state score for two assessments in a row they will be exited from the IRiP.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

We are going to request at least two scheduled conferences with you during the 1st and 3rd quarters. Additional conferences may be initiated by either the parent or the teacher at any time. Conferences help the teacher to understand the child and in many cases bring the parents into a closer working relationship with the school.

PARTIES & PARTY INVITATIONS

Various parties may be held each year: This includes: Halloween, Christmas and Valentine's Day. Times will vary and will be determined by the staff in each school.

Please try and arrange for private party invitations to be delivered outside of the school day.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator. The school is not responsible for damaged or lost personal items or equipment.

PETS

Please see that dogs and other pets are kept home and not allowed to follow pupils to school. If a child has a special pet he would enjoy showing to his classmates, he may do so if previous arrangements have been made with his teacher and that a parent accompanies the pet to the classroom for a short visit. It has been the school's policy to call the dog pound or police for unclaimed or unidentified pets.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographs and videos of students may be used for educational purposes in demonstrations and web pages. Individual students will not be identified in photographs and videos used in educational demonstrations and web pages without parent permission.

PROPERTY DAMAGE OR LOSS

Students will be charged for malicious damage to school property. Fines will be assessed at the end of the school year for lost or damaged books.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards are given out at the end of each quarter.

SEARCHES

All property owned by the Nebraska City Public School District including lockers assigned to students, book bags, and vehicles on property owned by the Nebraska City Public Schools may be inspected by school authorities at any time. Items found as a result of such inspections will be turned over to the building principal.

SCHOOL CLOSING INFORMATION

In all cases of inclement weather or for any other reason that schools are closed, the information will be given over the local radio stations. If school is closed in the middle of the day, schools will be kept open until all children have left. The principal may excuse teachers when they are no longer needed to supervise pupils.

Parents who have baby-sitters should give them the above information and any other information pertaining to school activities.

STAFF QUALIFICATIONS

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001 gives parents the right to acquire information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, the Nebraska City Public Schools will give parents the following information about their child's classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met State qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher. Parents may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline or the certification or degree.

NCPS will also, upon request and in a timely manner, tell parents whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the qualifications of the paraprofessional. The request for information should be made to the administrator of the child's building. The District will also give parents timely notice if the child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the NCLB Act.

TELEPHONE CALLS

Students must ask permission of a teacher or the secretary before using the school telephone. Phone calls are to be limited to those of necessity only. Students will not be called out of class for a telephone call unless it is an emergency.

VISITORS

Parents are encouraged to visit school anytime except the first week and the last two weeks of school. For safety reasons, all visitors are required to check in at the Office to receive a Visitor's Badge. If you plan to observe a classroom or other instructional activity please refer to our *classroom visit procedures* on page 5-6.

Section II

CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT

The Code of Nebraska requires all school employees to report suspected child abuse or willful neglect. Reporting shall be both written and orally to the Child Abuse Center of the local Department of Public Welfare. If there is reason to believe that immediate protection for the child is advisable, an oral report shall also be made to any appropriate law enforcement agency. Anyone participating in good faith in these procedures shall have immunity from any liability, civil or criminal. Laws providing communication shall not apply in cases of suspected child abuse or neglect. Any school employee who knowingly and willfully fails to report suspected child abuse is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Emergency Operations

Nebraska City School Board is committed to providing all students and staff a safe environment. Emergency Operations teams are in place to: perform threat assessment, provide safety training, and respond in times of crisis.

Threat Assessment: The Emergency Operations team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations.

Safety Training: Provide information and training to students and staff including, but not limited to:

Evacuate and Bus Drills - Evacuate and Bus evacuation drills at regular intervals are required by law and are an important safety precaution. It is essential that when the first signal is given everyone obeys orders promptly and clears the building or vehicles by the prescribed route as quickly as possible. The teacher in each classroom or vehicle will give the students instructions.

Lockdown Procedures - A lockdown may be called by the building principal or other designee if he or she has reason to believe that the students and staff may be in danger. In such cases, students and staff will remain in a locked classroom. They must move away from windows and doors. Students and staff must remain quiet at all times. In the event of a lockdown, for their safety, students will not be allowed to leave the building. Parents will not be free to pick up their child during the lockdown. The Nebraska City Police Department will be notified of the school lockdown and required to offer assistance.

Secure Procedures – A lockout may be called by the building principal or other designee if he or she has reason to believe that a threat is possible from outside the building. In such cases, all exterior doors will be locked with no one (including parents and staff) being allowed to enter or exit the building. All classes will proceed as normal within the building.

Shelter Drill- The alarm for an adverse weather drill will be an intercom announcement. Students will proceed to the first floor, and then all boys will use the west stairway to the shower area of the boy's locker room. Girls will use the east stairway to the girl's locker room. At all times during the drill, **THERE WILL BE SILENCE** so as to hear approaching danger and to be able to hear instructions. Once in the locker rooms students must remain quiet until the **"ALL CLEAR"** is sounded. A verbal announcement will send students back to classes.

Crisis: Emergency Operation team members will be available to students and staff in the event of a crisis. Information will be communicated to stakeholders through parent email and/or mass phone call/text.

EVIDENCE OF BIRTH DATE

Upon admission to the Nebraska City Public Schools the parents/legal guardian of any child preschool to grade 12, shall furnish (a) a certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, or (b) other reliable proof of the child's identify and age, (i.e. naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records) accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

An affidavit is defined as a notarized statement by an individual who can verify the reason a copy of the birth certificate cannot be produced. If the parents/legal guardian fails to provide this information, they will receive in writing a statement explaining the need for them to provide this information within thirty days. If the parents/legal guardian fails to comply with this request within 30 days the school shall notify them in writing that they need to comply within 10 days. If compliance is not obtained within that 10-day period, the school shall immediately report the matter to the Nebraska City Police Department for investigation. If the affidavit requested appears inaccurate or suspicious in form or content, this shall be reported immediately to the Nebraska City Police Department.

FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS & PRIVACY ACT (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) (20 U.S.C. § 1232g; 34 CFR Part 99) is a Federal law that protects the privacy of student education records. The law applies to all schools that receive funds under an applicable program of the U.S. Department of Education. Nebraska City Public Schools must have written permission from the parent or eligible student in order to release any information from a student's education record. However, FERPA allows schools to disclose those records, without consent, to the following parties or under the following conditions (34 CFR § 99.31):

- o School officials with legitimate educational interest
- o Other schools to which a student is transferring
- o Specified officials for audit or evaluation purposes
- o Appropriate parties in connection with financial aid to a student
- o Organizations conducting certain studies for or on behalf of the school
- o Accrediting organizations
- o To comply with a judicial order or lawfully issued subpoena
- o Appropriate officials in cases of health and safety emergencies
- o State and local authorities, within a juvenile justice system, pursuant to specific State law

Schools may disclose, without consent, "directory" information such as a student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, honors and awards, and dates of attendance. However, schools must tell parents and eligible students about directory information and allow parents and eligible students a reasonable amount of time to request that the school not disclose directory information about them. Schools must notify parents and eligible students annually of their rights under FERPA. The actual means of notification for Nebraska City Public Schools is accomplished through student handbooks, the district newsletter, in the annual report, and on the district website at <http://www.nebcity.esu6.org>. If you as a parent do not want directory information shared, please submit this request in writing to the building principal by September 1st of each year.

MISSING PERSONS:

A missing person shall mean a person 16 years or younger reported to any law enforcement agency as abducted or lost. Upon notification by the Nebraska State Patrol of a missing student, the school will flag the student's records in such a way that any personnel looking at such birth certificate or record shall be alerted to the fact that that birth certificate or record is of a missing person. Any school requested to forward a copy of a transferred student's record shall not forward such record to the requesting school if the record has been flagged as that of a missing person. The school will notify the Nebraska City Police Department of the request and that the student is a reported missing person. Any school or person acting on behalf of a school shall be immune from civil and criminal liability for acts or omissions, which occur as a result of the requirements of the Missing Children Identification Act.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The Nebraska City Public Schools, after having conducted a public hearing concerning parental involvement and participation in the school district, determined that it shall be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to provide access to parents to all textbooks, tests, curriculum materials, and any other instructional materials used by the school.

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools, in the event that any parent has a complaint or objection concerning any materials to make available personal conferences for the parent and appropriate school personnel to discuss those concerns identified. The district will prepare a complaint form, which may be used by any parent to express objections to particular instructional materials. The complaint forms will seek information including, but not limited to, the specific instructional material that has been identified for the complaint, the reason for the complaint, and a proposed solution for resolving the complaint from the parent's perspective. The Administration will respond in writing to the person filing the complaint with an appropriate response. (Ref. 79-4, 244 [1])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to permit parents, upon a reasonable advance request, to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other activities (such as FBLA, DECA, FFA, etc). (Ref. 79-4, 244 [2])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to encourage communications from parents concerning when a parent believes it to be appropriate for their student to be excused from testing, classroom instruction, and other school experiences that the parent finds objectionable. The school district shall include a provision in the complaint form to receive information from a parent concerning what specific testing, classroom instruction, or other school experience the parent finds objectionable, the basis for the parent's objection, and proposed solution for dealing with the objection that would be satisfactory to the parent. (Ref. 79-4, 244[3])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to provide full access to the records of the students to the parent or guardian as set forth in State of Nebraska Law 79-4,157 and the Federal Education Right to Privacy Act during regular business hours of the school or wherever the student's records may regularly be maintained by the district. (Ref. 79-4, 244[4])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to notify, through normal means (i.e. school newsletters), a parent or guardian of any student who will be asked to complete a standard norm referenced or criterion referenced test. Parents will be notified, when it is reasonable to do so, where a sample of these tests might be reviewed and the date upon which the tests will be administered. (Ref. 79-4, 244 [5])

Prior to any school sponsored survey being administered to the students of the district, it shall be the duty of the schools to notify the parent or guardian of each student involved in the survey the nature of the survey, the date and time when the survey will be administered, and the proposed use of the survey results. Any parent, who requests in writing that their student be excused from completing the survey, shall have the request honored. (Ref. 79-4, 244 [6])

It shall also be the policy of the Nebraska City Public Schools to prohibit any diminution in grade, credit, or other detriment to the student as a result of having been excused from any school experience or school activity because of objections by their parent or guardian under this policy. This policy shall be reviewed, on a periodic basis, by the Education Committee of the Nebraska City Public Schools Board of Education. Policy Approved August 11, 2003.

PHYSICAL EXAM AND VISION EVALUATION

Physical Exam:

- *Admission to school requires submission of evidence of a physical examination within six months prior to entrance into the beginner grade (Kindergarten or, if Kindergarten is not attended, the first grade) and in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any grade.

- *Evidence of a physical examination is also required within six months prior to entrance in the seventh grade.

Vision Evaluation:

- *Admission to school requires submission of evidence of a visual evaluation within six months prior to entrance into the beginner grade (Kindergarten or, if Kindergarten is not attended, the first grade) and in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any grade.

A student who fails to meet the foregoing requirements shall not be permitted to enroll or to enter school, or if provisionally enrolled or enrolled without compliance, shall not be permitted to continue in school until evidence of compliance or an exemption from compliance is given.

The cost of the physical examination and vision evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian.

RIGHTS OF CUSTODIAL & NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term "custodial parent" refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students' records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent's request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents' behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated in the Nebraska City Public Schools. Students should report any concerns or questions to a teacher, school counselor, or the administration. The incident will be investigated and appropriate actions may be taken.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICE

The Nebraska City Public Schools provide a service designed to identify children (birth to age 21) who may be at risk for learning and could benefit from special services. Children who display delays in learning, coordination, emotional development, language and speech development, or have physical, visual, or hearing impairments may qualify to receive free assistance if you live in the Nebraska City Public School District.

If your child is found eligible for services, an individual educational program will be developed by you, the parent, with the people who will help you meet your child's special needs. These people can include a teacher, speech pathologist, occupational and physical therapists or others. The program will build on your child's strengths and improve areas of weakness. The program will provide support, encouragement, and assistance for you in working with your child. For more information, contact your school principal.

Students with disabilities and their families have specific rights outlined in state and federal law, including administrative processes by which they may challenge the educational services being provided by the school district. Therefore, the appeal process contained in this policy may not be used to challenge decisions made by a student's individualized education plan (IEP) team or 504 team.

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student with a disability, including but not limited to services provided to a student with an IEP, access to curricular and extracurricular activities, and educational placement must be submitted to the school district's Director of Special Education. The Director of Special Education will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of IDEA Parental Rights promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Complaints about the educational services provided a student with a disability pursuant to a Section 504 plan must be submitted to the school district's 504 Coordinator. The 504 Coordinator will address the complaint in a manner that he/she deems appropriate and will provide the complainant with a copy of the Notice of Section 504 Parental Rights adopted by the board of education.

STUDENT FEES, MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS AND FINES POLICY

The Board of Education of the Nebraska City Public Schools authorizes the school staff to assess fees, charges or fines to students, as provided by the Public Elementary and Secondary Fee Authorization Act. Student fees authorized by this act include:

- Participation in school sponsored extracurricular activities, which do not count toward graduation.
- Admission fees and transportation charges for spectators attending extracurricular activities.
- Post secondary education costs for tuition and other expenses associated with obtaining credit from a post secondary educational institution.
- Transportation for option enrollment students.
- Reimbursement for school district property lost or damaged by a student.
- Summer school or night school.
- Breakfast and lunch programs.

Students and their parents are expected to provide minor personal or consumable items for specific courses and activities, such as pencils, pens, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, paper, folders, markers, erasers, glue sticks, notebooks, binders, tissues, rulers, calculators, computer disks, book bags, physical education clothing / shoes that conform to the general guideline for student dress and other supplies as needed.

A public hearing on student fees will be held on the proposed fees and other items expected to be furnished by students. The adopted fee policy will be published in the student handbooks.

When a student maintains possession of project course materials upon completion, the student and their parent may provide the materials for that project or pay the school for the consumable materials used for that project.

All money collected from the students will be deposited in the Student Fee Fund. Money will be expended from the Student Fee Fund for the purposes for which the money was collected from students.

The Board recognizes that some students and their families are not financially able to pay the fees or provide the items expected by the school. Fees may be waived for students that qualify for the federal free and reduced lunch program. Applications to have fees waived are available upon request and must be filled out prior to fees being waived. Students qualifying for, but not participating in, the free or reduced lunch program may still submit the student waiver fee.

The board will annually determine the dollar amount to be charged to students or others for fees. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACCEPTABLE USE POLICY

Nebraska City Public Schools will provide telecommunications access to students and staff for the purpose of enhancing the delivery of educational services and improving the productivity of offices, departments, and other organizations within the district. This access is limited to educational, career, and professional development activities.

The use of this telecommunication access is a privilege, not a right. Inappropriate use may result in limitation or cancellation of such privileges. Actions taken for inappropriate use will be determined by the district's disciplinary codes as well as local, state, and federal laws.

The district will enforce acceptable use regulations by providing for the supervision and regulation of learning activities requiring access to telecommunication systems.

THREAT ASSESSMENT & RESPONSE

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Definitions

- a. A **threat** is an expression of a willful intent to physically or sexually harm someone or to damage property in a way that indicates that an individual poses a danger to the safety of school staff, students or other members of the school community.
 - i. The threat may be expressed/communicated behaviorally, orally, visually, in writing, electronically, or through any other means.
 - ii. A **transient threat** is an expression of anger or frustration that can be quickly or easily resolved.
 - iii. A **substantive threat** is an expression of serious intent to harm others which includes, but is not limited to, any threat which involves a detailed plan and means.
- b. A **threat assessment** is a fact-based process emphasizing an appraisal of observed (or reasonably-observable) behaviors to identify potentially dangerous or violent situations, to assess them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of identifying and responding to serious threats in a systematic, data-informed way.

- i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
- ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such reports regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

3. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of NCPS administration, NCPS staff, and Nebraska City Police Department. Not every team member needs to participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

The team is responsible for investigating all reported threats to school safety, evaluating the significance of each threat, and devising an appropriate response. The threat assessment team shall work closely with the crisis team in planning for crisis situations. The threat assessment team shall be familiar with mental health resources available to students, staff and patrons and shall collaborate with local mental health service providers as appropriate.

4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

When a threat is reported, the school administrator shall initiate an initial inquiry/triage and, in consultation with members of the threat assessment team, make a determination of the seriousness of the threat as expeditiously as possible. The school administrator must contact law enforcement if the administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

If there is no reasonably apparent imminent threat present or once such an imminent threat is contained, the threat assessment team will meet to evaluate and respond to the threatening behavior. The team may, but is not required to, review the following types of information:

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the team will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The team is authorized to disclose the results of its investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The team may refer the individual of concern to the appropriate school administrator for consequences under the school's student discipline policy or, if appropriate, report the results of its investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

Regardless of threat assessment activities, disciplinary action and referral to law enforcement will occur consistent with board policy and Nebraska law.

5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

The team will keep members of the school community appropriately informed about substantive threats and about the team's response to those threats. This communication may include oral announcements, written communication sent home with students, or communication through print or broadcast media. However, the team will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

6. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The threat assessment team will confer with the district's crisis team after a threat has been investigated to provide the crisis team with information that the crisis team may use in assessing or revising the district's School Safety Plan.

TITLE IX- Notice of Non-Discrimination Policy to be attached here upon board approval

UNIVERSAL SCREENING

The District will conduct various screenings (such as the SAEBRS universal screener) throughout the year to identify students with academic, behavioral, or social-emotional concerns. All District screening tools are norm-referenced and research-based. Any parent/guardian who does not consent to the screening of his/her student must notify the Director of Student Services at the beginning of the school year.

USDA Non-Discrimination Policy

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the school district. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

VIDEO and AUDIO RECORDINGS

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

This policy applies to students 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. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student's education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student's education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules.

An exception will be made to this policy if photographs or audio or video recordings are necessary to accommodate a student's disability or are required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

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. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Nebraska City Public Schools

Title 1 School-Parent-Child Compact

This compact outlines how parents, school staff, and the students at Northside Elementary will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement, and the means by which the school and parents will maintain ongoing communication to build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

This school-parent-child compact is in effect during the 2024-2025 school year.

Northside Staff	Parents	Students
Small group instruction based on student need.	Monitor attendance	Put forth our best effort throughout the school day.
Hold parent-teacher conferences two times a year, during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement.	Participating in parent policy and advisory groups, to the extent possible.	Do homework every day and ask for help, when needed.
Provide at least four progress reports during the school year.	Participate in decisions related to our children's education.	Read every day, outside of school time.
Provide parents reasonable access to teachers through flexible appointments.	Promoting positive use of our children's time outside of school.	Give our parents all notices and information received from school each day.
Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities.	Make sure homework is complete.	Ask questions if you don't understand something.
Provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards.	Stay informed about our children's education and communicate with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school and responding, as appropriate.	

Nebraska City Public Schools

High School



Chromebook Policy & Usage Handbook

2025-2026

The policies, procedures, and information within this document apply to all Chromebooks used at Nebraska City Public Schools by students including any other device considered by the Administration to fall under these policies.

Receiving Your Chromebook

1. Parent/Guardian Orientation

All parents/guardians are required to sign the Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Agreement before a Chromebook can be issued to their student.

2. Distribution

Students in grades 9-12 will receive their Chromebooks the first day of school. Students and parents must sign the NCPS Student Chromebook Receipt prior to receiving their Chromebook.

3. Transfer/New Student Distribution

All transfers/new students will be able to pick up their Chromebook after successful completion of an orientation/training. Both students and their parents/guardians must sign the Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Agreement prior to picking up a Chromebook.

Chromebook Check-in

1. End of Day

Students who purchase the annual Protection Plan will have the opportunity to take the chromebook home. Students who chose not to purchase the Protection Plan will need to check-out/check-in the chromebook each school day.

2. End of Year

At the end of the school year, students will turn in their Chromebooks and all issued peripherals. Failure to turn in a Chromebook will result in the student being charged the full \$240.00 replacement cost. The district may also file a report of stolen property with the Nebraska City Police Department.

3. Transferring/Withdrawing Students

Students who transfer out of or withdraw from the Nebraska City Public Schools must turn in their Chromebooks and cases to the Media Center on their last day of attendance. Failure to turn in the Chromebook will result in the student being charged the full replacement cost. Unpaid fines and fees of students leaving the Nebraska City Public Schools may be turned over to a collection agency. The district may also file a report of stolen property with the Nebraska City Police Department.

Purchasing Your Chromebook

Upon successful completion of all graduation requirements, students will have the opportunity to purchase their chromebook at a significantly reduced cost. For every year the student has purchased the "Annual Protection Plan", and the Protection Plan wasn't used towards repairs, that money will be put towards the cost of the chromebook.

Cost of Chromebook (based upon purchase of Protection Plan every year with no repairs needed during the year) will be:

Paying one year of insurance: \$175
Paying two years of insurance: \$115
Paying three years of insurance: \$55
Paying four years of insurance: \$0

Note: Several factors, including depreciation of chromebook, were taken into consideration when figuring cost to a graduate.

Training

Students will receive regular training during class time to address care and usage of the Chromebook as well as usage of Google Apps (nebcityps.org accounts). Regular Digital Citizenship training will also be provided during school to address respectful, responsible, and ethical use of the internet and digital tools.

Protection Plan

Nebraska City Public Schools recommends that the Protection Plan be purchased prior to the deployment of the Chromebook to your child. The Protection Plan cost is \$25.00 annually for each Chromebook. ***Purchasing the Protection Plan will allow the student to take the chromebook home.*** Each claim covered by Protection Plan will be assessed an incremental deductible within the current school year. The first claim deductibles are listed in “estimated costs”. If a student withdraws from Nebraska City Public Schools and then re-enrolls later in the current school year, the coverage purchased at the student’s initial registration will be reinstated along with the number of claims made prior to withdrawal.

Annual Protection Plan due at Registration - \$25 *(Please see “Estimated Costs” for Protection Plan and repair information)*

Taking Care of Your Chromebook

Students are responsible for the general care of the Chromebook which they have been issued by the school. Chromebooks that are broken or fail to work properly must be taken to the NCPS Technology Office. If a loaner Chromebook is needed, one will be issued, *at the discretion of the administration*, to the student until their Chromebook can be repaired or replaced.

General Precautions

- No food or drink should be next to your Chromebook while it is in use.
- Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into the Chromebook.
- Students should never carry their Chromebook while the screen is open unless directed to do so by a teacher.

- Chromebooks should not be used with the power cord plugged in when the cord may be a tripping hazard.
- Chromebooks must remain free of any writing, drawing, stickers, or labels.
- Chromebooks should be shut down when not in use to conserve battery life.
- Chromebooks should never be shoved into a locker or wedged into a book bag as this may break the screen.
- Heavy objects should never be placed on top of Chromebooks. This includes but is not limited to textbooks, trappers, etc...

Carrying Chromebooks

- Always transport Chromebooks with care.
- Never lift Chromebooks by the screen.
- Never carry Chromebooks with the screen open.

Screen Care

- The Chromebook screen can be damaged if subjected to heavy objects, rough treatment, some cleaning solvents, and other liquids. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure.
- Do not put pressure on the top of a Chromebook when it is closed.
- Do not store a Chromebook with the screen open.
- Make sure there is nothing on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pens, pencils, or disks).
- Only clean the screen with a soft, dry microfiber cloth or anti-static cloth.

Using Your Chromebook

- A student borrowing a Chromebook must sign a loaner agreement and will be responsible for any damage to or loss of the issued device.
- District personnel will document the number of times a loaner is issued to each student for not having his/her own Chromebook at school and will send reports to administration for students who have excessive occurrences during the school year.
- The students that obtain a loaner will be responsible for returning the borrowed device to the Nebraska City High School Media Center before 3:40 pm.
- If a loaner is not turned in by 3:40 pm, a report will be filed with the and the administrator will work on retrieving the loaner.

Chromebooks being repaired

- Loaner Chromebooks may be issued to students when they leave their school-issued Chromebook for repair.
- A student borrowing a Chromebook must sign a loaner agreement and will be responsible for any damage to or loss of the loaned device.

- The Media Center staff will contact students when their devices are repaired and available to be picked up.

Charging Chromebooks

- Students are responsible for plugging in their Chromebooks in the appropriate storage case at the end of the school day.
- Students will be assigned to a designated charging station and must use that location only.
- Students arriving late to school or leaving prior to the end of the school day must obtain or return their device at the nearest break in the school day. Causing disruptions to class will not be allowed.

Personalizing the Chromebook

Chromebooks must remain free of any decorative writing, drawing, stickers, paint, tape, or labels that are not the property of the Nebraska City Public Schools. Spot checks for compliance will be done by administration, classified staff, certified staff or any other district personnel.

Students may add appropriate music, photos, and videos to their Chromebook. Media needed for educational purposes are subject to inspection and must follow the Nebraska City Public Schools acceptable use policy.

Sound

- Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from a teacher.
- Earbuds may be used at the discretion of the teachers. Students are responsible for providing their own earbuds.

Printing

- Students will be encouraged to digitally publish and share their work with their teachers and peers when appropriate.
- Chromebooks **WILL NOT** be setup for printing at school.

Logging into a Chromebook

- Students will log into their Chromebooks using their school-issued Google Apps for Education (@nebcityps.org) account.
- Students should never share their account passwords with others. In the event of a compromised account the Nebraska City Public Schools Technology Department reserves the right to disable your account.

Operating System and Security

Students may not use or install any operating system on their Chromebook other than the current version of Chrome OS that is supported and managed by the district.

No Expectation of Privacy

Device...Network....and accounts

- Students have no expectation of confidentiality or privacy with respect to any usage of a Chromebook, regardless of whether that use is for district related or personal purposes, other than as specifically provided by law.
- The district may, without prior notice or consent, log, supervise, access, view, monitor, and record use of student Chromebooks at any time for any reason related to the operation of the district. By using a Chromebook, students agree to such access, monitoring, and recording of their use.

Monitoring Software

Teachers, school administrators, and the technology department staff may use monitoring software that allows them to view the screens and activity on student Chromebooks.

Updates

The Chromebook operating system, Chrome OS, updates itself automatically. Students do not need to manually update their Chromebooks.

Content Filter

The district utilizes an Internet content filter that is in compliance with the federally mandated Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). All Chromebooks, regardless of physical location (in or out of school), will have all Internet activity protected and monitored by the district. If a website is blocked in school, then it will be blocked out of school. If an educationally valuable site is blocked, students should contact school personnel, who in turn, will submit a Helpdesk ticket to request the site be unblocked.

Inspection

Students may be selected at random to provide their Chromebook for inspection. The purpose for inspection will be to check for proper care and maintenance as well as inappropriate material being carried into the school.

Software on Chromebooks

Originally Installed Software

- Chromebook software is delivered via the Chrome Web Store. These are web-based applications that do not require installation space on a hard drive. Some applications, such as Google Drive, are available for offline use. The software originally installed on the Chromebook must remain on the Chromebook in usable condition and be easily accessible at all times.
- All Chromebooks are supplied with the latest build of Google Chrome Operating System (OS), and many other applications useful in an educational environment. The Chrome OS will automatically install updates when the computer is idle or restarted.

Google Apps for Education (nebcityps.org accounts)

- Chromebooks seamlessly integrate with the Google Apps for Education suite of productivity and collaboration tools. This suite includes Google Docs (word processing), Spreadsheets, Presentations, Drawings, Forms, Sites, Gmail, Groups, Voice, and Blogger.
- All work is stored within Google Apps.
- All nebcityps.org accounts shall be governed by the same policies whether they are accessed on-site or off-site.

Additional Apps and Extensions

Students are unable to install additional apps and extensions on their Chromebook other than what has been approved by the Nebraska City Public Schools.

Repairing or Replacing Your Chromebook

Tech Support

All Chromebooks in need of repair must be brought to the media center at Nebraska City High School as soon as possible.

Vendor Warranty

- Chromebooks include a one year hardware warranty from the vendor.
- The vendor warrants the Chromebook from defects in materials and workmanship.

- The limited warranty covers normal use, mechanical breakdown, and faulty construction. The vendor will provide normal replacement parts necessary to repair the Chromebook or, if required, a Chromebook replacement.
- The vendor warranty does not warrant against damage caused by misuse, abuse, or accidents.
- All repair work must be reported to the Nebraska City Public Schools Technology Helpdesk.

Estimated Costs (*subject to change*)

The use of this device compares to that of a textbook. Fines will be assessed based on the nature of the damage and the cost to repair or replace the device. **Parents/Students will be charged for full replacement cost of a device that has been damaged due to intentional misuse or abuse.**

Estimated cost to repair/replace:

Screen - \$60

Keyboard/Top Cover - \$50

Charger - \$40

Battery - \$50

Total Replacement - \$240

Chromebook Technical Support

The Nebraska City High School media center will be the first point of contact for repair of the Chromebooks. Services provided include:

- Password Identification
- User account support
- Coordination of warranty repair
- Distribution of replacement Chromebooks
- Hardware maintenance and repair
- Operating System or software configuration support
- Restoring Chromebook to factory default
- System software updates

Appropriate Uses and Digital Citizenship

School-issued devices should be used for educational purposes and students are to adhere to the Acceptable Use of Technology and all of its corresponding administrative procedures at all times.

If students need to sign up for specific services on their device, they should **ALWAYS** use their nebcityps.org account because this is issued by the school. Students should not use other accounts (Gmail, Yahoo, etc.) when signing up for these services. While working in a digital and collaborative environment, students should always conduct themselves as good digital citizens by adhering to the following:

1. **Be Respectful** . I will show respect for myself through my actions. I will select online names that are appropriate. I will use caution with the information, images, and other media

that I post online. I will carefully consider what personal information about my life, experiences, or relationships I post. I will not be obscene. I will act with integrity.

2. **Be Responsible.** I will ensure that the information, images, and materials I post online will not put me at risk. I will not publish my personal details, contact details, or a schedule of my activities. I will report any attacks or inappropriate behavior directed at me while online. I will protect passwords, accounts, and resources.

3. **Be Safe and Respectful.** I will show respect to others. I will not use electronic mediums to antagonize, bully, harass, or stalk people. I will show respect for other people in my choice of websites: I will not visit sites that are degrading to others, pornographic, racist, or inappropriate.

4. **Be Safe.** I will protect others by reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications. I will avoid unacceptable materials and conversations.

5. **Be Responsible.** I will request permission to use copyrighted or otherwise protected materials. I will suitably cite all uses of websites, books, media, etc. I will acknowledge all primary sources. I will validate information. I will use and abide by the fair use rules.

6. **Be Resourceful.** I will request to use the software and media others produce. I will purchase, license, and register all software or use available free and open source alternatives rather than pirating software. I will purchase my music and media and refrain from distributing these in a manner that violates their licenses.

Nebraska City Public Schools Internet Use, Safety, and Computer Use Policy

Nebraska City Public Schools Internet Access is to be used only for classroom related activities. This policy applies when using either school equipment or personal equipment on the district network. The administration reserves the right to refuse access to the Internet by Nebraska City Public Schools to anyone when it deems it necessary in the public interest.

Compliance with the Law and Use of Computers / Internet

Students, using the Internet, will follow all laws, policies, and rules governing computers. This includes (but is not limited to) copyright laws, software publisher's rights, license agreements, acts of terrorism, assault, threats, and student right of privacy. Students at Nebraska City Public Schools shall receive instruction in Internet Safety. This curriculum will include material related to appropriate "Access to Internet by Minors", cyber-bullying, and other topics that are relevant in encouraging digital citizenship. A copy of the scope and sequence or other outline of the Digital Citizenship Curriculum may be found in the district Curriculum Office and each school media center.

Access to the Internet by Minors (students under the age of 18) or Adults (over the age of 18)

Minors or adults shall:

1. Not access material that is obscene, pornography, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for education.
2. Not use Nebraska City Public Schools technology or Internet resources to engage in hacking or attempts to otherwise compromise any computer or network system's security.
3. Not engage in any illegal activities on the Internet.

4. Only use forms of direct electronic communications for the purposes related to education within the context of a Nebraska City Public Schools-related assignment or activity.
5. Not attempt to override or bypass any protection measure that has been put in place by Nebraska City Public Schools to block and/or filter access to Internet Sites that are not in accordance with policies of Nebraska City Public Schools.
6. Minors shall not disclose personal identification information on the Internet.

Policy Violations

Any violation of this policy may result in the loss of access to the Internet by the student/adult involved.

Additional disciplinary action may be determined in accordance with existing policies of the Nebraska City Public Schools, including applicable State and Federal laws.

Students shall be granted permission to access the Internet under the direction of a teacher upon receipt of the signed Acceptable Use Policy Signature form available from your local building administrator or media specialist.

Acceptable Use

- We believe that access to the Internet is an important educational resource for our students.
- We understand that although there are many valuable educational resources available, there are also unacceptable and offensive materials available on the Internet.
- We require efficient, ethical, courteous and legal utilization of the equipment, computers, and network resources.
 - As a safety precaution, full names or addresses are not to be revealed online.
 - Computer and network resources have been provided for educational purposes -game-playing and commercial uses are prohibited.
 - Sharing of individual accounts is prohibited.
 - Electronic mail (e-mail) and other computer use or storage is not guaranteed to be private or confidential. Network or other computer use or storage areas are and will be treated as school property. Computers, files and communications may be accessed and reviewed by district personnel and may be accessed by other computer users.
 - Chain letters and inter-relay chat are misuses of the system.
 - Vandalism or "hacking" of any kind is prohibited.
 - The security of the system and the rights of other users are to be respected at all times.
- Students or staff knowingly violating the terms of the agreement will be dealt with according to the discipline policies of the individual school building and Nebraska City Public Schools and/or civil authorities.
 - Such activities may result in termination of their account/access and/or expulsion from school and/or legal prosecution.
- Any problems which arise from the use of an account are the liability or responsibility of the user.

- By using the computers or network system, participants agree to indemnify and hold Nebraska City Public Schools harmless from any claims or damages arising from such use. Nebraska City Public School District makes no warranties for the information or the services provided.

Privacy and Safety

- Do not go into any chat rooms other than those set up and monitored by your teacher.
- Do not open, use, or change computer files that do not belong to you.
- Do not reveal your full name, phone number, home address, social security number, credit card numbers, passwords, or passwords of other people.
- Remember that network storage is not guaranteed to be private or confidential. District Administration reserves the right to inspect your files at any time and will take the necessary steps if files are in violation of the district's Acceptable Use Policy.
- If you inadvertently access a website that contains obscene, pornographic, or otherwise offensive material, notify a teacher or the principal immediately so that such sites can be blocked from further access. This is not merely a request. It is a responsibility.

Legal Propriety

- All students and staff must comply with trademark and copyright laws and all license agreements. Ignorance of the law is not immunity. If you are unsure, ask the media specialist or the Director of Technology, Media Specialist or other staff member if you are in compliance with the law.
- Plagiarism is a violation of the Nebraska City Public Schools code of conduct. Give credit to all sources used, whether quoted or summarized. This includes all forms of media on the Internet, such as graphics, movies, music, and text.

Communication Services (Email, chat, etc)

- Students in need of services for academic reasons will only be allowed access with administrative approval. Access to communication systems will be determined on educational need of service. Approval will be determined by the administration of Nebraska City Public Schools. All academic services are monitored by the Nebraska City Public Schools Technology Department and all correspondence sent or received through this system are archived and subject to filtering of inappropriate content.
- Always use appropriate language.
- Do not transmit language/material that is profane, obscene, abusive, or offensive to others.
- Do not send mass emails, chain letters, or spam.
- Entering chat rooms during class is strictly prohibited without instructions from the teacher and administration.

- All forms of correspondence are subject to inspection at any time by school administration.

Discipline Consequences

- The student or staff member whose name a system account and/or computer hardware is issued will be responsible at all times for its appropriate use. Non-compliance with the policies of the Chromebook Policy Handbook or the Nebraska City Public School's Acceptable Use Policy will result in disciplinary action as outlined by the student code of conduct and/or other school policies for the user unless there is proof that another is responsible.
- Electronic mail, network usage, and all stored files shall not be considered confidential and may be monitored at any time by the Nebraska City Public Schools Technology Department to ensure appropriate use. The Nebraska City Public Schools cooperates fully with local, state, and federal officials in any investigation concerning or relating to violations of computer crime laws.



CHROMEBOOK POLICY & USAGE RECEIPT OF NOTIFICATION AND UNDERSTANDING

The Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Policy and Usage Handbook is available on the NCPS website at www.nebcityps.org and is located under the Chromebooks link. The Nebraska City Public Schools Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) is on the backside of this document for your review. Your signature on this document states that you have read, understand, and agree to abide by the compliance requirements of Nebraska City Public Schools Policy regarding the use of computers and the Internet in the Nebraska City Public Schools. Your signature also states that you authorize Nebraska City Public Schools to create and utilize “cloud services” accounts that will be under the control of Nebraska City Public Schools, but which reside elsewhere on the Internet. (Certain cloud services require parental permission for students regardless of the level of control over the account granted to NCPS.) Additionally, as part of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative at Nebraska City Public Schools, the Nebraska City Public Schools is recommending the purchase of accidental damage Protection Plan prior to the deployment of the Chromebook to your child. Nebraska City Public Schools will be the sole provider of this Protection Plan. Under this Protection Plan agreement, the Chromebooks are protected against accidental damage or loss due to an act of nature. The Nebraska City Public Schools will require that a police report be submitted in cases of theft. Fraudulent reporting of theft will be turned over to the police for prosecution. A student making a false report will also be subject to disciplinary action as outlined by the school code of conduct. This Protection Plan policy does not cover for loss of the Chromebook and/or its accessories, cosmetic damage, or damages caused by intentional misuse and abuse. Nebraska City Public Schools will assess the Chromebook damage and repair or replace the device if the damage is determined to be accidental and within the protection guidelines.

Parents/Students will be charged for full replacement cost of a device that has been damaged due to intentional misuse or abuse.

Please check one of the following options:

- ☐ I accept and will abide by the Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Policy & Usage Handbook. **Additionally, I would like to purchase the Protection Plan through the Nebraska City Public Schools in the amount of \$25. I understand that my student will be able to take the device home.**
- ☐ I accept and will abide by the Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Policy & Usage Handbook. **I DO NOT wish to purchase Protection Plan through the Nebraska City Public Schools and understand that I am responsible for 100% of all damages. I understand that my student will not be able to take this device home.**
- ☐ I do not accept the Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Policy & Usage Handbook. I understand by not accepting the Chromebook Policy & Usage Handbook no device will be issued to student.

Printed Student Name

Grade

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature (REQUIRED)

Date

Intended Use

The device checked out to me is to be used in support of school related activities. **The device must accompany me at school every day school is in session.** Use of the device checked out by a teacher may include student use, and the device is configured with network connections to allow students to log in with their own accounts. Any software installed on the computer must be licensed by the district. The license agreement of installed “free” software must allow it to be free for educational organizations, not personal use.

I recognize that, as part of my handbook acceptance form, I have already agreed to comply with the school Internet Use and Safety Policy (5400.10) and Electronic Communication Devices Policy (4139.1/5400.13). Incidental personal use (occasional personal email or web surfing) is allowable at times when it does not interfere with school duties. At no time may the computer be used in a political campaign or for profit activity, including checking an email account related to other employment.

Nebraska City Public Schools Technology Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

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Administration reserves the right to refuse access to the Internet by Nebraska City Public Schools to anyone when it is deemed necessary in the public interest.

Compliance with Law and Use of Computers / Internet

Students, using the Internet, will follow all laws, policies, and rules governing computers. This includes (but is not limited to) copyright laws, software publisher’s rights, license agreements, acts of terrorism, assault, threats, and student right of privacy. Access to the Internet by Minors (students under the age of 18) or Adults (over the age of 18) Minors or adults shall:

- Not access material that is obscene, child pornography, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for education.
- Not use Nebraska City Public Schools technology or Internet resources to engage in hacking or attempts to otherwise compromise any computer or network system’s security.
- Not engage in any illegal activities on the Internet.
- Only use electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications for the purposes related to education within the context of a Nebraska City Public Schools related assignment or activity.
- Not attempt to override or bypass any protection measure that has been put in place by Nebraska City Public Schools to block and/or filter access to Internet Sites that are not in accordance with policies of Nebraska City Public Schools.

Minors shall not disclose personal identification information on the Internet.

Policy Violations

Any violation of the policy may result in the loss of access to the Internet by the student / adult involved. Additional disciplinary action may be determined in accordance with existing policies of the Nebraska City Public Schools, including applicable State and Federal laws. Students shall be granted permission to access the Internet under the direction of a teacher upon receipt of the signed Acceptable Use Policy Signature Form available from your building administrator or media specialist.

Nebraska City Public Schools

Middle School



Chromebook Policy & Usage Handbook

2025-2026

The policies, procedures, and information within this document apply to all Chromebooks used at Nebraska City Public Schools by students including any other device considered by the Administration to fall under these policies.

Receiving Your Chromebook

1. Parent/Guardian Orientation

All parents/guardians are required to attend an orientation and sign the Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Agreement before a Chromebook can be issued to their student.

2. Distribution

Students in grades 6-8 will receive access to Chromebooks the first day of school.

Students and parents must sign the NCPS Student Chromebook Receipt prior to receiving their Chromebook.

3. Chromebook Availability

Students will have access to Chromebooks in class and as available from NCMS. Students will not have individual Chromebooks assigned to them.

4. Transfer/New Student Distribution

All transfers/new students will be able to pick up their Chromebook after successful completion of an orientation/training. Both students and their parents/guardians must sign the Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Agreement prior to picking up a Chromebook.

Chromebook Check-in

1. End of Class/Day

Students will be responsible to check their assigned Chromebook into the box in the classroom. Students will not be allowed to remove or move CBs from a designated classroom without permission from staff.

2. End of Year

At the end of the school year, students will turn in their Chromebooks and all issued peripherals. Failure to turn in a Chromebook will result in the student being charged the full \$240.00 replacement cost. The district may also file a report of stolen property with the Nebraska City Police Department.

3. Transferring/Withdrawing Students

Students who transfer out of or withdraw from the Nebraska City Public Schools must turn in their Chromebooks and cases to the Media Center on their last day of attendance.

Failure to turn in the Chromebook will result in the student being charged the full replacement cost. Unpaid fines and fees of students leaving the Nebraska City Public Schools may be turned over to a collection agency. The district may also file a report of stolen property with the Nebraska City Police Department.

Training

Students will receive regular training during class time to address care and usage of the Chromebook as well as usage of Google Apps (nebcityps.org accounts). Regular Digital

Citizenship training will also be provided during school to address respectful, responsible, and ethical use of the internet and digital tools.

Taking Care of Your Chromebook

Students are responsible for the general care of the Chromebook which they have been issued by the school. Chromebooks that are broken or fail to work properly must be taken to the NCPS Technology Office. If a loaner Chromebook is needed, one will be issued to the student until their Chromebook can be repaired or replaced. Loaners are given at the discretion of NCPS administration.

General Precautions

- No food or drink should be next to your Chromebook while it is in use.
- Cords, cables, and removable storage devices must be inserted carefully into the Chromebook.
- Students should never carry their Chromebook while the screen is open unless directed to do so by a teacher.
- Chromebooks should not be used with the power cord plugged in when the cord may be a tripping hazard.
- Chromebooks must remain free of any writing, drawing, stickers, or labels.
- Chromebooks should be shut down when not in use to conserve battery life.
- Chromebooks should never be shoved into a locker or wedged into a book bag as this may break the screen.
- Heavy objects should never be placed on top of Chromebooks. This includes but is not limited to textbooks, trappers, etc...

Carrying Chromebooks

- Always transport Chromebooks with care.
- Never lift Chromebooks by the screen.
- Never carry Chromebooks with the screen open.

Screen Care

- The Chromebook screen can be damaged if subjected to heavy objects, rough treatment, some cleaning solvents, and other liquids. The screens are particularly sensitive to damage from excessive pressure.
- Do not put pressure on the top of a Chromebook when it is closed.
- Do not store a Chromebook with the screen open.
- Make sure there is nothing on the keyboard before closing the lid (e.g. pens, pencils, or disks).
- Only clean the screen with a soft, dry microfiber cloth or anti-static cloth.

Using Your Chromebook

- A student borrowing a Chromebook must sign a loaner agreement and will be responsible for any damage to or loss of the issued device.
- District personnel will document the number of times a loaner is issued to each student for not having his/her own Chromebook at school and will send reports to administration for students who have excessive occurrences during the school year.
- The students that obtain a loaner will be responsible for returning the borrowed device to the Nebraska City Middle School Media Center before 3:40 pm.
- If a loaner is not turned in by 3:40 pm, a report will be filed with the and the administrator will work on retrieving the loaner.

Chromebooks being repaired

- Loaner Chromebooks may be issued to students when they leave their school-issued Chromebook for repair.
- A student borrowing a Chromebook must sign a loaner agreement and will be responsible for any damage to or loss of the loaned device.
- The Media Center staff will contact students when their devices are repaired and available to be picked up.

Charging Chromebooks

- Students are responsible for plugging in their Chromebooks in the appropriate storage case at the end of the school day.
- Students will be assigned to a designated charging station and must use that location only.
- Students arriving late to school or leaving prior to the end of the school day must obtain or return their device at the nearest break in the school day. Causing disruptions to class will not be allowed.

Personalizing the Chromebook

Chromebooks must remain free of any decorative writing, drawing, stickers, paint, tape, or labels that are not the property of the Nebraska City Public Schools. Spot checks for compliance will be done by administration, classified staff, certified staff or any other district personnel.

Students may add appropriate music, photos, and videos to their Chromebook. Media needed for educational purposes are subject to inspection and must follow the Nebraska City Public Schools acceptable use policy.

Sound

- Sound must be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from a teacher.
- Earbuds may be used at the discretion of the teachers. Students are responsible for providing their own earbuds.

Printing

- Students will be encouraged to digitally publish and share their work with their teachers and peers when appropriate.
- Chromebooks **WILL NOT** be setup for printing at school.

Logging into a Chromebook

- Students will log into their Chromebooks using their school-issued Google Apps for Education (@nebcityps.org) account.
- Students should never share their account passwords with others. In the event of a compromised account the Nebraska City Public Schools Technology Department reserves the right to disable your account.

Operating System and Security

Students may not use or install any operating system on their Chromebook other than the current version of Chrome OS that is supported and managed by the district.

No Expectation of Privacy

Device...Network....and accounts

- Students have no expectation of confidentiality or privacy with respect to any usage of a Chromebook, regardless of whether that use is for district related or personal purposes, other than as specifically provided by law.
- The district may, without prior notice or consent, log, supervise, access, view, monitor, and record use of student Chromebooks at any time for any reason related to the operation of the district. By using a Chromebook, students agree to such access, monitoring, and recording of their use.

Monitoring Software

Teachers, school administrators, and the technology department staff may use monitoring software that allows them to view the screens and activity on student Chromebooks.

Updates

The Chromebook operating system, Chrome OS, updates itself automatically. Students do not need to manually update their Chromebooks.

Content Filter

The district utilizes an Internet content filter that is in compliance with the federally mandated Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA). All Chromebooks, regardless of physical location (in or out of school), will have all Internet activity protected and monitored by the district. If a website is blocked in school, then it will be blocked out of school. If an educationally valuable site is blocked, students should contact school personnel, who in turn, will submit a Helpdesk ticket to request the site be unblocked.

Inspection

Students may be selected at random to provide their Chromebook for inspection. The purpose for inspection will be to check for proper care and maintenance as well as inappropriate material being carried into the school.

Software on Chromebooks

Originally Installed Software

- Chromebook software is delivered via the Chrome Web Store. These are web-based applications that do not require installation space on a hard drive. Some applications, such as Google Drive, are available for offline use. The software originally installed on the Chromebook must remain on the Chromebook in usable condition and be easily accessible at all times.
- All Chromebooks are supplied with the latest build of Google Chrome Operating System (OS), and many other applications useful in an educational environment. The Chrome OS will automatically install updates when the computer is idle or restarted.

Google Apps for Education (nebcityps.org accounts)

- Chromebooks seamlessly integrate with the Google Apps for Education suite of productivity and collaboration tools. This suite includes Google Docs (word processing), Spreadsheets, Presentations, Drawings, Forms, Sites, Gmail, Groups, Voice, and Blogger.
- All work is stored within Google Apps.

- All nebcityps.org accounts shall be governed by the same policies whether they are accessed on-site or off-site.

Additional Apps and Extensions

Students are unable to install additional apps and extensions on their Chromebook other than what has been approved by the Nebraska City Public Schools.

Repairing or Replacing Your Chromebook

Tech Support

All Chromebooks in need of repair must be brought to the media center at Nebraska City Middle School as soon as possible.

Vendor Warranty

- Chromebooks include a one year hardware warranty from the vendor.
- The vendor warrants the Chromebook from defects in materials and workmanship.
- The limited warranty covers normal use, mechanical breakdown, and faulty construction. The vendor will provide normal replacement parts necessary to repair the Chromebook or, if required, a Chromebook replacement.
- The vendor warranty does not warrant against damage caused by misuse, abuse, or accidents.
- All repair work must be reported to the Nebraska City Public Schools Technology Helpdesk.

Estimated Costs *(subject to change)*

The use of this device compares to that of the textbook. Fines will be assessed based on the nature of the damage and the cost to repair or replace the device. **Parents/Students will be charged for full replacement cost of a device that has been damaged due to intentional misuse or abuse.**

Estimated cost to repair/replace:

Screen - \$60

Keyboard/Top Cover - \$50

Charger - \$40

Battery - \$50

Total Replacement - \$240

Chromebook Technical Support

The Nebraska City Middle School media center will be the first point of contact for repair of the Chromebooks. Services provided include:

- Password Identification
- User account support
- Coordination of warranty repair
- Distribution of replacement Chromebooks
- Hardware maintenance and repair
- Operating System or software configuration support
- Restoring Chromebook to factory default
- System software updates

Appropriate Uses and Digital Citizenship

School-issued devices should be used for educational purposes and students are to adhere to the Acceptable Use of Technology and all of its corresponding administrative procedures at all times.

If students need to sign up for specific services on their device, they should **ALWAYS** use their nebcityps.org account because this is issued by the school. Students should not use other accounts (Gmail, Yahoo, etc.) when signing up for these services. While working in a digital and collaborative environment, students should always conduct themselves as good digital citizens by adhering to the following:

1. **Be Respectful** . I will show respect for myself through my actions. I will select online names that are appropriate. I will use caution with the information, images, and other media that I post online. I will carefully consider what personal information about my life, experiences, or relationships I post. I will not be obscene. I will act with integrity.
2. **Be Responsible**. I will ensure that the information, images, and materials I post online will not put me at risk. I will not publish my personal details, contact details, or a schedule of my activities. I will report any attacks or inappropriate behavior directed at me while online. I will protect passwords, accounts, and resources.
3. **Be Safe and Respectful**. I will show respect to others. I will not use electronic mediums to antagonize, bully, harass, or stalk people. I will show respect for other people in my choice of websites: I will not visit sites that are degrading to others, pornographic, racist, or inappropriate.
4. **Be Safe**. I will protect others by reporting abuse and not forwarding inappropriate materials or communications. I will avoid unacceptable materials and conversations.
5. **Be Responsible**. I will request permission to use copyrighted or otherwise protected materials. I will suitably cite all use of websites, books, media, etc. I will acknowledge all primary sources. I will validate information. I will use and abide by the fair use rules.
6. **Be Resourceful**. I will request to use the software and media others produce. I will purchase, license, and register all software or use available free and open source alternatives rather than pirating software. I will purchase my music and media and refrain from distributing these in a manner that violates their licenses.

Nebraska City Public Schools Internet Use, Safety, and Computer Use Policy

Nebraska City Public Schools Internet Access is to be used only for classroom related activities. This policy applies when using either school equipment or personal equipment

on the district network. The administration reserves the right to refuse access to the Internet by Nebraska City Public Schools to anyone when it deems it necessary in the public interest.

Compliance with the Law and Use of Computers / Internet

Students, using the Internet, will follow all laws, policies, and rules governing computers. This includes (but is not limited to) copyright laws, software publisher's rights, license agreements, acts of terrorism, assault, threats, and student right of privacy. Students at Nebraska City Public Schools shall receive instruction in Internet Safety. This curriculum will include material related to appropriate "Access to Internet by Minors", cyber-bullying, and other topics as are relevant in encouraging digital citizenship. A copy of the scope and sequence or other outline of the Digital Citizenship Curriculum may be found in the district Curriculum Office and each school media center.

Access to the Internet by Minors (students under the age of 18) or Adults (over the age of 18)

Minors or adults shall:

1. Not access material that is obscene, pornography, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for education.
2. Not use Nebraska City Public Schools technology or Internet resources to engage in hacking or attempts to otherwise compromise any computer or network system's security.
3. Not engage in any illegal activities on the Internet.
4. Only use forms of direct electronic communications for the purposes related to education within the context of a Nebraska City Public Schools-related assignment or activity.
5. Not attempt to override or bypass any protection measure that has been put in place by Nebraska City Public Schools to block and/or filter access to Internet Sites that are not in accordance with policies of Nebraska City Public Schools.
6. Minors shall not disclose personal identification information on the Internet.

Policy Violations

Any violation of this policy may result in the loss of access to the Internet by the student/adult involved.

Additional disciplinary action may be determined in accordance with existing policies of the Nebraska City Public Schools, including applicable State and Federal laws.

Students shall be granted permission to access the Internet under the direction of a teacher upon receipt of the signed Acceptable Use Policy Signature form available from your local building administrator or media specialist.

Acceptable Use

- We believe that access to the Internet is an important educational resource for our students.

- We understand that although there are many valuable educational resources available, there are also unacceptable and offensive materials available on the Internet.
- We require efficient, ethical, courteous and legal utilization of the equipment, computers, and network resources.
 - As a safety precaution, full names or addresses are not to be revealed online.
 - Computer and network resources have been provided for educational purposes -game-playing and commercial uses are prohibited.
 - Sharing of individual accounts is prohibited.
 - Electronic mail (e-mail) and other computer use or storage is not guaranteed to be private or confidential. Network or other computer use or storage areas are and will be treated as school property. Computers, files and communications may be accessed and reviewed by district personnel and may be accessed by other computer users.
 - Chain letters and inter-relay chat are misuses of the system.
 - Vandalism or "hacking" of any kind is prohibited.
 - The security of the system and the rights of other users are to be respected at all times.
- Students or staff knowingly violating the terms of the agreement will be dealt with according to the discipline policies of the individual school building and Nebraska City Public Schools and/or civil authorities.
 - Such activities may result in termination of their account/access and/or expulsion from school and/or legal prosecution.
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- Do not open, use, or change computer files that do not belong to you.
- Do not reveal your full name, phone number, home address, social security number, credit card numbers, passwords, or passwords of other people.
- Remember that network storage is not guaranteed to be private or confidential. District Administration reserves the right to inspect your files at any time and will take the necessary steps if files are in violation of the district's Acceptable Use Policy.
- If you inadvertently access a website that contains obscene, pornographic, or otherwise offensive material, notify a teacher or the principal immediately so that such sites can be blocked from further access. This is not merely a request. It is a responsibility.

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Please check one of the following options:

- ☐ I accept and will abide by the Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Policy & Usage Handbook.

- ☐ I do not accept the Nebraska City Public Schools Chromebook Policy & Usage Handbook. I understand by not accepting the Chromebook Policy & Usage Handbook no device will be issued to student.

Printed Student Name**Grade**

Student Signature**Date**

Parent/Guardian Signature (REQUIRED)**Date**

Intended Use

The device checked out to me is to be used in support of school related activities. **The device must accompany me at school every day school is in session.** Use of the device checked out by a teacher may include student use, and the device is configured with network connections to allow students to log in with their own accounts. Any software installed on the computer must be licensed by the district. The license agreement of installed “free” software must allow it to be free for educational organizations, not personal use.

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It is with a full heart that I submit my resignation from my position at Nebraska City High School for the 2025/2026 school year.

This decision has been one of the hardest I've had to make. My husband has recently been offered a new job, and as we prepare for the next chapter in our lives — including starting a family — we've made the decision to move closer to my roots and my family in Utah.

Nebraska City has become so much more than just a place of work. It has been a home filled with meaningful relationships, personal growth, and unforgettable memories. I have loved every moment of being part of this school community, especially the opportunity to coach both softball and track. Working with our student-athletes and witnessing their growth has been one of the greatest honors of my career.

I will always carry with me the kindness and support I've felt from my colleagues, students, and this community. Thank you for allowing me to be part of something so special.

With sincere gratitude,

Bailey Williams

7/7/25

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bailey Williams". The ink is a light gray color. The signature is fluid and elegant, with the first name "Bailey" and last name "Williams" clearly distinguishable.