

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**

School District of Seward

410 South Street

Seward, NE 68434

Monday, July 8, 2019 7:00 PM

Attendance Taken at 7:04 PM.

Paul Duer: Present

Jill Hochstein: Present

Jana Hughes: Present

Jerry Rumery: Present

Ryne Seaman: Present

Danielle Shipley: Present

1. Preliminary Procedures

1. Call meeting to order & announce Open Meetings Act is Posted

2. Public Notice as publicized per board policy

3. Roll Call

1. Action to excuse board members if necessary

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Mission Statement-The school district of Seward --where every student, every day is a success -- affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. In cooperation with family and community members, the district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

6. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Jerry Rumery and a second by Jill Hochstein.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

2. Public Forum: (The Board President reserves the right to place time limits on individuals and topics.)

1. Public Forum on Agenda Items: This is your opportunity to speak to items on the agenda. If you are not a part of the presentation of the agenda item you need to speak now. Thank you for your participation.

There was none.

2. Public Forum on Any Topic: This is your opportunity to speak to any topic concerning the school district. Since it is not an agenda item the board cannot discuss or take action at this time on the matter. Future discussion can be requested as an agenda item. Thank you for your participation.

There was none.

3. Reports

1. Administrator Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Fields informed the board that a Seward High student was elected as a national officer for Skills USA. The board also received legislative updates. Dr. Fields updated the board on staffing issues for the fall. Back to school staff breakfast is August 8, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. The next area NASB meeting is set for September 4, 2019.

4. Discussion Items

5. Old Business

6. New Business

1. Storage Building

Motion to approve the bid from Lenz Construction for \$90,522 for the construction of a storage building. Passed with a motion by Paul Duer and a second by Jerry Rumery.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

## 2. Door Access and Video Intercom System

Motion to approve the bid of \$82,560 from Americom Communications for the door access and video intercom system installation district wide. Passed with a motion by Paul Duer and a second by Jana Hughes.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

## 3. Concrete replacement

Motion to approve concrete bid from Schaefer Concrete for \$20,530. Passed with a motion by Jana Hughes and a second by Jill Hochstein.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

## 4. Milk Bids

Motion to approve the milk bid from Dean Foods. Passed with a motion by Jill Hochstein and a second by Danielle Shipley.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

## 5. 2019-2020 Student Handbooks

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 Student Handbooks Passed with a motion by Jerry Rumery and a second by Danielle Shipley.

Jill Hochstein: Nay, Paul Duer: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

## 6. 2019-2020 Staff Handbook

Motion to approve the 2019-2020 staff handbook Passed with a motion by Jana Hughes and a second by Jerry Rumery.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

## 7. First Reading of New/Revised District Policies

Motion to approve the first reading of the board policy updates, additions, and deletions per discussion during the study and regular board meeting. Passed with a motion by Jerry Rumery and a second by Paul Duer.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

## 7. Future Agenda Items

second reading of policies

## 8. Consent Agenda

### 1. Approval of Minutes

### 2. Approval of Financial Reports

#### 1. Treasurer

#### 2. Budget

#### 3. Activities

#### 4. Athletic

### 3. Approval of Claims

#### 1. General Fund

#### 2. Depreciation Fund

#### 3. Special Building Fund

### 4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Jerry Rumery and a second by Jill Hochstein.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

## 9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 PM with the next study session and regular board meeting scheduled for Monday, August 12th at 5:30 and 7:00 PM Passed with a motion by Jana Hughes and a second by Paul Duer.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman:  
Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

Please publish the following legal notice in the July 3, 2019 edition of the Seward County Independent. Thank you.

### NOTICE OF SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

The board of education of the School District of Seward will meet in regular session on Monday, July 8, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. for a board study session to be followed by the 7:00 p.m. regular business meeting. The meeting will be held at the Administrative Offices located at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska. An agenda for the meeting which shall be kept continually current is readily available for public inspection at the Superintendent's Office during normal business hours.

To view the agenda go to <http://SewardPublicSchools.org/> and find the eMeeting link.

## **NASB Monthly Update for Board Meetings - Agenda Item: JULY 2019**

### **“NASB Update”**

July already! As a board, some items to be focused on during July include:

- Monitor progress of district goals, link goals to discussion and action items, adopt board goals
- Review your Strategic Plan Progress Report
- Conduct a Board/Administrator Budget Work Session
- Review your Budget Authority and Allowable Reserve Percentage Certification
- Review Special Education Program and Multi-Cultural Education Program Curriculum
- Conduct an Annual Review of your Parental and Family Engagement Policy (with a public hearing and adoption if there are changes)
- Student Fees Policy is due August 1
- Go over the Superintendent evaluation and goal planning, and file copy of approved superintendent/ESU administrator contract or any amendments with the Department of Education by August 1
- The Distance Education Incentives Application is due August 1
- Pupils Instruction in Another District Contracts is due August 15

### **Networking & Events**

June saw a number of events in Kearney the week of June 10<sup>th</sup> with a New Board Member Connections Workshop, the annual member golf outing and the School Law Seminar taking place. Great seeing so many of you there for a week of learning, networking and fun! In July NASB will host an orientation in our offices geared towards new Superintendents/ESU Administrators and their boards, as well as the NAEP workshops around Nebraska.

- NAEP Regional Workshops in Gering & Lincoln, July 16. Kearney & Norfolk, July 17
- NASB Orientation, July 24 at the NASB Offices in Lincoln
- Area Membership Meetings begin August 20<sup>th</sup> ... dates are below, registration is now open!
  - Tuesday, August 20, 2019 | Valentine
  - Wednesday, August 21, 2019 | Fremont
  - Thursday, August 22, 2019 | La Vista
  - Monday, August 26, 2019 | Gering
  - Tuesday, August 27, 2019 | North Platte
  - Wednesday, August 28, 2019 | Kearney
  - Wednesday, September 4, 2019 | York
  - Wednesday, September 18, 2019 | Nebraska City
  - Wednesday, September 25, 2019 | Norfolk

***You can learn more, and register for the above events at [www.NASBonline.org](http://www.NASBonline.org)***



This year's Area Membership Meetings schedule is slightly different. We will still be in 9 locations starting earlier in mid-August and wrapping up mid-September. Mark your calendar now for the one closest to you!

State Education Conference registration will open on September 11 ... look for more details as we get closer to that date on how to book both your conference and hotel.

### **Advocacy/Interim Studies:**

Interim Studies to keep an eye on ...

- LR63 - Interim study to examine educational service units
- LR151 - Interim study to examine the financing of public education and develop recommendations for improving school funding
- LR152 - Interim study to examine issues under the jurisdiction of the Education Committee
- LR153 - Interim study to examine the administrative costs of local school systems and school districts
- LR157 - Interim study to conduct an in-depth review of the financing of the public elementary and secondary schools
- LR208 - Interim study to examine state and school district policies that relate to maintaining a safe and positive school learning environment
- LR214 - Interim study to examine issues that surround the engagement, attraction, and retention of youth in Nebraska
- LR242 - Interim study to examine the replacement of Native American mascots in Nebraska at nontribal schools

Follow NASB on twitter at [www.twitter.com/NASBOnline](http://www.twitter.com/NASBOnline) using the hashtag #liveNASB  
and on facebook at [www.facebook.com/NASBOnline](http://www.facebook.com/NASBOnline)

To see a quick glimpse at the various items the NASB is involved in, check out pages 10 & 11 each month in the **Board Notes newsletter** for "This Month In ...". To access the latest newsletter, click here:

<http://members.nasbonline.org/index.php/news-resources/board-notes>

Thanks for all you do for your board, your community and the entire state by serving public education in Nebraska.

## **BID FORM**

Project Identification: Seward Public Schools Storage Building  
Architect Project No.: N/A

- 1. BID RECIPIENT.** This Bid is submitted to: Seward Public Schools, Attn: Superintendent Josh Fields, 410 South Street, Seward, NE 68434.

The undersigned Bidder proposes and agrees, if this Bid is accepted, to enter into an Agreement with Owner in the form included in the Bidding Documents to perform all Work as specified or indicated in the Bidding Documents for the prices and within the times indicated in the Bid and in accordance with the other terms and conditions of the Bidding Documents.

- 2. BIDDER'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.** Bidder accepts all of the terms and conditions of the Bidding Documents and Instructions to Bidders. The Bid will remain subject to acceptance for 30 days after the Bid opening, or for such longer period of time that Bidder may agree to in writing upon request of Owner.

- 3. BIDDER'S REPRESENTATIONS.** The Bidder represents and agrees that:

- A. The Bidder has read and understands the Bidding Documents;
- B. The Bidder understands how the Bidding Documents relate to other portions of the Project, if any, being bid concurrently or presently under construction;
- C. The Bid complies with the Bidding Documents;
- D. The person or persons who have signed and submitted this Bid are legally authorized to do so and to bind the Bidder to a contract;
- E. The Bidder has visited the site, become familiar with local conditions under which the Work is to be performed, and has correlated the Bidder's observations with the requirements of the Proposed Contract Documents listed above;
- F. The Bid is based upon the materials, equipment, and systems required by the Bidding Documents without exception;
- G. The bidder is complying with and will continue to comply with fair labor standards in the pursuit of their business and in the execution of the contract which is being bid;
- H. The Bidder waives any claim it has, or may have, against the School District and its agents or representatives, and their respective employees, arising out of, or in connection with, the administration, evaluation, or recommendation of any bid; waiver

of any requirements under the bid documents or the contract documents; acceptance or rejection of any bids; and award of the contract;

- I. The Bidder is familiar with and is satisfied as to all Federal, State, and local Laws and Regulations that may affect cost, progress, and performance of the Work;
- J. The Bidder does not consider that any further examinations, investigations, explorations, tests, studies, or data are necessary for the determination of this Bid for performance of the Work at the price(s) bid and within the times and in accordance with the other terms and conditions of the Bidding Documents.
- K. The Bidder is aware of the general nature of the Work to be performed by Owner and others at the Site that relates to the Work as indicated in the Bidding Documents.
- L. The Bidder has correlated the information known to Bidder, information and observations obtained from visits to the Site, reports and drawings identified in the Bidding Documents, and all additional examinations, investigations, explorations, tests, studies, and data with the Bidding Documents.
- M. The Bidder has given the Architect and/or the Owner written notice of all conflicts, errors, ambiguities, or discrepancies that Bidder has discovered in the Bidding Documents, and the written resolution thereof by Architect and/or the Owner is acceptable to the Bidder;
- N. The Bidder, and any subcontractor, is not currently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment, declared ineligible, or otherwise excluded from submitting bids to any State or Federal department or agency or any political subdivision of the State of Nebraska;
- O. This Bid is genuine and not made in the interest of or on the behalf of any undisclosed individual or entity and is not submitted in conformity with any agreement or rules of any group, association, organization, or corporation;
- P. The Bidder has not directly or indirectly induced or solicited any other Bidder to submit a false or sham Bid;
- Q. The Bidder has not solicited or induced any individual or entity to refrain from bidding; and
- R. The Bidder has read and understands the provisions set forth in the Bidding Documents, including but not limited to:

(1) AIA Document A105-2017, Standard Short Form of Agreement Between Owner and Contractor, AS AMENDED;

(2) Addenda

No.

Date

Pages

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Other:

4. **BID.** The Bidder will complete the Work in accordance with the Contract Documents for the following price(s):

A. TOTAL AMOUNT OF BASE BID:

POST AND BEAM OPTION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

STICK FRAMED OPTION \$ 90,522.00

B. Additive Alternative(s):

(1) No. 1: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(2) No. 2: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

C. Deductive Alternative(s):

(1) No. 1: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(2) No. 2: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

5. **COMPLETION DATES.** Bidder agrees that its anticipated start date is 8-1-19 and it will attain Substantial Completion of the Work by 9-15-19 and Final Completion by 10-15-19.

6. **BID ATTACHMENTS.** The following documents are attached to and made a part of the Bid:

A. ~~Required Bid security in the form of a:~~

~~Bid Bond (AIA A310);~~

~~Certified Check; or~~

~~Cashier's Check.~~

B. Contractor's Qualification Statement - AIA Document A305-1986.

C. Proposed Work Schedule.

D. Any exceptions to the bid requirements.

E. Proposed contract modifications, if any.

7. **INSURANCE.** The insurance limits for each type of insurance typically

maintained by the Bidder are listed below are as follows:

	Each occurrence/General aggregate	
A. Commercial General Liability:	\$ 1,000,000	/ \$ 2,000,000
B. Automobile Liability:	\$ 1,000,000	/ \$ _____
C. Umbrella Liability:	\$ _____	/ \$ _____
D. Employer's Liability: WC	\$ 100,000	/ \$ 100,000 / 500,000
E. Other: _____	\$ _____	/ \$ _____

James C. Lenz  
Signature

James C. Lenz  
Printed Name

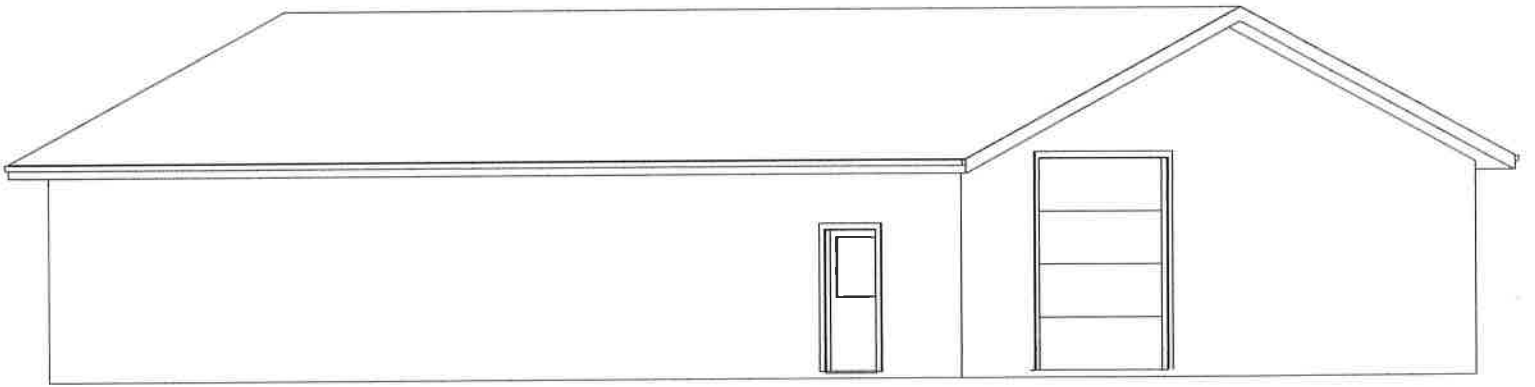
President  
Title

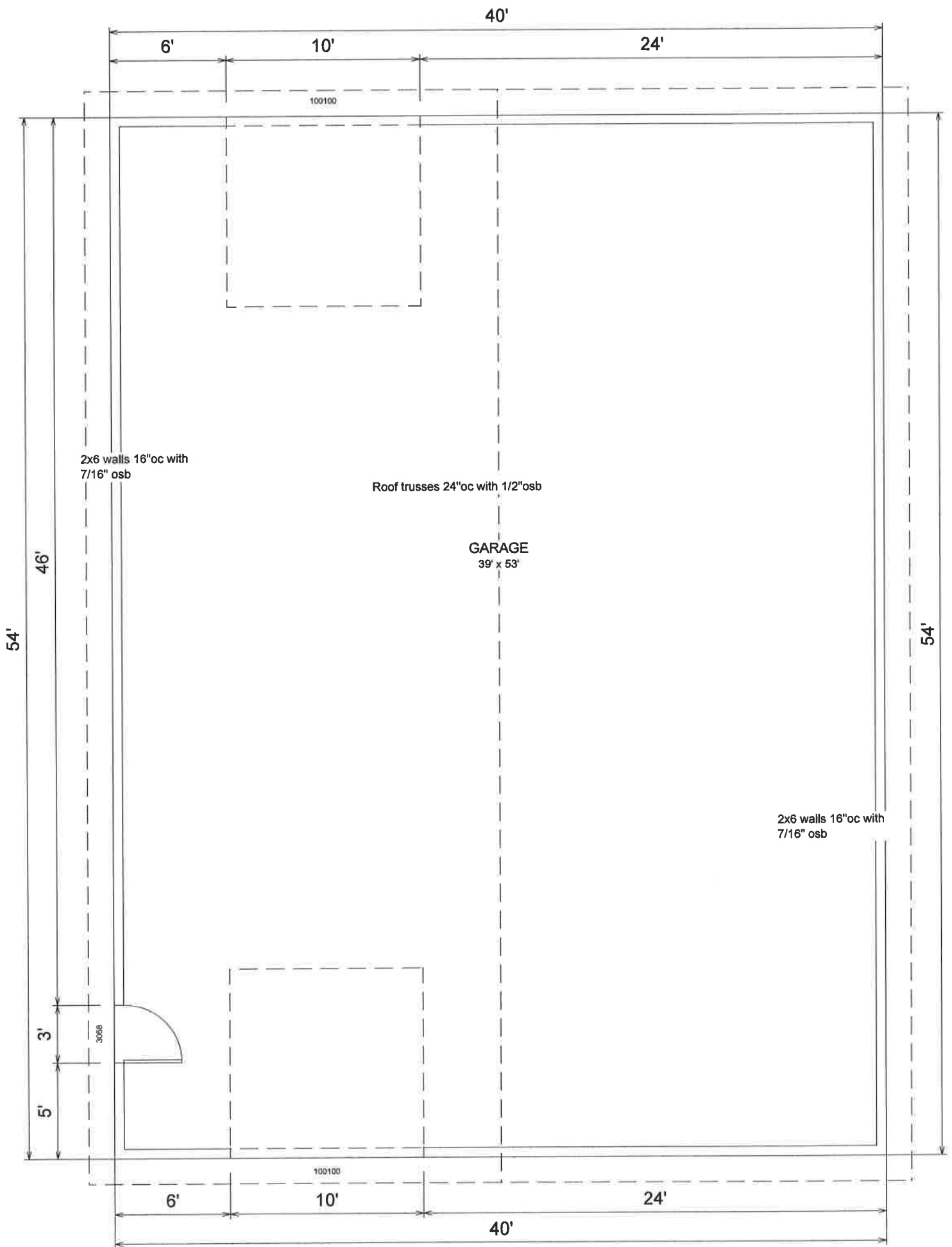
Lenz Construction  
Firm Name

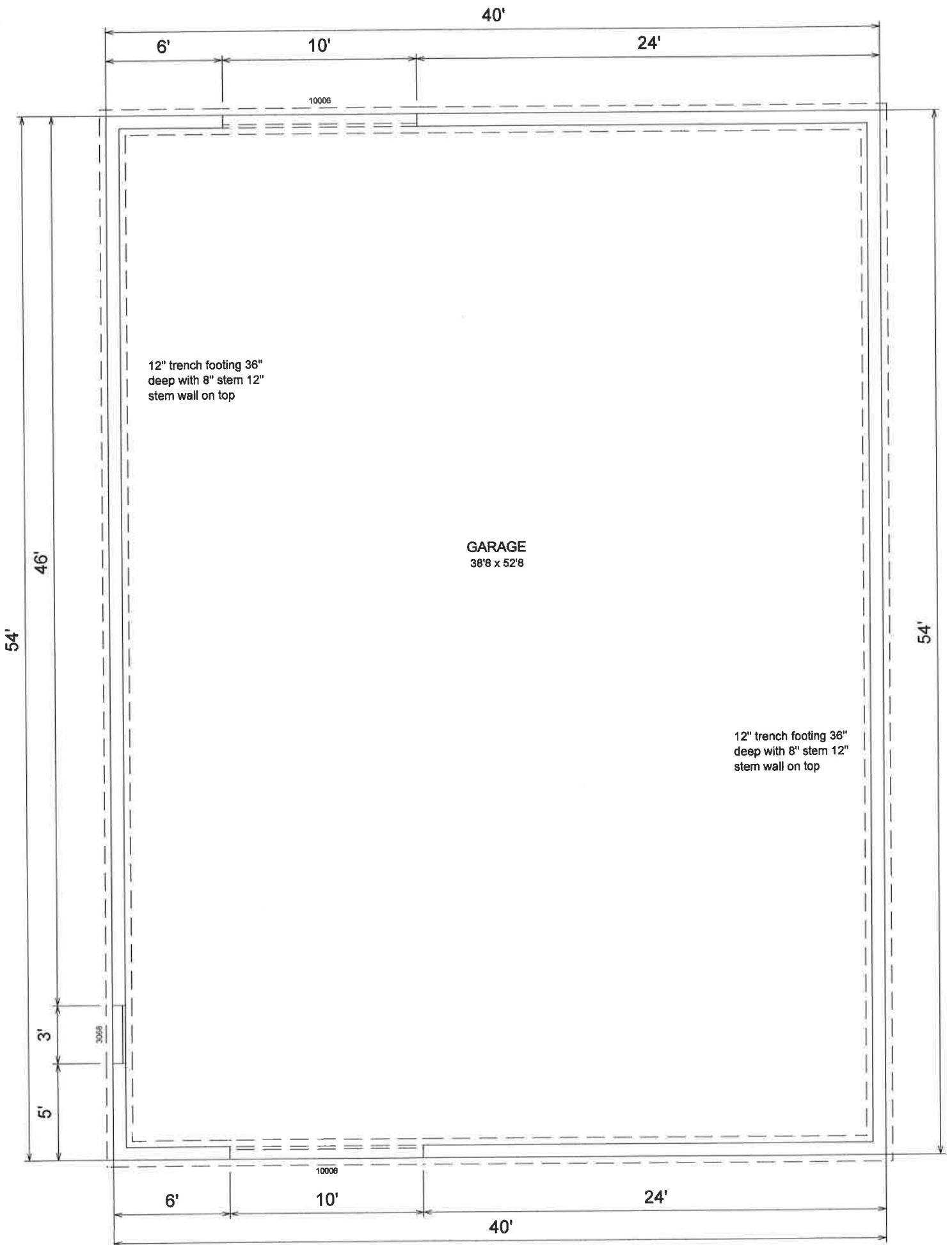
2560 TimberCreek Dr. Seward NE 68434  
Address

402-641-0737  
Telephone Number

Lenzconstruction@windstream.net  
E-mail







## **Bid Form**

To: Seward Public Schools  
410 South Street  
Seward, NE 68434

Date: Tuesday, May 28 2019

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The undersigned, has examined all documents, is familiarized with the different buildings, project manuals, special conditions, addenda, and has included the purchase of materials, labor, and awarding of contracts: hereby proposes and agrees to perform everything required to be performed, and to provide any an all labor, materials, equipment, tools need to complete the install of video surveillance system at the various locations in Seward Public Schools District in Seward, Nebraska, all in strict conformance

with Drawings and Project Manual dated May 28, 2019 for the following BID Items:

BID Item 1: Installation at each of the following buildings.

- Seward Elementary School-\$ 25,558.00
- Seward Middle School-\$ 16,192.00
- Seward High School- \$ 40,810.00

Total Installation Cost of all buildings \$ 82,560.00

Cost of Initial and or Reoccurring Software/Maintenance cost for

- Seward Elementary School-\$ 0
- Seward Middle School-\$ 0
- Seward High School- \$ 0

Total Cost of Reoccurring Software/Maintenance \$ 0 (free software upgrades)

Mark an x on the following:

Frequency: Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Other Time Period \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ years  
or One Time Cost \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the following Addenda's to the Drawings and/or project manual

Addenda Numbers 1

Dated 6/17/19 respectively.

In submitting this proposal, it is understood that the Seward Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts thereof, and to waive any irregularities.

Bidder: Americom Communications

By: Trevor Kinnett

Title: Sales Director

Signature: 

Business Address: Americom Communications

307 P Street

Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: (402) 489-9700

Date: 6/28/19

## **Bid Form**

To: Seward Public Schools  
410 South Street  
Seward, NE 68434

Date: Tuesday, May 28 2019

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The undersigned, has examined all documents, is familiarized with the different buildings, project manuals, special conditions, addenda, and has included the purchase of materials, labor, and awarding of contracts: hereby proposes and agrees to perform everything required to be performed, and to provide any an all labor, materials, equipment, tools need to complete the install of video surveillance system at the various locations in Seward Public Schools District in Seward, Nebraska, all in strict conformance

with Drawings and Project Manual dated May 28, 2019 for the following BID Items:

BID Item 1: Installation at each of the following buildings.

- Seward Elementary School-\$ 29,446.00
- Seward Middle School-\$ 29,499.00
- Seward High School- \$ 36,868.00

Total Installation Cost of all buildings \$ 95,813.00

Cost of Initial and or Reoccurring Software/Maintenance cost for

- Seward Elementary School-\$ N/A
- Seward Middle School-\$ N/A
- Seward High School- \$ N/A

Total Cost of Reoccurring Software/Maintenance \$ N/A

Mark an x on the following:

Frequency: Annual N/A Other Time Period \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ years  
or One Time Cost \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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## **Bid Form**

To: Seward Public Schools  
410 South Street  
Seward, NE 68434

Date: Tuesday, May 28 2019

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The undersigned, has examined all documents, is familiarized with the different buildings, project manuals, special conditions, addenda, and has included the purchase of materials, labor, and awarding of contracts: hereby proposes and agrees to perform everything required to be performed, and to provide any an all labor, materials, equipment, tools need to complete the install of video surveillence system at the various locations in Seward Public Schools District in Seward, Nebraska, all in strict conformance

with Drawings and Project Manual dated May 28, 2019 for the following BID Items:

BID Item 1: Installation at each of the following buildings.

- Seward Elementary School-\$ 22,451.05
- Seward Middle School-\$ 20,761.52
- Seward High School- \$ 48,371.78

Total Installation Cost of all buildings \$ 91,584.35

Cost of Initial and or Reoccurring Software/Maintenance cost for

- Seward Elementary School-\$ 0.00
- Seward Middle School-\$ 0.00
- Seward High School- \$ 0.00

Total Cost of Reoccurring Software/Maintenance \$ None

Mark an x on the following:

Frequency: Annual \_\_\_\_\_ Other Time Period \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ years  
or One Time Cost \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Avigilon doesnt have reoccurring fees for access control. Service contracts can be provided if interested.

\_\_\_\_\_

The undersigned hereby acknowledges receipt of the following Addenda's to the Drawings and/or project manual

Addenda Numbers #1

Dated 6/17/19 respectively.

In submitting this proposal, it is understood that the Seward Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids or parts thereof, and to waive any irregularities.

Bidder: Protex Central, Inc.

By: Tom Reiber

Title: Regional Sales Director

Signature: 

Business Address: Protex Central, Inc.

1239 North Minnesota Ave

Hastings, NE 68901

Phone: 402-463-0666

Date: 7/1/19



# Concrete Designs, LLC

1910 Raymond Rd

Garland NE 68360

Phone (402) 588-2292

Fax (402) 588-2286

Email [concretedesigns@windstream.net](mailto:concretedesigns@windstream.net)

Website [www.concretedesigns.com](http://www.concretedesigns.com)

# Proposal & Acceptance

Date
7/5/2019
Proposal valid for 30 days.

Name / Address		Foundation and Flatwork billed separately.	
Seward School District		% Down Payment	Project
		25%	
Description	Qty	Rate	Total
Elementary School			
Tear out, disposal, and replace 8' of curb in bus lane		450.00	450.00
Tear out, disposal, and replace 28' x 56' 6" x 8" section at bus entry		10,175.00	10,175.00
Tear out, disposal, and replace 65' of curb in drop off lane		2,500.00	2,500.00
Tear out, disposal, and replace approx. 1185 sq ft of 8" paving and curb sections in drop off lane		8,275.00	8,275.00
Tear out, disposal, and replace (2) 6' x 6' x 6" sections of sidewalk by front entry		600.00	600.00
High School			
Tear out, disposal, and replace 4' x 12' x 6" section by door #12 (includes box void)		675.00	675.00
Tear out, disposal, and replace section of curb and sidewalk for new handicap ramp by green house		975.00	975.00
Tear out, disposal, and replace 30" x 20' x 6" and 5' x 41' x 6" section of sidewalk along bus lane		1,475.00	1,475.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25,125.00</b>

All material is guaranteed to be as specified. Any alteration or deviation from specifications involving extra costs will be executed upon verbal or written orders, and will become an extra charge over and above the estimate. Customer is responsible for paying winter service charges if hot water and additives are needed in the winter months. Owner to carry all fire, tornado, and other necessary insurance along with acquiring necessary construction and digging permits. All foundation work must be paid prior to commencement of flatwork. This is only an estimate, you will be billed for the work completed. ALL INVOICES ARE DUE UPON RECEIPT. Late payments are subject to a 16% annual finance charge.

Phone: (H) \_\_\_\_\_

(C) \_\_\_\_\_

(W) \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Acceptance Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





# Dean Foods 2019-20 Dairy Bid

June 19



7808

**Le Mars Office**  
1345 12th Ave SW  
Le Mars, IA 51031

**Lincoln Office**  
220 SW 32nd Street  
Lincoln, NE 68522

**Sioux Falls Office**  
1200 W Russell Street  
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

**Bill To:** 173230  
Seward Public Schools  
Seward, NE

Dean Foods would like the opportunity to bid on your schools dairy program for the upcoming 19-20 school year.  
Please see the below bid prices quoted for the month printed in the top right corner.



If you have any questions regarding the bid, please contact Dana Hunzeker at:  
E-mail: [dana\\_hunzeker@deanfoods.com](mailto:dana_hunzeker@deanfoods.com) - Phone: 402-474-8709 - Fax: 402-474-8739



Milk	Carton	Item #	Firm	Escalator
8oz LOL DairyPure 1%	Paper	56982	0.2468	0.2042
8oz LOL DairyPure Skim	Paper	56984	0.2413	0.1971
8oz TM 1% Chocolate (Squat - 48 per case)	Paper	47284	0.2600	0.2300
8oz TM Fat Free Chocolate	Paper	45837	0.2497	0.2049
8oz TM Fat Free Strawberry	Paper	46073	0.2497	0.2111
Gallon LOL DairyPure Whole	Plastic	56826		
Gallon LOL DairyPure 2%	Plastic	56832		
Gallon LOL DairyPure 1%	Plastic	56840		
Gallon LOL DairyPure Fat Free Skim	Plastic	56836		
Half Gallon LOL DairyPure 2%	Plastic	56923		
Quart LOL DairyPure Buttermilk	Paper	58759		

Juice			Firm	Escalator
Gallon Orchard Pure Orange Juice	Plastic	57741	-	3.7430
Half Gallon Orchard Pure Orange Juice	Plastic	57739	-	2.1337
12oz Orchard Pure 100% Orange Juice	Plastic	56683	-	0.9700
12oz LOL 100% Apple Juice	Plastic	29135	-	0.9700
8oz LOL Orange Juice	Paper	13165	-	0.3114
4oz -100% Juice: Orange, Apple, Fruit Punch & Grape	Plastic - Foil Top	54952	-	0.2150
Culture				
5LB LOL Cottage Cheese 4%	Plastic Tub	11653	-	7.2474
5LB LOL Cottage Cheese 2%	Plastic Tub	11654	-	7.2170
5LB LOL Sour Cream Reg	Plastic Tub	11573	-	6.9638
5LB LOL Sour Cream Lite	Plastic Tub	54017	-	6.6690
5LB LOL Yogurt Low Fat Strawberry	Plastic Tub	42701	-	8.1366
24oz LOL Yogurt Fat Free (All Flavors)	Plastic Tub	12832	-	2.4170
6oz LOL Yogurt-Low Fat and Fat Free (All Flavors)	Plastic Cup	12827	-	0.6320
Other				
HG DP Lactose Free ESL Skim (other fat levels avail.)	Paper	56745	-	4.0076
Dzn Large Eggs (15dzn per case - sold by full cases only)	Paper Carton	3707	-	1.3500
Half Gallon LOL IC Mix 5% Van and Choc	Plastic	37968	-	3.4394
14oz Dairy Pure /TruMoo Milk	Plastic	56781	-	0.9900
Flavors: White: VD, 2%, Choc VD, Choc 1%				
14oz TruMoo 1% Protein (Van-Choc)	Plastic	51059	-	1.3200

*Please fill in the below information, sign and return via mail, e-mail or fax along with any other competitive bids and a 19/20 school calendar.*

**TRU MOO - No High Fructose Corn Syrup, No Artificial Growth Hormones and No GMO Ingredients!**

**We** (Please circle one) **We**  
**Accept** **Decline**

First Day of School:

Name of Kitchen/Food Service Director:

Phone #:

Email:

Signature:

**Ship To's:**

- 174366 SEWARD ELEMENTARY
- 174360 SEWARD HIGH SCHOOL
- 174361 SEWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL

If the Firm bid option is selected, the prices would be firm throughout the 2019-2020 school year.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
410 South Street  
Seward, NE 68434  
Phone: (402) 643-2941  
FAX: (402) 643-4986  
Dr. Josh Fields, Superintendent



Matt Dominy, Director of Curriculum & Staff Development  
Connie Biaggio, Director of Special Services  
Heidi Covert, Business Manager  
Kathy McLaughlin, Secretary  
Tom Vajgrt, Maintenance Supervisor  
Marty Telecky, Director of Transportation

June 17, 2019

Dean Foods  
220 SW 32<sup>nd</sup> St  
Lincoln NE 68522

Dear Dana:

The School District of Seward is accepting firm milk bids for the 2019-2020 school year. The consumption varies from about 1,000 to 1,400 half pints per day.

Bid on 1% white milk _____	Firm <u>.2468</u>
Bid on 1% chocolate milk _____	Firm <u>.2600</u> (Squab carton only)
Bid on 1% strawberry milk _____	Firm <u>NA</u>
Bid on skim white milk _____	Firm <u>.2413</u>
Bid on skim chocolate milk _____	Firm <u>.2497</u>
Bid on skim strawberry milk _____	Firm <u>.2497</u>

Bids must be returned to the District Office by 1:00 p.m. July 1, 2019. The board will make a decision at the July 8, 2019 board meeting. The School District would like to know if prices will be firm throughout the 2019-2020 school year. Please indicate this on your bid. We are interested in a firm bid.

The company who is the recipient of the bid will need to supply five high quality milk coolers, two at the Elementary, two at the Middle School and one at the High School.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Sincerely,

Dr. Josh Fields  
Superintendent



July 1, 2019

School District of Seward  
410 South Street  
Seward, Ne. 68434

Dear Dr. Josh Fields,

Hiland Dairy is pleased to submit for your consideration the following quote for Dairy Products for the 2019-2020 school year.

	Escalator
Half Pint 1% Paper	.2140
Half Pint 1% Chocolate Paper	.2190
Half Pint Strawberry Paper	.2190
Half Pint Skim Paper	.2090

Bid Due Date July 1 2019  
Escalating/De-escalating Bid

Accepted

Declined

Please submit form to;  
Michael Poulsen c/o Hiland Dairy  
5200 NW 38<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lincoln, Ne. 68524

Phone (402) 470-2424  
Fax (402) 470-2425

This is an escalating/de-escalating bid on all items. Please refer to attached clause for monthly cost adjustment factors.

**When a decision has been reached based upon this bid, kindly mail or fax back any competitive bids along with this form.**

**Signed;**

**First Delivery:**  
**Please enclose a 2019-2020 school calendar**

Sincerely,   
Michael Poulsen  
Lincoln Branch Sales Manager



# Seward High School Parent-Student Handbook



## Seward High School

home of the **Bluejays**

532 Northern Heights Drive • Seward, NE 68434

Phone: (402) 643-2988 • Fax: (402) 643-2599

[www.sewardpublicschools.org](http://www.sewardpublicschools.org)

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## Forward

### **Section 1 Intent of Handbook**

This handbook is intended to be used by parents, students, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Seward High School. Each student is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Parents are encouraged to use this handbook as a resource and to assist their child in following the rules contained in this handbook.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract.” The administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement educational programs and to assure the well being of all students. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, as well as state and federal regulations.

Each year, the Board of Education shall adopt Parent-Student Handbooks. The rules, procedures, and practices adopted in the Parent-Student Handbooks shall have the effect of Board Policy.

### **Section 2 Superintendent and Members of the Board of Education**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Title</u></b>
Dr. Josh Fields	Superintendent
Ryne Seaman	President
Jerry Rumery	Vice President
Paul Duer	Secretary
Jana Hughes	Member
Jill Hochstein	Member
Danielle Shipley	Member

### **Section 3 High School Administration and Office Staff**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>
Scott Axt	Principal
Jill Johnson	Vice Principal
John Moody	Activities Director/Social Studies
Charles Gebhardt	Assistant Activities Director
Craig Williams	Technology Coordinator

Noelle Baker	Counselor
Kevin Fields	Counselor
Matt Dominy	Curriculum and Assessment Director
Connie Biaggio	Special Education and Special Services Director
Jennifer Messersmith	Food Services Director
Marty Telecky	Transportation Director
Mary Russell	Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper
Carmen Johnson	Registrar/Administrative Assistant
Jennifer Anderson	School Nurse

#### Section 4 High School Teaching Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>E-Mail</u>
Aaron Blersch	Mathematics	<a href="mailto:aaron.blersch@sewardschools.org">aaron.blersch@sewardschools.org</a>
Celeste Brandenburgh	FCS	<a href="mailto:celeste.palensky@sewardschools.org">celeste.palensky@sewardschools.org</a>
Emilia Brosek	Agriculture	<a href="mailto:emilia.brosek@sewardschools.org">emilia.brosek@sewardschools.org</a>
Julie Christensen	Media Specialist	<a href="mailto:julie.christensen@sewardschools.org">julie.christensen@sewardschools.org</a>
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Wade Miller	Business	<a href="mailto:wade.miller@sewardschools.org">wade.miller@sewardschools.org</a>
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TJ Towle	Alternative School	<a href="mailto:tj.towle@sewardschools.org">tj.towle@sewardschools.org</a>
Tom Tvrdy	Social Science	<a href="mailto:tom.tvrdy@sewardschools.org">tom.tvrdy@sewardschools.org</a>

Kristen Upton  
Dory von Kampen  
Tom Widler  
Russ Wissing

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Language Arts [dory.vonkampen@sewardschools.org](mailto:dory.vonkampen@sewardschools.org)  
Business & Computers [tom.widler@sewardschools.org](mailto:tom.widler@sewardschools.org)  
Math & Computers [russ.wissing@sewardschools.org](mailto:russ.wissing@sewardschools.org)

## Section 5 Extracurricular Assignments/Committees

### Activity

**Football**

**Softball**

**Cross Country**

**Girls Golf**

**Volleyball**

**Boys Basketball**

**Girls Basketball**

**Wrestling**

**Baseball**

**Track**

**Boys Golf**

**Boys Soccer**

**Girls Soccer**

**Show Choir**

**Speech**

**One Act Play**

**Marching Band**

**Color Guard**

**Musical**

**Cheer**

**Dance**

**FCCLA**

**FBLA**

**Key Club**

**FFA**

**National Honor Society**

**Quiz Bowl**

**SkillsUSA**

**Yearbook**

**Bluejay Leadership Team**

**9th Grade Class Sponsor**

**10th Grade Class Sponsor**

**11th Grade Class Sponsor**

**12th Grade Class Sponsor**

**SCIP Team**

Axt, Jill Johnson

**Emergency Response Team**

**Action Team Leaders**

### Coaches/Sponsors/Team Members

Jamie Opfer (Head Coach), Wade Miller, Casey Makey, Jeff Hass, Nate Knott

Rich Eber (Head Coach), Brock Andersen

Kurt Holliday (Head Coach), Kyle Royuk

Jim Placke (Head Coach)

Tom Pallas (Head Coach), Kelley Limback

Mark Cidlik (Head Coach), Wade Miller, Casey Makey

Tom Tvrdy (Head Coach), Tanner Roth

Bob Core (Head Coach), Nate Stepp

Brock Anderson (Head Coach), Rich Eber, Jeremy Fries

Kyle Royuk (Head Coach), Nate Knott, Jeff Hass, Jordan Hinrichs, Kari Samuels

Jim Placke (Head Coach)

Nick Holmes (Head Coach), Jamie Opfer

Greg Miller (Head Coach),

Ben Rickert

Erica Crouch (Head Coach) Aaron Blersch

Dory von Kampen

Amanda Kenney

Brittany Jeary

Ben Rickert, Dory von Kampen

Stacey Piskorski

Celeste Brandenburgh

Wade Miller

Noelle Baker, Kevin Fields

Craig Frederick, Emilia Brosek

Chris Oerman

Melissa Pohl

Kurt Holliday

Kelley Limback

Jill Johnson, Kristen Upton

Jenny Pinkall, Becky Snyder

Lynette Petersen, Tiffany Core

Sara Smith, Kristen Upton, Nate Knott

Noelle Baker, Kevin Fields

Noelle Baker, Pat Piskorski, Lynette Peterson, Kevin Fields, Nate Knott, Scott

Scott Axt, Jill Johnson, John Moody, Jennifer Anderson, Kurt Holliday,  
Noelle Baker, Russ Wissing, Jordan Hinrichs, Kevin Fields, Tiffany Core

Nate Knott, Melissa Pohl, Jim Placke, Mark Cidlik, Jordan Hindrichs,  
Russ Wissing, Sara Smith, Rich Eber, Kelley Limback, and Chris Oerman

# School Calendar

## 2019-2020 CALENDAR SEWARD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### AUGUST

- 7 New Teacher Orientation
- 8 New Teacher Work Day
- 9,12,13 Professional Development Days
- 12 Student Orientation/Open House: Elementary 5:00-6:30,  
Middle 6:00-7:30 & High School 7:00-8:30 PM
- 14 First Student Day - Dismiss 1:30

### SEPTEMBER

- 2 No School - Labor Day
- 16 Professional Development Day - No Students

### OCTOBER

- 11 Elementary Planning Day--No Elem. Students
- 17 End of 1st Quarter - 45 Days
- 18 No School--Fall Break
- 21 Professional Development Day - No Students

### NOVEMBER

- 27 Professional Development for staff until 2:15. No Students.
- 28-29 Thanksgiving Vacation

### DECEMBER

- 20 End 2nd Quarter - 41 Days -- 1:30 Dismissal
- NSAA Competition Moratorium
- 23-31 Winter Vacation

### JANUARY

- 1-3 Winter Vacation
- 3 Professional Development Day - No Students
- 6 School Resumes
- 24 No Elementary School

### FEBRUARY

- 14 No School
- 17 Professional Development Day - No Students

### MARCH

- 2 Elementary Planning Day - No Elem. Students
- 6 No School Spring Break
- 9 Professional Development Day - No Students
- 13 End of 3rd Quarter - 46 Days

### APRIL

- 10,13 No School--Spring Break

### MAY

- 4 Elementary Planning Day - No Elem. Students
- 10 Graduation
- 15 Last Day Scheduled (subject to change) - 11:30 Dismissal
- End of 4th Quarter - 43 Days
- 18 Professional Development Day
- 25 Memorial Day



AUGUST 2019							SEPTEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

OCTOBER 2019							NOVEMBER 2019						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4							1
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

DECEMBER 2019							JANUARY 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

FEBRUARY 2020							MARCH 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31				

APRIL 2020							MAY 2020						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3							1
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

- End of Quarter
- Professional Development - No Students
- No School/No Students
- No Elementary School

Visit the school district website for calendar event information at: [www.sewardpublicschools.org](http://www.sewardpublicschools.org)

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

**High School - 5:30 to 7:30 PM**  
**Tues., Sept 3      Tues., Nov. 12**  
**Mon., Jan. 27      Tues., April 7**

**Middle School - 4:00 to 8:00 PM**  
**Mon., Sept. 23 - Grades 5-8**  
**Thurs., Sept. 26 - Grade 5 Only**  
**Tues., Feb. 11 - Grades 6-8**

**Elementary School - 4:00 to 8:00 PM**  
**Tues., Oct. 15      Thur., Oct. 17**  
**Mon., March 2      Tues., March 3**

#### PARENTS - PLEASE READ BELOW

\* Snow Days will be added back into the calendar. The last day of school is determined by the number of snow days used. The last scheduled day of school is May 15. The last day may change depending upon how many scheduled days are canceled. If one snow day is used it would be May 18, two snow days = May 19, and so on. Other than rare instances, we will try to complete school by Memorial Day, but in order to do so, other calendar changes could be necessary.

## **Mission and Goals**

### **Section 1 School Mission Statement**

The school district of Seward --where every student, every day is a success -- affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. In cooperation with family and community members, the district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

### **Section 2 Mutual Respect**

Seward High School expects every staff member and student to be treated with respect and dignity. A show of disrespect in words or actions by a student towards a staff member or insubordination on the part of the students will not be tolerated.

### **~~Section 3—Multicultural Policy~~**

~~The school district will provide programs which foster and develop an appreciation and understanding of the racial, ethnic, and cultural heritage of all students. These programs will allow students to explore the history and contributions made by various ethnic groups and will emphasize the rich diversity of the population of the United States.~~

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

### **Section 3 Complaint Procedures**

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.

i) If the complainant has not, the administrator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member.

ii) 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:

i) All relevant details of the complaint;

ii) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;

iii) 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.

i) If the complainant has not, the board president will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent.

ii) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president may encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.

iii) The board president, in his or her sole discretion, may determine whether the complaint should be placed on a future board meeting agenda to be discussed by the entire board in executive session.

**[INSERT UPDATED COMPLAINT PROCEDURE?]**

#### **Section 4     Surveys**

School personnel rarely administer surveys of students. In the event that an external survey is conducted, the Principal or designee shall notify parents/legal guardians of students to be surveyed; the nature of the survey, the date and time when the survey shall be administered, and the purposes or uses for the survey results. School officials shall honor any parental/legal guardian's request to have his/her student exempt from participation in the survey.

## School Day

### Section 1 Daily Schedule For High School

1st Period	8:15 – 9:45 (8:15 – 8:59 & 9:01 – 9:45)
2nd Period	9:49 – 11:17
3rd Period	11:17 – 1:17 (including lunch)
4th Period	1:21 – 2:49
5th Period	2:53 – 3:37

### Section 2 Shortened Schedules For High School

<b>(2 Hour Late Start)</b>		<b>(1:30 pm Dismissal)</b>		<b>(11:30 am</b>
<b>Dismissal)</b>				
1st Period	10:15 – 11:15	1st Period	8:15 – 9:09	1st Period
8:15-9:10				
3rd Period	11:15 – 1:15	2nd Period	9:14 – 10:04	2nd Period
9:15-9:45				
2nd Period	1:20 – 2:11	4th Period	10:09 – 10:59	3rd Period
9:50-10:20*				
4th Period	2:16 – 3:07	5th Period	11:04 – 11:30	4th Period
10:25-10:55				
5th Period	3:12 – 3:37	3rd Period	11:30 – 1:30	5th Period
11:00-11:30				
				*No Lunch

<b>(2 Hour Late Start)</b>		<b>(1:30 pm Dismissal)</b>		<b>(11:30 am</b>
<b>Dismissal)</b>				
1st Period	10:15 – 11:25	1st Period	8:15 – 9:20	1st Period
8:15-9:10				
3rd Period	11:29 – 12:59	2nd Period	9:24 – 10:25	2nd Period
9:15-9:45				
2nd Period	1:03 – 2:03	3rd Period	10:29 – 11:59	3rd Period
9:50-10:20*				
4th Period	2:07 – 3:07	4th Period	12:03 – 1:02	4th Period
10:25-10:55				
5th Period	3:11 – 3:37	5th Period	1:06 – 1:30	5th Period
11:00-11:30				
				*No Lunch

### Section 3 Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The superintendent of schools is authorized by the board of education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the superintendent's staff will notify local news

media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations.

### Decision to Close Schools

A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9pm for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, **an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed.** In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services (such as bus transportation and school activities) may be cancelled. Parents may also sign up to receive Bluejay Alerts via phone and email.

### After School Starts

Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases as much advance notice as possible will be given to parents. If school is closed during the day, the notice will be broadcast by the media and **parents should have a plan in place to accommodate these circumstances.**

### Parental Decisions

**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. The absence will be treated 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 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.~~

### What Not To Do

Parents should not attempt to come to school during a tornado warning. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** Tornado safety procedures are practiced regularly by students and staff members. Also, parents are urged not to call radio and television stations and school buildings during severe weather. Every effort will be made to provide accurate and timely information through the media.

### Emergency Conditions

Seward Public Schools has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year.

In a crisis situation, personnel in charge of the building will determine the appropriate level of lockdown if a lockdown is necessary. **In certain situations, parents may not be allowed to enter the building and/or pick up their children.**

#### **Section 4 Closed Campus**

All students are required to remain on campus and in the building during the school day, including lunch. Exceptions are made for students attending college classes or leaving for work experience.

#### **Section 5 Identification Cards**

Identification cards will be issued at the beginning of each school year. All students will be required to carry identification cards on their person during the school day and at all school activities. Students must be able to produce them upon the request of a school official. A five dollar (\$5.00) fee will be charged for lost or stolen ID cards.

## **Use of Building and Grounds**

### **Section 1 Entering and Leaving the Building**

*Beginning of School:* Students should not be on school grounds prior to 7:00 am. Students are to stay in the building lobbies or hallways and are not to go into the media center or classrooms without permission.

*During the School Day:* Students are to remain on campus unless excused in accordance with school policies. Upon returning to school during the day, students are to report to the school office.

*End of School:* Our regular school day ends at 3:37 pm. Make-up work, special help, assignment after school, club meetings, and other school activities begin immediately after school. It is important that students who are involved in any of these activities report to the designated area on time. All other students should leave the building as soon as possible.

### **Section 2 Visitors**

Parents/Guardians will be permitted, within district procedures, to attend and observe courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities. (Board Policy 5018)

- 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.

All visitors must report to the office upon entering the school to sign in and to receive a visitor's pass. Various limitations apply such as length of stay, days allowed and access to the classrooms. All visitors must sign out in the office upon exiting the school. Visitations during the first week of school and the last week of school will require extraordinary reasons or permission from administrators.

Students may request to bring an "outside date or guest" to a school activity such as a dance. However, the administration has the final authority to approve or deny any such request for any reason. Forms are available in the office.

### **Section 3 Smoke/~~Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems or Products~~-Free Building**

The use of tobacco/~~electronic nicotine delivery systems or products~~ is prohibited in all school buildings and all school vehicles. Smoking/~~electronic nicotine delivery systems or products~~ shall also be prohibited in any area where school staff, students or members of the public may be present or may be affected by smoke, including without limitation the stands and bleachers of outdoor athletic fields and near the entry of school buildings.

### **Section 4 Care of School Property**

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school. School-issued items that are stolen or damaged are the responsibility of the student to whom they are issued. Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications such as transcripts and report cards.

Students, who disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item.

~~*Fines are determined on books according to the following criteria:*~~

~~Lost Book: Replacement cost~~

~~Missing one or both covers: Same as lost book~~

~~Missing or torn page: 50 cents per page~~

~~Marks that cannot be erased: 20 cents per page~~

### **Section 5 Lockers and Backpacks**

Students should not share a locker with other students since they are responsible for the contents and cleanliness of their locker. Students may be assessed a fine for damage to lockers. Book bags and/or gym bags may be brought into the building, but are prohibited in classrooms. Book bags, backpacks, gym bags, purses, etc. are to be kept in a student's assigned locker. Students are not to leave their books/bookbags/backpacks/gym bags in the hallway or in the office. School officials may inspect lockers/bags without any particular suspicion or reasonable cause. Students must use school issued padlocks unless stated otherwise in an IEP or 504 plan.

### **Section 6 Use of Surveillance and Searches**

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 to district property, and to safeguard district facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on district property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

The school owns and exercises exclusive control over the student lockers, desks, computer equipment and other such school 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 (including the use of a police dog) of lockers, desks, computers and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.

The following rules shall apply to searches of students and of a student's personal property and to the seizure of items in a student's possession or control:

1. School officials may conduct a search if there is a reasonable basis to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or a school rule violation. The search must be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Illegal items or other items reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety of others or a threat to educational purposes may be taken and kept by school officials. Any firearm or other weapon shall be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement officials as soon as possible.
3. Items that have been or are reasonably expected to be used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process (that is, "nuisance items") may be removed from student possession.

### **Section 7 Use of Telephone**

Use of the office phone will be allowed in an emergency or when a student is ill. It may be allowed in other circumstances at the discretion of the office staff. However, the office phone is NOT to be used during class time and use of the phone is not an excuse to be tardy.

### **Section 8 Bicycles**

Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided and shall be equipped with locks. The school is not responsible for damage or theft of parts while bicycles are on school property.

### **Section 9 Vehicles**

Vehicles must be parked in designated areas. Vehicle related violations may result in loss of privilege of driving or parking on school property. Students are required to register their vehicles in the High School Office.

## **Section 10 Student Valuables**

Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property. Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of value to school. If it is necessary to bring valuable items or more money than is needed to pay for lunch, leave the money or valuables with a staff member in the school office for temporary safe-keeping. Even then, the school is not in a position to guarantee that the student's property will not be subject to loss, theft or damage.

## **Section 11 Lost and Found**

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office so the owner can claim the articles. If articles are lost at school, report that loss to office personnel.

## **Section 12 Accidents**

Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately **to a school administrator**.

## **Section 13 Laboratory Safety Glasses and Safety Equipment**

As required by law, approved safety glasses and safety equipment will be required of every student, teacher and visitor while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science and art classes when the risk of potential injury is present.

## **Section 14 Insurance**

Under Nebraska law, the district may not use school funds to provide general student accident or athletic insurance. The district encourages all student participants in athletic programs to have injury and accident insurance and encourages all students who are in classes with risk of personal injury or accident to have insurance coverage. The district does not make recommendations, nor handle the premiums or claims for any insurance company, agent or carrier. Information about student insurance providers will be available in the school office.

## **Section 15 Bulletins and Announcements**

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the principal's office. Posters are not to be attached to any painted wall surfaces. Posters/Signs only can be posted on hallway bulletin boards. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event.

## **Section 16 Copyright and Fair Use Policy**

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing coursework, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for purposes such as criticism, news, reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship or research" is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted "fair use," rather than an infringement of the copyright:

1. The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes
2. The nature of the copyrighted work
3. The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole.
4. The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is "fair." Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there is any questions regarding what may be copied.

## **Attendance and Participation**

### **Section 1 Attendance Policy**

Regular and punctual student attendance is required by school board policy 5001 and state law. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance requirements and regulations consistent with board policy. Students must be enrolled on a full-time basis. Exceptions are permitted only per board policy and state law.

### **Section 2 Attendance and Absences**

#### 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 regularly attend a public or private school unless the child has graduated from high school or has been disenrolled by the child's parent or guardian.

#### 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 for 16-17 Year Old Students

This policy does not apply to students who have reached age 16 but not yet turned 18 when (1) the services or earnings of a child are necessary for his or her own support or the support of those actually dependent upon him or her; or (2) when illness makes 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

The board will allow any person with legal or actual charge or control of a child who is younger than seven years of age or who is at least 16 years of age to disenroll the child only as permitted by state law. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed affidavit to the superintendent using the forms provided by the district, and will complete all required disenrollment processes required by board policy, this handbook, and state law.

### Attendance Officer

The superintendent is designated as the attendance officer for the district. The superintendent, 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 and board policy relating to compulsory attendance. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

### Attendance/Absences

**Excused Absences:** Absences must be cleared through the principal's office in advance whenever possible. An absence or tardy, even by parent approval, may not be excused unless it is specifically excused by board policy. **Please call the High School Office at 402-643-2988 before 9:00 am to report a student absence.** Below are the only absences which can be excused, unless otherwise permitted by board policy, this handbook, or state law:

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

For excused absences, two school days will be allowed to make up the work for each day missed with a maximum of ten (10) days allowed to make up work. Students who will be absent for a school activity must make arrangements with their teachers prior to the absence. If requested, assignments will be prepared for students who are ill. If parents and /or students request assignments, the school should be contacted by no later than 9 a.m. A student will be considered absent until a parent/guardian contacts the school. After two days with no parent or guardian contact, the absence will be considered unexcused even if the absence would otherwise be excused.

If a student is absent, a parent or guardian must call the Seward High School office that day with the reason for the absence. The call must be made each day a student is absent, unless other arrangements have been made, such as pre-arranged absences or an extended period of absence for the same cause.

***As required by law, excessive absences will be turned over to the Seward County Attorney's office. Excessive absences include all excused and unexcused absences consistent with board policy.***

### **Excessive Absences: Notification and Collaborative Plan Process**

Excessive absenteeism refers to any student that is absent 5 days or more per term. Such absences shall be determined on a per class basis. SHS may use excused and unexcused absences to calculate this total. The following procedures will act as a guide for Seward High School to address excessive absenteeism.

1. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of the student.
2. One or more meetings between the school (school administrator/designee, and/or school counselor and/or social worker), the student, the student's parent/guardian when appropriate to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan/attendance contract to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan/contract shall consider, but not limited to:
  - A. Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child
  - B. Educational counseling
  - C. Educational evaluation
  - D. Referral to community agencies for economic services
  - E. Family or individual counseling
  - F. Assisting the family in working with other community services.
3. If the parent/guardian refuses to participate or attend such a meeting the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the student's attendance records.
4. Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney-The School may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person resides when the school efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan/contract to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance have not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than twenty (20) absences per year. The school will notify the student's family in writing prior to referring the child to the county attorney.

### **Credit Loss due to Absenteeism**

Unless otherwise arranged and approved in advance, after three days of absence during a term, a warning letter will be sent which will detail the attendance policy and ask that parents notify the office of any discrepancies and provide any necessary absence documentation. When a student has exceeded 5 (Excused/Unexcused) absences during any Term, a letter will be sent home informing the student and his/her parents/guardians of the possible revocation of academic credits and possible need to provide documentation and/or setup an attendance review at the end of the term. This letter may coincide with a student conference and/or follow up phone call and/or meeting with the student and/or parents, in addition to any of the aforementioned interventions. The following terms and processes govern credit loss due to absenteeism:

- A. Absences related to school activities, suspensions, court appearances, medical/legal documented appointments/absences, bad roads, two (3) college visits, school

suspensions, Seward state activity contests with (pre-arranged absent) form filled out in advance) and any other reason contained in board policy are excluded from a student's absence total when considering revoking class credits.

- B. At the end of the term, students that have exceeded five (5) or more Excused/Unexcused absences during the term will be sent a letter regarding the revocation of academic credits and procedures to request an attendance review and present documentation or information to support their contention that the individual situation deserves special consideration and that credit should not be lost. Failure to request a review within five (5) days will result in the student being denied credit in the designated classes.
- C. An attendance committee appointed by the superintendent will review the circumstances during the review and determine whether or not to grant credit. Extraordinary or unusual circumstances, which may have caused a student to have an absence, may be presented to the committee, which may allow the student to earn credit despite his or her absences. The committee may consider such factors as: whether the reasons are contrary to the spirit of this policy; whether the student is failing in any class; whether the student has been a disruptive, undisciplined student, whether the student has repeatedly failed to comply with school rules and regulations; and /or other similar factors deemed appropriate by the committee. After the fourth term, the assistant principal/principal and counselors will make decisions in regards to excessive absences due to teachers having fulfilled their regular teaching contract days.

**Section 3 Explanation of Attendance Types/Reasons/Codes**

Absence Type	Absence Reason	PowerSchool Code
<b>EXEMPT – Do not count toward maximum allowable absences</b>	School Activity Late Bus Office/Counselor/Nurse Weather Withdrawn In School Suspension Long Term Suspension Out of School Suspension State Tournament	SAC BUS OFF WTHR WDR ISS LT SUSP SUP STT

<p><b>DOCUMENTED – Do not count toward maximum allowable 5 day per term limit, but will be included in County Attorney Report (20 days per school year)</b></p>	<p>College Visit (3 day limit)  Court/Probation  Doctor/Dentist/Orthodontist  Death/Funeral  Driver’s Test  Hospital  Immunization Not Current  Job Shadow (2 day limit)</p>	<p>COL  CRT  DOC (Written Doc. Req.)  DTH  DMV  HSP  IMM  JOB SDW</p>
<p><b>EXCUSED/UNEXCUSED -- Will count toward Maximum allowable days missed AND be included in County Attorney Report (20 days per school year)</b></p>	<p>Appointments  Absent  Absent (unexcused by parent)  Car Problem/Accident  District Tournament  Illness  Injury  Overslept  Personal/Family  No Ride/Missed Bus  Runaway  State Fair  Truant  Unaccounted For  EXCUSED Tardy--w/ parent call  UNEXCUSED Tardy</p>	<p>APPT  ABST  ABST UEX  CAR  DST  ILL  INJRY  OVS  PER  RDE  RUN  STF  TRU  UNC  TARC  TAR</p>

**Section 4 Tardiness**

Punctuality is a good work habit! Being tardy is defined as arriving to class after the tardy bell has rung. A student detained by a teacher, a counselor, or administrator must bring verification. This verification will excuse the tardy.

1. When a student is tardy to class he/she will be required to serve a fifteen (15) minute detention after school that day. All teachers will adhere to this policy with no exceptions made for students who need to go to work, athletics, appointments, etc. Bus students will be required to attend the next morning
2. Tardies will count in the overall attendance policy.
3. Every three (3) tardies will be counted as a day’s absence, which will be included in the five-day attendance limit.

~~Students will be considered tardy to class if they are not in their classroom when the tardy bell rings, unless they have a pass from the teacher who detained them. Specific tardy guidelines once students are in the classroom doorway are at the discretion of the classroom teacher.~~

~~Students have a sufficient time period between all class changes to make it to their next assigned class on time.~~

~~Students will receive a warning after their third tardy of the term. Upon each tardy thereafter, a student will receive a 1/2 hour detention. Failure to serve the detention will result in additional consequences as well.~~

## **Section 5 Leaving School**

Students who must leave school for any reason during the school day must check out at the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by a note or phone call from the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students are expected to sign in at the office. Students who leave without permission and without signing out in the proper manner will be considered truant.

## **Section 6 Attendance is Required to Participate in Activities (Board Policy 6014)**

**Students must attend school all day the day of any scheduled school activity in order to participate in the activity.** This includes sports contests, practices and dances. Failure to attend on that day will result in a student being withheld from participation in the activity. The principal retains the right to grant participation should extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments and funerals prevail. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will go home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

~~If SHS qualifies for state in an activity, the principal may allow students to attend the event and still participate in their activities that day. Students who want to attend and support SHS will need to get a permission slip from the office and get approval from their teachers and parents ahead of time. The principal (at his/her discretion) will determine the amount of time that will be excused based on when SHS competes. Forms are available in the office. Students that do not complete a form in advance will be assigned to make up class time.~~

~~If SHS qualifies for state in an activity, students who want to attend and support SHS will need to get a form from the office and get approval from their teachers, parents, and administrators ahead of time. The administration will determine the amount of time that will be excused based on when SHS competes. Failure to complete the form will result in an unexcused absence and no participation in extracurricular activities. Students that complete the form will be granted an excused absence and allowed to participate in extracurricular activities for the day.~~

## **Section 7 P.E. and Sports Participation**

If a student is injured in P.E. or sports practice, he or she needs to alert the teacher or coach so the staff member can complete an accident report.

If a student receives a note from medical personnel indicating they are injured, the student may not participate in P.E. or sports until they receive medical clearance. The school district will need a copy of the release prior to the student returning to P.E. or sports practice.

If a student has a minor injury that does not require medical attention, a parent may excuse their child from P.E. or sports practice for a maximum of two (2) days. The school district will need a note from the parent or the child will be expected to participate.

### **Section 8 Make-up Work**

Written make-up work may be assigned for each day missed regardless of the type of absence. If make-up work is not complete, students will receive no credit for the work required. The time each student is allowed to complete the make-up work is two (2) days for each day missed. However, the time may be extended by mutual agreement between the student and teacher.

**Students who will be absent for a school activity should make arrangements with their teachers prior to the absence.** The student has the responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments. Assignments will be sent for extended absences such as hospitalization or prolonged illnesses.

### **Section 9 Transferring from Seward High School:**

If a student should find it necessary to withdraw from school, it is very important that he/she secure a checkout form from the principal's office and have it signed by all of his/her teachers and parent/guardian. The slip is to be returned to the office after all individuals have signed it. Failure to check out of school in this manner will cause records to remain incomplete, making it impossible to send credits to another school

### **Section 10 Withdrawal from School:**

A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least sixteen years of age but less than eighteen years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation must have an exit interview with the superintendent's designee. Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if the child signs the form unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance impossible. The superintendent's designee signs the form that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the superintendent's designee the person making the written request does in fact have legal guardianship and the child is experiencing either financial hardship requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child or an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable. (Nebraska law LB -996)

# Scholastic Achievement

## Section 1 Grading System

Seward High School will use the letter grading system as follows:

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage</b>		
<u>Grade Earned</u>	<u>Non-Weighted</u>	<u>Percentage Ranges</u>	
A+	4.0	98-100	
A	4.0	95-97	
A-	3.667	93-94	
B+	3.333	91-92	
B	3.0	88-90	
B-	2.667	86-87	
C+	2.333	84-85	
C	2.0	80-83	
C-	1.667	78-79	
D+	1.333	76-77	
D	1.0	72-75	
D-	.667	70-71	
F	0	0-69	

Each teacher should define for students the grading procedures to be used in their classes.

## Section 2 Graduation Requirements

The district shall conduct a commencement ceremony for members of the senior class at the end of the school year. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right, and the superintendent or his/her designee may prohibit students who have violated conduct rules from participating in the ceremony as a consequence for the misconduct.

Only those students who have completed all graduation requirements (i.e., completed the required coursework or achieved the goals set in the student's individual education plan) will be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

Students who graduate from the School District of Seward must accumulate 235 hours. The total graduation requirements must include the following core curriculum:

- Language Arts -- 45 hours
- Language Arts and English Classes -- 40 hours
- Speech -- 5 hours
- Science -- 30 hours

Mathematics -- 30 hours  
Technology -- 5 hours  
Vocational -- 5 hours  
Social Science -- 35 hours  
Physical Education -- 15 hours  
Fine Arts or Foreign Language -- 5 hours  
Personal Finance -- 5 hours  
Volunteer Service --30 clock hours (In Seward Community, Unless Pre Approved)

The student handbook and registration book will list the core classes and the elective classes that are available and/or required.

### **Early Graduation Plan (Board Policy 6006)**

The School District of Seward supports the concept of early completion as a means of accelerating students toward the achievement of lifetime plans. The following guidelines have been established for students to be eligible for early completion:

1. Students must meet all completion requirements established by the Board of Education in order to be eligible for early graduation as well as the credit hour requirements in each specific subject matter area.
2. A student who decides to opt for early graduation or completion is not eligible to participate in school sponsored activities following the last day he/she attends classes. The effective date for participation will end with the last day that the student is enrolled in classes. The only school activities that the applicant (non-alternative school) is eligible for will be the regularly scheduled graduation ceremony and the jr/sr prom.
3. This policy shall be evaluated annually by the high school principal and appropriate revisions shall be recommended to the Board for its consideration.

### **Senior Recognition**

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

- Summa Cum Laude – A graduating senior with a cumulative G.P.A. of 4.0 or greater
- Magna Cum Laude – A graduating senior with a cumulative G.P.A. between 3.833 – 3.999
- Cum Laude – A graduating senior with a cumulative G.P.A. between 3.667 – 3.832

G.P.A. will be calculated on numeric basis using a four-point scale. The formula to do so is as follows:

Mark points earned in a course multiplied by the number of potential credits towards graduation assigned to that particular course. The sum of this calculation for each course is then added up with all other courses attempted for that term (for honor roll purposes) or cumulative for overall

GPA and is then divided by the total number of academic credits attempted for that term or cumulatively in order to calculate overall high school GPA.

The conversion table that will be used to associate classroom percentage grade performance with a particular letter grade and mark point value has been provided below.

<u>Grade Earned</u>	<u>Non-Weighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>	<u>Percentage Ranges</u>
A+	4.0	5.0	98-100
A	4.0	5.0	95-97
A-	3.667	4.667	93-94
B+	3.333	4.333	91-92
B	3.0	4.0	88-90
B-	2.667	3.667	86-87
C+	2.333	3.333	84-85
C	2.0	3.0	80-83
C-	1.667	2.667	78-79
D+	1.333	2.333	76-77
D	1.0	2.0	72-75
D-	.667	1.667	70-71
F	0	0	0-69

The following Advanced Placement (A.P.) courses will be classified as weighted.

- |                                    |                                  |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| A.P. Calculus                      | A.P. Computer Science            |
| A.P. Environmental Science         | A.P. Statistics                  |
| A.P. Music Theory                  | A.P. U.S. History (Pre and Post) |
| A.P. Biology                       | A.P. Human Geography             |
| Other A.P. offerings may be added. |                                  |

The following courses will be excluded in the calculation of high school GPA:

- Courses completed by home-schooled students
- Correspondence courses completed at a non-accredited high school
- Non-credit earning courses
- “Pass” courses
- Aide assignments
- College classes that do not earn high school credit

### **Transfer Students**

In an effort to provide all students with an equitable GPA calculation, the records of transfer students will be evaluated individually with each course grade being assigned the weight of its closest counterpart in the Seward High School registration guidebook. The goal of this process is to ensure equity and fairness so that those transferring to Seward High School are given neither an advantage or disadvantage in the calculation of GPA.

### **Selection of Graduation Speakers**

Students interested in representing their graduating class as speakers at graduation shall apply at the designated time during the second semester of their senior year. The application process will require a short written application along with a speaking trial. A faculty committee of three-to-five staff members appointed by the principal on an annual basis will select the graduation speakers based upon pre-selected criteria that consider both the content of the speech and the delivery. No faculty member with a conflict of interest will be selected to serve on the committee.

### **Section 3 Grade Placement**

Subject to a determination on grade placement based on the criteria set forth below, a student transferring from an accredited school will generally be placed at the grade level that is comparable to the placement in the school from which the student is transferring. Temporary placement may be made until a student's records are received to verify the placement.

The appropriate level of placement for secondary students may be determined by, but not limited to, consideration of the following information:

- Chronological age
- Previous public school or private school experience
- Standardized achievement test data
- Criterion referenced test data
- Final examination test data
- Diagnostic test data

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

The district administration, in conjunction with the building principal, will determine the appropriate grade level/credit status of a student transferring from a foreign country.

### **Section 4 Schedule Changes**

Students needing schedule changes should notify their school counselor. The school counselor and all teachers involved must agree to all schedule changes. Due to the efforts in how we build of the master schedule based upon student requests to maximize our staffing, schedule changes will be very limited. **Students who drop a class or are removed per behavior after the first week of term will be given an Withdrawal/F on their transcript for the course.** The principal

reserves the right to make the final decision on all schedule changes and dropped course transcript grades.

### **Section 5 Progress Reports Failing Grade Reports**

~~Various supplemental reports may be sent to parents throughout the school year concerning student's performance. These reports may describe student work of an exceptional nature or work that needs improving. These reports will be sent at teacher discretion. Failing grade reports will be issued via the One Call Now alert system each Monday starting the third week of each term. This system utilizes contact information provided by parents/guardians.~~

### **Section 6 Report Cards**

Report cards are issued at the end of each term. Percent grades are used to designate a student's progress. Incompletes shall be designated by an "I" for the term. Students have one (1) week after the end of the term to make up incomplete work if given an "I" for the term. Failure to do so may cause the grade to change to an "F" or "NC" (no credit). No incompletes will be given at the end of the fourth term, as all course work must be completed by the end of the fourth term.

### **Section 7 Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent-Teacher conferences will be held once each term. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Conferences with teachers, at any other time, are possible by contacting the school office and making arrangements with one or more teachers, as needed.

### **Section 8 Honor Roll**

The purpose of the Honor Roll is to recognize those students who demonstrate academic excellence. The merit roll will be determined for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th terms. Students will be recognized if they meet the following criteria:

1. Minimum G.P.A. of a 3.5 for the grading period (high school classes only).
2. No "C's" or below in any class.
3. No "N's" or "U's" on student citizenship. **Citizenship grades will be determined based on the preparation, respect, integrity, dedication, effort scale.**
4. Enrolled in a minimum of 10 high school credit hours for the grading period.

Honor Roll lists are published in the *Seward County Independent* each term.

### **Section 9 National Honor Society**

The National Honor Society chapter of Seward High School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of this prestigious national organization.

[Admission to the National Honor Society](#)

Membership is open to those students who meet the required standards in four (4) areas of evaluation: scholarship, leadership, service, and character. Standards for selection are established by the national office of NHS and have been revised to meet our local chapter needs. Students are selected to be members by a five (5) member Faculty Council, appointed by the principal, which bestows this honor upon qualified students on behalf of the faculty of our school each semester.

Students in the 10th, 11th, or 12th grades are eligible for membership. For the scholarship criterion, a student must have a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or better on a 4.0 scale. Those students who meet this criterion are invited to complete a Student Activity Information Form that provides the Faculty Council with information regarding the candidate's leadership and service. A history of leadership experiences and participation in school or community service is required.

To evaluate a candidate's character, the faculty council uses two forms of input: first, school disciplinary records are reviewed; second, members of the faculty are solicited for input regarding their professional reflections on a candidate's service activities, character, and leadership. These forms and the Student Activity Information Forms are carefully reviewed by the Faculty Council to determine membership. A majority vote of the council is necessary for selection. The chapter adviser is a non-voting member of the Faculty Council. Candidates are notified regarding selection or non-selection according to a predetermined schedule.

Following notification, a formal induction ceremony is held at the school to recognize all the newly selected members. Once inducted, new members are required to maintain the same level of performance in all four criteria (or better) that led to their selection. This obligation includes regular attendance at chapter meetings when and as scheduled and participation in the chapter service projects(s).

Students or parents who have questions regarding the selection process or membership obligations can contact the chapter adviser, Mr. Chris Oerman.

#### Removal from National Honor Society

A student may be removed from the NHS by action of the Principal upon a determination by the Principal that the student:

1. Prior Conduct. Engaged in conduct prior to induction which was not known at the time of induction and which, if known, would have caused denial of induction;
2. Post-Induction Conduct. Engaged in conduct after induction which is grounds for a student to be long-term suspended or expelled from school under the student code of conduct; which is grounds for suspension or removal from any extracurricular activity of the school, or which would cause denial of induction if such conduct had taken place prior to the time of induction.

The student may appeal the Principal's decision to the Superintendent by giving written notice of appeal to the Superintendent within ten calendar days of receipt of the Principal's removal decision. The

appeal procedures shall be established in the discretion of the Superintendent such as to allow a fair opportunity for the student's views and information to be considered. The decision of the Superintendent on the appeal shall be final.

The National Honor Society chapter of Seward High School is a duly chartered and affiliated chapter of the prestigious national organization.

#### Admission to the National Honor Society

~~Members of this year's sophomore and junior classes are eligible for consideration for membership in the Seward Chapter of the National Honor Society. Students are selected by a faculty council.~~

~~Membership is based on four criteria which are the cornerstones of the National Honor Society. They are scholarship, leadership, service and character. Students must have an average GPA of a 3.5 or greater. If they meet the scholarship criterion, their names will be submitted to the faculty as a whole. The faculty will rate each student on a 1 to 4 scale in the next three areas and are instructed to evaluate only the students whom they know.~~

~~Additionally, each student will be asked to complete a student survey form to support the student's candidacy by providing relevant information for use by the Faculty Council. Selection for membership to the chapter is always determined by a majority vote of the Faculty Council after reviewing faculty evaluation forms, student information forms and administrative records.~~

~~According to the published guidelines of the National Honor Society, "selection to NHS is a privilege, not a right. Students do not apply for membership in the National Honor Society; instead, they provide information to be used by the local selection committee to support their candidacy for membership. For many students, selection as a member of the NHS is the pinnacle of their achievements in school. This honor, recognized throughout the nation, is both the public recognition of accomplishment and the private commitment to continued excellence on the part of the new member."~~

~~The selection process will begin during the fourth term. Students should check the counselor's office window where names of candidates for membership will be posted.~~

~~Students or parents who have questions regarding the selection process or membership obligations can contact the chapter advisor.~~

#### Removal from National Honor Society

~~A student may be removed from NHS by action of the principal upon a determination by the principal that the student:~~

- ~~1. *Prior Conduct.* Engaged in conduct prior to induction which was not known at the time of induction, and which, if known, would have caused denial if induction.~~

~~2. — *Post-Induction Conduct.* Engaged in conduct after induction which is grounds for a student to be long-term suspended or expelled from school under the student code of conduct contained in this handbook; which is grounds for suspension or removal from any extracurricular activity of the school, or which could cause denial of induction if such conduct had taken place prior to the time of induction.~~

~~The student may appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent by giving written notice of appeal to the superintendent within ten (10) calendar days of receipt of the principal's removal decision. The appeal procedures shall be established at the discretion of the superintendent such as to allow a fair opportunity for the student's views and information to be considered. The decision of the superintendent on the appeal shall be final.~~

## **Section 10 Academic Integrity**

### **A. Policy Statement**

Students are expected to abide by the standards of academic integrity established by their teachers and school administration. Standards of academic integrity are established in order for students to learn as much as possible from instruction, for students to be given grades which accurately reflect the student's level of learning and progress, to provide a level playing field for all students, and to develop appropriate values.

Cheating and plagiarism violate the standards of academic integrity. Sanctions will be imposed against students who engage in such conduct.

### **B. Definitions**

The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:

1. "Cheating" means intentionally to misrepresent the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Such misrepresentations may, but need not necessarily, involve the work of others. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:
  - (a) Tests (includes tests, quizzes and other examinations or academic performances)
    - (1) Advance Information: Obtaining, reviewing or sharing copies of tests or information about a test before these are distributed for student use by the instructor. For example, a student engages in cheating if, after having taken a test, the student informs other students in a later section of the questions that appear on the test.
    - (2) Use of Unauthorized Materials: Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formula in calculators, or other unauthorized material, devices or information while taking a test except as expressly permitted. For example, except for "open book" tests, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at personal notes or the textbook during the test.

(3) Use of Other Student Answers: Copying or looking at another student's answers or work, or sharing answers or work with another student, when taking a test, except as expressly permitted. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at another student's paper during a test. A student also engages in cheating if the student tells another student answers during a test or while exiting the testing room, or knowingly allows another student to look at the student's answers on the test paper.

(4) Use of Other Student to Take Test. Having another person take one's place for a test, or taking a test for another student, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.

(5) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Test. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid the taking of a test. For example, student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day of a test, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student was not prepared for the test.

(b) Papers (includes papers, essays, lab projects, and other similar academic work):

(1) Use of Another's Paper: Copying another student's paper, using a paper from an essay writing service, or allowing another student to copy a paper, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.

(2) Re-use of One's Own Papers: Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.

(3) Assistance from Others: Having another person assist with the paper to such an extent that the work does not truly reflect the student's work. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student has a draft essay reviewed by the student's parent or sibling, and the essay is substantially re-written by the student's parent or sibling. Assistance from home is encouraged, but the work must remain the student's.

(4) Failure to Contribute to Group Projects. Accepting credit for a group project in which the student failed to contribute a fair share of the work.

(5) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Paper. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid turning in a paper when due. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day a paper is due, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student had not finished the paper.

(c) Alteration of Assigned Grades. Any unauthorized alteration of assigned grades by a student in the teacher's grade book or the school records is a serious form of cheating.

"Plagiarism" means to take and present as one's own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one's own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works.

Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:

(1) Failure to Credit Sources: Copying work (words, sentences, and paragraphs or illustrations or models) directly from the work of another without proper credit. Academic work frequently involves use of outside sources. To avoid plagiarism, the student must either place the work in quotations or give a citation to the outside source.

(2) Falsely Presenting Work as One's Own: Presenting work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers or use of another student's paper.

(3) "Contributing" to academic integrity violations means to participate or assist another in cheating or plagiarism. It includes but is not limited to allowing another student to look at your test answers, to copy your papers or lab projects, and to fail to report a known act of cheating or plagiarism to the instructor or administration.

### C. Sanctions

The following sanctions will occur for academic integrity offenses:

1. Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the cheating or plagiarism took place, assign a grade of "F" or zero for the work, and require the student to complete a test or project in place of the work within such time and under such conditions as the instructor may determine appropriate. In the event the student completes the replacement test or project at a level meeting minimum performance standards, the instructor will assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work. Credit for the class may be withheld pending successful completion of the replacement test or project.
2. Report to Parents and Administration. The instructor will notify the Principal of the offense and the instructor or Principal will notify the student's parents or guardian.
3. Student Discipline Sanctions. Academic integrity offenses are a violation of school rules. The Principal may recommend sanctions in addition to those assigned by the instructor, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Such additional sanctions will be given strong consideration where a student has engaged in a serious or repeated academic integrity offense or other rule violations, and where the academic sanction is otherwise not a sufficient remedy, such as for offenses involving altering assigned grades or contributing to academic integrity violations.

## Section 11 Transcripts

Students requesting transcripts must provide the office with a 24-hour notice. Students are responsible for making sure they have the necessary courses and credits to meet graduation requirements and college entrance requirements.

## Support Services

### Section 1 Special Education Services

Special education means specially designed instruction and related services adapted as appropriate to the needs of an eligible student with a disability. Special education is provided at no cost to the parent to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

#### Students Who May Benefit

A student verified as having autism, behavior disorders, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairments, mental handicaps, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech-language impairments, traumatic brain injury or visual impairments, who because of these impairments need special education and related services.

#### How are Students With Disabilities Identified?

Referrals are made by teachers or parents to a Student Assistance Team. If the student assistance team or comparable problem solving team feels that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation is completed. An evaluation is conducted to assist in the determination of whether a student has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services the student needs. The evaluation is conducted only with written consent of a parent or guardian. A multidisciplinary evaluation team (MDT) will then meet to determine whether the student is eligible for special education.

#### Independent Evaluation

If a parent disagrees with an evaluation completed by the school district, the parent has a right to request an independent educational evaluation at public expense. Parents should direct inquiries to school officials to determine if the school district will arrange for further evaluation at public expense. If school district officials feel the original evaluation was appropriate and the parents disagree, a due process hearing may be initiated. If it is determined that the original evaluation was appropriate, parents still have the right to an independent educational evaluation at their own expense.

#### Reevaluation

Students identified for special education will be reevaluated at least every three (3) years by the IEP team. The IEP team will review existing evaluation data on the student and will identify what additional data, if any, are needed. The school district will obtain parental consent prior to conducting any reevaluation of a student with a disability.

#### Individual Education Program (IEP)

Upon a student being verified as having a disability, a conference will be held with parents. At the conference, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed specifying

programs and services which will be provided by the schools. Parent consent will be obtained prior to a student being placed for the first time in a program providing special education and related services or early intervention services to infant and toddlers. Once in place, the IEP is reviewed on an annual basis, or more frequently as needed. Parents are given a copy of the IEP.

### Special Education Placement

The student's placement in a special education program is dependent on the student's educational needs as outlined in the Individual Education Program (IEP). To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with students who are not disabled. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Determination of a student's educational placement will be made by the IEP team.

Written notice shall be given to parents a reasonable time before the school district: 1. Proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, verification or educational placement of a child or the provision of a free appropriate public education; or 2. Refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

### More Information

Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the District's special education policy, the Parental Rights in Special Education brochure, or a copy of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51 (special education regulations and complaint procedures) or Rule 55 (special education appeal procedures) may contact the Superintendent. A notice of parental rights, Rules 51 and 55 and more information about special education are also available at the Nebraska Department of Education's website: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/SPED/sped.html>.

## **Section 2      Students with Disabilities: Section 504**

Accommodations and related services are made available to students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Under Section 504, parents have the following rights:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of your child's disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education. This includes the right to be educated with non-disabled students to the maximum extent appropriate. It also includes the right to have the school district make reasonable accommodations to allow your child an equal opportunity to participate in school and school-related activities.

5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to students without disabilities.
6. Have your child receive an individualized evaluation and receive special education and related services if your child is found eligible under Section 504.
7. Have evaluation, eligibility, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know your child and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
8. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if your child were placed in a program operated by the school district.
9. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the school district.
10. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement. Obtain copies of educational records at a reasonable cost on the same terms as records are provided students without a disability unless the fee would effectively deny you access to the records.
11. Receive a response from the school district to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of your child's records.
12. Request amendment of your child's educational records if there is reasonable cause to believe that they are inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy rights of your child. If the school district refuses this request, it shall notify you within a reasonable time, and advise you of the right to a hearing.
13. File a local grievance in accordance with school policy.
14. Request an impartial hearing related to decisions regarding your child's identification, eligibility, and educational program or placement with opportunity for participation by the person's parents or guardian and representation by counsel, and a review procedure. This is provided in the local grievance procedure.

### **Section 3 Guidance Services**

Seward Public Schools employs counselor(s) for the purpose of assisting with the District's testing program, to assist with scheduling and for students to discuss problems and resolve conflicts. If you wish to see a counselor, stop by a counselor's office and make arrangements for an appointment.

### **Section 4 Health Services**

#### Student Illnesses

School health personnel will notify parents when a student needs to be sent home from school due to illness. Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: Temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice (see "Guidelines for Head Lice" below), or on determination by the school nurse that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the educational program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves.

Please include emergency daytime phone numbers on your child's enrollment card so that you can be reached if your child becomes ill or injured while at school. Please also inform your school health office staff of health-related information you feel is important for your student's success in the classroom and/or safety at school.

#### Guidelines for Administering Medication

Whenever possible your child should be provided medications by you outside of school hours. In the event it is necessary that your child take or have medication available at school, the parents/guardians must provide a signed written consent for the child to be given medication at school. A consent form is available at the school health office. If your child has asthma or diabetes and is capable of self-managing his or her health condition, contact the health office to develop a self-management plan.

Medications must be provided to the school by the parent/guardian in the pharmacy-labeled or manufacturer-labeled bottle. Repackaged medications will not be accepted. All medications also require a physician's authorization to be given at school. Prescription medications that are to be given for a period longer than two weeks need to have a written prescription from the prescribing doctor on file in the nurse's office (e.g. inhalers, ADHD meds given at school, etc).

#### School Health Screening

Children in Preschool and Kindergarten through third grade, as well as children in sixth and ninth grades are screened for vision, hearing, dental defects, height and weight.

Among the health services provided for students by the Seward School District are screening tests for vision, dental, and hearing. Hearing tests are given to students in ~~kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and~~ tenth grades, and to new students and those who have had previous hearing losses. Vision screening (distance) is done each year ~~in all elementary grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and~~ tenth grade. ~~Vision (near) is done in grades first and third grade.~~ Dental screenings are completed each year in ~~kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and~~ tenth grade except for those students who have evidence of having been seen by a dentist within the preceding six (6) months. Weight/height status along with a body mass index percentile is done in ~~grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and~~ tenth grade. Students entering the SCIP process at any grade level, and those about whom health concerns are identified to the school nurse, may also be screened. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school screening program must communicate this in writing to the school health office at the start of the school year. Because Nebraska statutes require school-age screening, parents who remove their child from the screening program must submit findings from an alternate medical provider to the school by December 1.

These screenings are for the purpose of detecting major dental, vision, and hearing problems, which are apparent and are not intended to substitute for a thorough doctor examination. Parents/guardians are notified if the screenings indicate the potential for any type of problem. School personnel do not diagnose health problems. If health problems are detected,

parents/guardians are then encouraged to consult their family medical specialist, but the schools cannot assume the cost of the medical specialist's.

See the chart below for the most recent school immunization rules and regulations provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

**Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations**

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1 <sup>st</sup> Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 <sup>th</sup> birthday 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Students entering 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. . For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: [http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg\\_1173.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_1173.aspx) (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)  
 Updated 01/26/2018

**Physical and Visual Examination**

Evidence of a physical examination and a visual evaluation is required in the case of transfer from out of state, to any other grade. The physical examination is to be completed by a physician, a physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse; the visual evaluation is to be completed by any of the forgoing or an optometrist. A parent or guardian who objects to the physical examination and/or visual evaluation may submit a written statement of refusal for his or her child. Waiver forms are available in the school health office. Additional physical examination requirements exist for students participating in athletic participation.

**Immunizations**

Students must show proof of immunization. A student who does not comply with the

immunization requirements will not be permitted to continue in school. Students with medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs which do not allow immunizations must complete a waiver statement or affidavit. Forms are available in school health offices.

Unimmunized students may be excluded from school in the event of a disease outbreak.

### Birth Certificate Requirements

State law requires that a certified copy of a student's birth certificate be provided within 30 days of enrollment of a student in school for the first time. You may obtain a certified copy from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which your child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Management, P.O. Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee per certificate.

Please note: The document parents receive from the hospital looks like a birth certificate, but it is not a certified copy. A certified copy has the raised seal of the state of Nebraska on it and is signed by the director of vital statistics.

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student's identity may be used. These documents could include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

### Guidelines for Head Lice

The following guidelines are in place to: better control a nuisance condition; reduce absenteeism due to head lice; and involve parents as partners with the school in control efforts:

1. Children will be sent home from school for live head lice. In the event a child has two (2) cases of live lice in a semester, the child will be sent home until free of both live lice and nits (eggs).
2. Health office staff will provide written treatment information and instructions, including how to check and identify head lice\*.
3. A child who is sent home from school for head lice should miss no more than two (2) school days.
4. A child who has been sent from school due to head lice must come to the health office for inspection before returning to class.
5. A child who returns to class with nits (eggs) will be checked again in 7-10 days.
6. Families are encouraged to report head lice to the school health office.
7. Classroom-wide or school-wide head checks will be conducted as needed in order to control the condition at school.

\*Nit removal will be emphasized for effective management of the condition. For more information call the nurse at your child's school.

## **Section 5     Transportation Services**

Transportation to and from school is provided to students in accordance with law and Board policy. Students may also be provided transportation on field trips and when participating in school activities. Students are expected to follow the behavioral expectations for riding school buses.

### **Behavior on School Buses**

**General Conduct Rules Apply:** While riding school buses you are expected to follow the same student conduct rules which apply when you are on school property or attending school activities, functions or events. There are also special conduct rules for riding school buses. These rules also apply to riding other school vehicles.

#### **Special Conduct Rules for Riding School Buses:**

##### **A. Rules for Getting On and Off the Bus**

1. Be on time to be picked up. As a general rule, get to your bus stop five (5) minutes before your scheduled pick up time. If you miss the bus, immediately return to your home and tell your parents so they can get you to school.
2. While waiting for the bus, stay at least five (5) feet away from the street, road or highway. Wait until the bus comes to a complete stop before approaching the bus.
3. You may exit the bus only at your approved destination (your school or your approved bus stop). Exit the bus as directed by the driver. Do not run.
4. If you must cross the street after exiting the bus, always cross in front of the bus where the driver can see you. Wait for the driver to signal to you before crossing the street.

##### **B. Rules on the Bus**

1. Be respectful of the bus driver. Immediately follow all directions of the driver and any paraeducator or adult on the bus.
2. Sit in your seat facing forward. Use seat belts in vehicles in which they are available.
3. Talk quietly and use appropriate language.
4. Keep all parts of your body inside the bus.
5. Keep your arms, legs and belongings to yourself.
6. No fighting, harassment, bullying, intimidation or horseplay.
7. Do not throw any object.
8. No eating, drinking, use of tobacco, alcohol, drugs or flammables.
9. Do not bring any weapon (real or imitation) or dangerous objects on the school bus.
10. Do not damage the school bus.

**Getting the Driver's Assistance:** If you need assistance from the driver, wait until the bus is at a full stop. If you are close enough, tell the driver what you need. If you are too far away for

the driver to hear you, ask a student in front of you to get the driver's attention. If necessary, walk up to the driver, while the bus is at a full stop. If you need immediate assistance for an emergency, take all action needed to safely get the help of the driver.

**Consequences for Rule Violations:** Consequences for school bus misconduct may include restriction or suspension of bus privileges and other disciplinary measures, up to and including expulsion from school.

### **Section 1—Special Education**

All children, regardless of their handicapping condition, are entitled to a free appropriate public education and an equal opportunity for education according to their needs. The district will follow the rules and protocols created by the Nebraska Department of Education and the United States Department of Education in identifying, evaluating, verifying and serving students who may be entitled to rehabilitation or special education services.

The school district shall provide special education and rehabilitative services only to children with verified disabilities and qualifying conditions.

### **Section 2—Counseling Services**

Seward High School employs school counselors for the purpose of assisting with the district's testing program and to assist with scheduling and for students to discuss problems and resolve conflicts.

### **Section 3—Health Services**

#### Student Illnesses

School personnel will notify parents when a student needs to be sent home from school due to illness. Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, or on determination by school personnel that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the education program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves. Please include emergency daytime phone numbers on your child's enrollment card so that you can be reached if your child becomes ill or injured while at school. Please also inform your school health office staff of health related information you feel is important for your student's success in the classroom and/or safety at school.

#### Guidelines for Administering Medication

Whenever possible your child should be provided medications by you outside of school. In the event it is necessary that the child take or have medication available at school, the parents or guardians must provide a signed written consent for the child to be given the medication at school. **ALL** medication also requires a signed **parental** consent form that is available at the High School office.

Medications must be provided to the school by the parent or guardian in the pharmacy-labeled or manufacturer-labeled bottle. Repackaged medication will not be accepted. All medication also requires a signed consent form to be given at school. **Prescription medications that are to be given for a period longer than two weeks need to have a written prescription from the prescribing doctor on file in the nurse's office (i.e. inhalers, ADHD meds given at school, etc)**

For non-prescription medication that must be given on a routine basis by school personnel, parents must complete form Med-B. School personnel can occasionally give non-prescription drugs, such as non-aspirin and antacid. Parents must have signed the authorization form indicating what type of non-prescription medication can or cannot be administered to their student.

**Students should not dispense any type of medication to another student.**

### *School Health Screening*

Among the health services provided for students by the Seward School District are screening tests for vision, dental, and hearing. Hearing tests are given to students in kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and tenth grades, and to new students and those who have had previous hearing losses. Vision screening (distance) is done each year in all elementary grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and tenth grade. Vision (near) is done in grades first and third grade. Dental screenings are completed each year kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and tenth grade except for those students who have evidence of having been seen by a dentist within the preceding six (6) months. Weight/height status along with a body mass index percentile is done in grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and tenth grade.

These screenings are for the purpose of detecting major dental, vision, and hearing problems, which are apparent and are not intended to substitute for a thorough doctor examination. Parents/guardians are notified if the screenings indicate the potential for any type of problem. School personnel do not diagnose health problems. If health problems are detected, parents/guardians are then encouraged to consult their family medical specialist, but the schools cannot assume the cost of the medical specialist's.

See the chart below for the most recent school immunization rules and regulations provided by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services.

## **Section 6 Admission Requirements/Exempt Students (Board Policy 5003)**

Students shall be admitted to the school district who are:

- 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 a foreign exchange students pursuant to policy; or
  - 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 subject to this policy and the regulations of 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.

### Part-Time Enrollment of Students

A student may be permitted to enroll on a part-time basis pursuant to this policy and applicable regulations when appropriate for reasons that include but are not limited to the following: the student attends another education institution on a part-time basis; is enrolled for a limited number of credit hours needed to graduate; has a modified schedule because of a disability or as part of an individualized education plan; or is a student who resides in the school district but attends a private, denominational, or parochial school or a school that elects not to meet accreditation or approval requirements (referred to herein as an **exempt school student** or an **exempt school**, respectively— commonly referred to as a home school).

### Application for Enrollment

The parent or guardian of an exempt school student who is of appropriate age to attend school, resides in the school district, has not graduated from high school, and has not received a graduate equivalency diploma must meet admission requirements and file an application for enrollment on forms provided by the school district by June 1 of the year of enrollment. For second semester high school courses, the application must be filed by November 1. For students who move into the district mid-semester, the application must be filed within 20 days of moving into the district. The administration shall review the application, determine whether to approve or deny it, notify the parent or guardian, and schedule enrollment at an educationally appropriate time in the building or attendance center of the administration's choice. Enrollment does not carry over from one year to the next, and the parent or guardian of an exempt school student must apply for enrollment each school year.

### Capacity

The enrollment of exempt school students is subject to the capacity limitations established by the district for grades, classes, courses, and programs. Full-time students shall be given priority for enrollment in grades, classes, courses, and programs.

### Placement of Students

Exempt school students shall be placed in courses for which they have adequate preparation and which are determined to be educationally appropriate based on criteria that include, but are not limited to the student's age, achievement test scores, academic record, evaluation by school personnel and any other standards used by the district for the placement of students.

### Grades and Academic Honors

Exempt school students shall receive grades, report cards, and transcripts, but shall not be eligible to graduate, receive a diploma or qualify for class ranking unless they meet all district requirements for such including earning a sufficient number of credit hours and semesters of attendance.

### Applicability of School Rules

Exempt school students are subject to all rules and regulations of the board of education and administration as set forth in policy, handbooks or other communications, as well as the rules and directives of the building administration and teaching personnel. They must remain on the school campus during scheduled classes but must leave the school campus when not engaged in a course or course-related activity unless the course or course-activity requires their presence or the building principal approves their presence. Students who violate school policies, rules, or directives shall be subject to disciplinary procedures up to and including suspension and expulsion.

### Extracurricular Sports and Activities

Exempt school students may not participate in extracurricular sports and activities; provided, they may participate in activities that are part of the school district curriculum (e.g. band performance). Exempt school students who ~~become full-time students and~~ satisfy the eligibility requirements of the district and the Nebraska School Activities Association, where applicable, may participate in extracurricular sports and activities.

### Transportation

Exempt school students are not entitled to transportation or reimbursement for transportation.

### Birth Certificate, Physical, Visual Evaluation and Immunization

The parents or legal guardians shall furnish:

1. A certified copy of the student's birth certificate issued by the state in which the child was born, prior to admission of a child for the first time. Other reliable proof of the child's identity and age, accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate, may be used in lieu of a 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.
2. Evidence of a physical examination by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner, within six (6) months prior to entrance of the child into the beginner grade and the seventh grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a physical examination.
3. Evidence of a visual evaluation by a physician, physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, within six (6) months prior to entrance of the child into the beginner grade or, in the case of a transfer from out of state, to any other

grade, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a written statement objecting to a visual evaluation. The visual evaluation is to consist of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity.

4. Evidence of protection against diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, Hepatitis B, Varicella (Chicken Pox) and Haemophilus Influenzae type B (Hib) and other diseases as required by applicable law, by immunization, prior to enrollment, unless the parent or legal guardian submits a refusal of immunization for medical reasons signed by a physician or refusal for religious reasons affidavit signed by a notary public.

The superintendent or superintendent's designee shall notify the parent or guardian in writing of the foregoing requirements and the right to submit affidavits or statements to object to the requirements, as applicable. The superintendent or superintendent's designee shall also provide a telephone number or other contact information to assist the parent or guardian in receiving information regarding free or reduced –cost visual evaluation for low-income families who qualify.

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.

#### Enrollment of Expelled Students

If a student has been expelled from any public school district in any state, and the student has not completed the terms or time period of the expulsion, the student shall not be permitted to enroll in this school district until the expulsion period from such other school has expired, unless the school board of this district in its sole and absolute discretion upon a proper application approves by a majority vote the enrollment of such student prior to expiration of the expulsion period. As a condition of enrollment, the school board may require attendance in an alternative school, class or educational program pursuant to Nebraska law until the terms or time period of the original underlying expulsion are completed. A student expelled from a private, denominational, or parochial school or from any public school in another state, will not be prohibited from enrolling in the public school district in which the student resides or in which the student has been accepted pursuant to the enrollment option program for any period of time beyond the time limits place on expulsion, pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, or for any expulsion for an offense for which expulsion is not authorized for a public school student under such Act. For purposes of this policy, the term expulsion or expelled includes any removal from any school for a period in excess of twenty (20) school days.

### **Section 7 Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS)**

In order to ensure a safe learning environment for all students, the school staff is committed to the following:

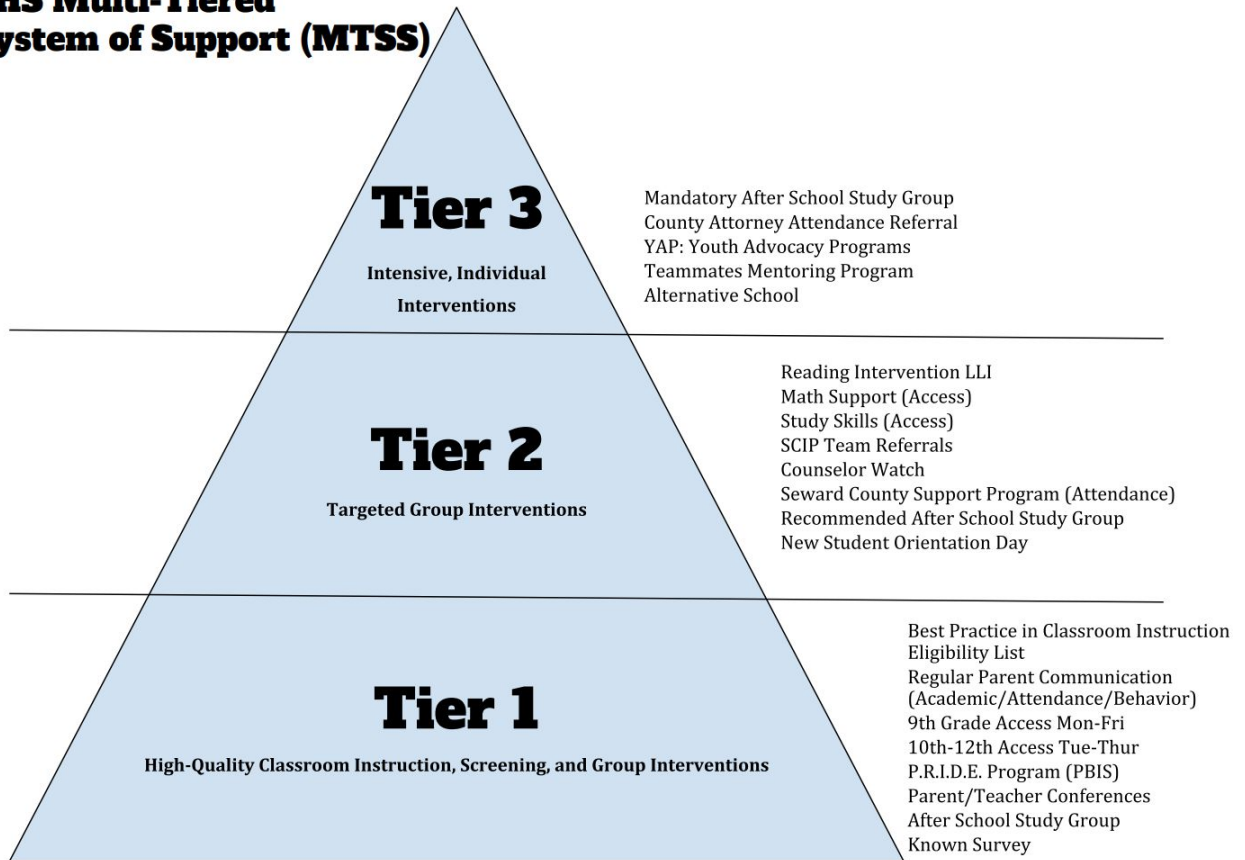
- Using a positive, preventative and educational approach to student behavior.

- Having a plan with clear direction for staff
- Explicitly teaching student behavior expectations
- Empowering all staff to implement the plan
- Having students taking responsibility for their own behavior
- Using natural and logical consequences when behavior problems occur
- Seeking parent support for appropriate student conduct and disciplinary procedures

In order to carry out the philosophy and beliefs stated above, our school has chosen to implement the Positive Behavior Support (PBIS) model. PBIS is a program designed to build a more positive school-wide atmosphere. The ultimate goal is to teach students to be self-managers, who encourage and challenge each other to higher behavioral and academic standards. This is accomplished through the use of clear expectations which are explicitly taught, regularly acknowledged and fairly corrected. Students are “set up” for success in school.

## Section 8 Multi Tiered Student Support Services (MTSS)

### SHS Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)



Updated August 2018

## **SCIP Team**

The staff of Seward High School recognizes that students can have experiences that may affect their academic and social life. The primary goal of the School Community Intervention Program (SCIP) is preventative in nature designed to help students before their experiences become overwhelming.

Experiences may include:

Depression	Dropping Out
Students Not Living at Home	Abuse
Divorce	Time Management
Eating Disorders	Suicide
Self Esteem	Test Anxiety
Death	Under Achievement
Single Parent Families	Failing Grades
Absenteeism/Tardiness	

Students in need of information or help may be referred by various concerned individuals including: self, peers, family, or school staff. Referral forms can be obtained from any staff member (which will include cooks, custodian staff, secretaries, library aides, coaches, teachers, or administrators). Completed forms can be returned to any staff member or the SCIP team leader. After the referral, information will be gathered to help identify the problem(s) the student is experiencing. The SCIP team will then meet to formulate an appropriate plan of action.

Once a problem has been identified and the extent of the problem is known, the student will be encouraged to accept the needed help. Team members will help students consider possible options and encourage them to make decisions that will resolve their problem in a positive way. At some level parents may be involved in the process.

The next step involves providing help for the student. The assistance recommended will vary with the type and severity of the problem. Finally, student assistance programs will provide support for students as they make adjustments in their lifestyles and seek to make appropriate life decisions. In cases of extreme physical, mental, or family circumstances, the SCIP team may elect to allow students to have a schedule that deviates from the listed requirements.

## **Section 9 Seward Alternative Education Center (SAEC)**

### **Philosophy**

All students at the Seward Alternative Education Center will be provided an opportunity and encouraged to grow socially and academically in a positive, nurturing, challenging environment.

### **Introduction**

The SAEC is an alternative education program provided by the School District of Seward. The major emphasis of the program is to provide a self-paced educational setting where individual students can earn a diploma while working through a more individualized program of study. Students are expected to display appropriate behaviors at all times. Students are expected to follow all rules and policies of conduct stated in School District of Seward Student-Parent Handbooks.

## **Student Eligibility**

Students in grade 6 through 12 are eligible for the program and must be referred by a building administrator. For special education students being referred to the program, an individual education plan (IEP) team will meet to consider the reasons for referral, and will make the decision if the referral is appropriate.

## **Application Procedure**

Students who are accepted to the SAEC, and who agree to attend the program, must complete an application with their parents or guardians. Completing the application process is the first step between the student and school to work together to have a successful educational experience. Application is made by contacting the appropriate school counselor.

## **Selection Criteria**

Determining factors in the selection process are:

### A. Students:

1. Attendance – Students must be able to commit to attending daily.
2. Discipline – All discipline issues will be referred to the principal.
3. Age
4. Ability to meet graduation requirements – Students must be able to achieve graduation as established by the Board of Education.
5. Ability to work independently – In order to accomplish the goals of our program, students need to demonstrate the ability to work independently. This includes being able to set daily, weekly, and long term goals by using the APEX online curriculum and being able to achieve these goals.

B. Parents and student are motivated and committed to student success.

C. Parents and students are willing to communicate with the school about individual needs of the family.

D. Parents support both the student and the school by:

1. Providing a quiet study environment nightly in the home
2. Attending parent/teacher conferences
3. Communicating with SAEC staff
4. Reviewing this handbook with the student

## **Acceptance**

Acceptance is based on the willingness of the student and parent/guardian to adhere strictly to the regulations established regarding building rules, student behavior, and especially classroom expectations.

## **Daily Schedule**

The SAEC offers a morning session and an afternoon session Monday through Friday. The morning session begins at 8:15 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m. The afternoon session begins at 12:00 p.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m. Students are assigned a session based on current

enrollment, student needs, and mitigating circumstances. Middle school students will attend according to contracted schedules set up for individual students. Students can work on assignments at school and off campus with internet access. All unit tests must be completed at school under supervision of school staff. Students not gainfully employed are required to attend Seward High School half days or full days at SAEC. **All Full-time students will have a closed campus lunch and will eat in the classroom area. Half-day students will leave campus immediately upon dismissal. Students enrolled at SAEC and SHS will eat during the first lunch shift.**

**Students and parents are responsible for all transportation needs.**

### **Goals Incentive Program (GIP)**

~~Those students completing their APEX calendar goal will be given the option as a reward to only attend classes Monday through Thursday. The APEX calendar goal must be completed by the end of the Thursday session each week. In addition to the credit requirement, the other stipulations are that **students must be in good standing for attendance for the reporting period and be within the tardy policy guidelines. Students must not have any truancy situations for the week.** Participation in this program is voluntary depending on permission of the parent/guardian.~~

### **Absences, Tardies and Appointments**

If you are not at school for the day or will be arriving late, **a parent or guardian MUST call us at 643-2986 on the day of the absence or tardy. Students are accountable to the same attendance procedure at SHS. Students who exceed the 5 day per term attendance limit (Medical, Court or Funeral documented absences do not count toward the 5 day limit but do count toward the 20 day per year report that goes to the County Attorney's office) will not be awarded any credit until time is made up. ~~Tardies will count against participation in the Goal Incentive Program.~~** Students in grades 9 – 12 must not make any appointments during your scheduled school time.

### **Graduation Requirements and Procedures**

See Graduation Requirements in previous section in student handbook.

- A. A student must have successfully passed a total of 235 semester hours and the service learning requirement by the close of his or her senior year in order to graduate. If a student has employment, they can present the school with proof of hours worked, within the week they are paid, for school credit. Every sixty hours worked will be equivalent to five hours of elective credit.
- B. **A cap and tassel fee will be due prior to graduation.** Presentation of the Seward Alternative Education Center Diploma will be made at the next scheduled Board of Education meeting upon completion of graduation requirements.
- C. Students who successfully complete the requirements for graduation and receive no more than 35 credits from the SAEC will be eligible to participate in commencement

exercises at Seward High School in May provided that they have attended SHS main building classes for a minimum of one semester.

D. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices may be used before school, after school, and during school hours during breaks and at lunch. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices may not be used during instructional time unless the classroom teacher has given permission. The use of these devices during instructional time will be subject to the following consequences:

- 1st Offense: Phone brought to the office and parent must come to school and claim. One ½ hour detention assigned.
- 2nd Offense: Phone brought to the office and student must serve one hour detention. Parent must come to the office and claim.
- 3rd Offense: Phone brought to the office and student serves one day of in-school or out-of-school suspension. Parent must come to school and claim.
- 4th and each subsequent offense: Phone brought to the office and student serves three-day out-of-school suspension. Parent must come to school and claim.

### **Course Load**

You will be required to register for a minimum of 4 classes per semester. Each class is worth 5 credits. As soon as you complete the requirements for a class, at any time during a reporting period, you will be enrolled in your next class.

### **Extracurricular Activities**

SAEC students who full time at SAEC or are on a flexible schedule (**halftime SAEC and half time work experience**) will NOT be eligible to participate in any extracurricular activities. Students enrolled in classes at both the SAEC and SHS will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities; however, the same school rules of conduct and behavior apply to them. The same requirements for eligibility pertaining to grades and discipline will be applied to SAEC students. There will be no exceptions.

## **Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco, and Electronic Nicotine Delivery Systems or Products**

### **Section 1 Drug-Free Schools**

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

#### *Education and Prevention*

This district promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which will include in the curriculum the teaching of

both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades of this school district. Further, this district will have proper in-service orientation and training for all employed staff.

#### *Drug and Alcohol Use and Prevention*

By this handbook, each student of the district is hereby provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the district which prohibit the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as part of any of the school's activities.

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

All students are provided age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program for all students of the schools. It shall be the policy of the district to require instruction at such grade level concerning the adverse effects resulting from the use of illicit drugs and alcohol. Such instruction shall be designed by affected classroom teachers or as otherwise directed by the board to be appropriate to the age of the student exposed to such instruction. One of the primary objectives shall be the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students. It shall further be the policy of the district to encourage the use of outside resource personnel such as law enforcement officers, medical personnel and experts on the subject of drug and alcohol abuse, so that its economic, social, educational and physiological consequences may be made known to the students of the district.

It shall further be the policy of the district, through the instruction earlier herein referred to, as well as by information and consistent enforcement of the board's policy pertaining to students conduct as it related to the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol, that drug and alcohol abuse is wrong and is harmful to the student and the district, and its programs.

#### *Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Reentry Programs*

All students shall be provided information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation and re-entry programs within sixty (60) miles of the administrative offices of the district or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the district upon request of by the school counselor.

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

*Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to the Unlawful Possession, Use or Distribution of Illicit Drugs or Alcohol on School Premises or as a Part of Any of the School's Activities*

(In addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by board policy or administrative regulation to absolutely prohibit the unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs or alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.) This shall include such unlawful possession, use or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by any student of the district during regular school hours or after school hours at school sponsored activities on school premises, at school-sponsored activities off school premises.

Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession of any controlled substance, possession of which is prohibited by law.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession of alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities.
4. Use of any illicit drug.
5. Distribution of any illicit drug.
6. Use of any drug in an unlawful fashion.
7. Distribution of any drug or controlled substance when such distribution is unlawful.
8. The possession, use, or distribution of alcohol.

It shall further be the policy of the district that violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanction being taken with the bounds of applicable law, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

*Drugs and Alcohol Prohibited – Standards of Conduct for Students*

The manufacture, possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of alcohol or any alcoholic beverage or alcoholic liquor on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use or being under the influence of any controlled substance or drug, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, and stimulant, or any depressant on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout and reproduction fluid on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, use of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

The possession, selling, dispensing, or use of tobacco, tobacco look-alike products, ~~electronic cigarettes/vaporizing devices~~ or ~~electronic nicotine delivery systems or products~~ on school grounds, or during an educational function, event, or activity, or off school grounds if there is a substantial interference with school purposes, is prohibited.

Any prescription or non-prescription drug, medicine, vitamin or other chemical may not be taken unless authorized as stated in the next session on AUTHORIZED USE.

### Authorized Use

Any student whose parent or guardian requests that he or she be given prescription or non-prescription medicine, drug, or vitamin shall provide signed permission by parent or physician.

### Disciplinary Sanctions

1. Violation of this policy may result in suspension or expulsion. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and could be turned over to law enforcement authorities. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment. Parents or legal guardian will be notified.
2. If the student is observed to be violating this policy, the student will be escorted to the principal's office immediately, or if not feasible, the principal will be notified. The student's parents or legal guardian will be requested to pick up the student. If it appears there is imminent danger to other students, school personnel, or students involved, the principal, or such other personnel as authorized by the principal, may have the student removed by authorized medical or law enforcement personnel.
3. Parents and students shall be given a copy of the standards of conduct and disciplinary sanctions required and shall be notified that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

### Intervention

The Seward Public School District does not have the authority or responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency. However, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or function in the educational climate or activity, the school then has the right and responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis based on behavior observed by school staff. The school will issue a statement to all students and employed staff that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The school shall make available to students and employed staff information about any drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation and re-entry programs, which are available to students.

### Administration

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

### **Safe and Drug-Free Schools – Parental Notice**

The handbook receipt shall also serve to demonstrate that you as parent or guardian of a student attending Seward Public Schools have received notice of the standards of conduct of this district expected of students concerning the absolute prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities as described in board policy or administrative regulation. This notice is being provided to you pursuant to the safe and drug-free schools law and 34 C.F.R. Part 86, both federal legal requirements for the district to obtain federal financial assistance. Your signature on the handbook receipt acknowledges that you and your child or children who are students attending this district fully understand the district's position absolutely prohibiting the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and the possession, use, or distribution of alcohol or tobacco on school premises or as a part of the school's activities as herein above described and that compliance with these standards is mandatory. Any non-compliance with these standards can and will result in punitive measures being taken against any student failing to comply with these standards.

# Students Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations

## Section 1 Student Conduct-Discipline Policies/Procedures

The common goal of students, parents, faculty and administration of Seward High School is to maintain a school atmosphere that is conducive to learning. In order to achieve this, Seward High School will continue to review and distribute a set of reasonable and fair rules and policies.

Students who violate school rules will face disciplinary consequences up to and including expulsion from school. The code of conduct and procedure for imposing discipline on students is set forth in the student handbook. The board of education will not consider an appeal of any disciplinary sanction unless the student and his/her family have complied with the procedures set forth in the handbook.

### Short-Term Suspension

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

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

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal or the Principal's designee shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he or she is accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The

Principal or administrator shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.

### Long-Term Suspension

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

### Expulsion

1. **Meaning of Expulsion.** Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period.
2. **Summer Review.** Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year. The review will be conducted by the hearing officer who conducted the initial expulsion hearing, or a hearing officer appointed by the Superintendent in the event no hearing was previously held or the initial hearing officer is no longer available or willing to serve, after the hearing officer has given notice of the review to the student and the student's parent or guardian. This review shall be limited to newly discovered evidence or evidence of changes in the student's circumstances occurring since the original hearing. This review may lead to a recommendation by the hearing officer that the student be readmitted for the upcoming school year. If the school board or board of education or a committee of such board took the final action to expel the student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.
3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate. In lieu of other authorized educational programs to which the student may be assigned, such school, class, or program

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

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

#### Other Forms of Student Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may also take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or

guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions during the day. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures and a failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

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

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

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property or setting or attempting to set a fire;
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 or adult for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon;
6. Engaging in the possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor or smell 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 or sexual conduct;
8. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. In addition, if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults, the student is subject to suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment regardless of where the conduct took place. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault

shall mean sexual assault in the first degree and sexual assault in the second degree as defined in sections 28-319 and 28-320, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;

9. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities;
10. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities;
11. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
12. Dressing in a manner which is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process.
13. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding school district buses.
14. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
15. A repeated violation of any rules and standards validly established by the Board of Education or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes. Those rules include:
  - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
  - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
  - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
  - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
  - e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
  - f. Possession of pornography;
  - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);

- h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
  - i. Bullying which shall include 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 to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
  - j. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;
  - k. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
  - l. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon; and
  - m. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.
16. In addition, a student who engages in the following conduct occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:
- a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student,

except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or,

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

#### 17. Firearms

- a. Student who is determined to have brought a firearm to school, or to have possessed a firearm at school, shall be expelled from school for a period of not less than one calendar year. The Superintendent may modify such one-year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing. The term “to school” or “at school” means on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.
- b. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:
  - i. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student’s teacher, building administrator and parent.
  - ii. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
  - iii. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
  - iv. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

#### Reporting Student Law Violations:

1. Cases of law violations or suspected law violations by students will be reported to the police and to the student’s parents or guardians as soon as possible.
2. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or other school

official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.

3. In an effort to demonstrate that student behavior is always subject to possible legal sanctions regardless of where the behavior occurs it shall be the policy of the Seward Public Schools to notify the proper legal authorities when a student engages in any of the following behaviors on school grounds or at a school sponsored event:
  - a. Knowingly possessing illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco and vapor products
  - b. Assault
  - c. Vandalism resulting in significant property damage
  - d. Theft of school or personal property of a significant nature
  - e. Automobile accident
  - f. Any other behavior which significantly threatens the health or safety of students, staff or other persons or which is required by law to be reported.

When appropriate, it shall be the responsibility of the referring administrator to contact the student's parent or guardian of the fact that the referral to legal authorities has been or will be made.

*Due Process Procedure:*

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

1. The Principal shall file a written summary of the alleged violation and the evidence supporting the alleged violation with the Superintendent or his or her designee.
2. If the Principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers, and a notice of intent to discipline the student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the Superintendent or his or her designee, the Principal may suspend the student until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the Superintendent.
3. The Principal or his or her designee shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
  - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension or expulsion including a summary of the evidence.
  - b. The penalties to which the student may be subjected and the penalty that the Principal, or his or her designee has recommended in the charge.

- c. A statement explaining the student's right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
  - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by these policies along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing.
  - e. A statement that the administrative representative, legal counsel for school, the student, the student's parents, or the student's representative or guardian shall have the right to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct, and the right to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony.
  - f. A form or a request for hearing to be signed by such parties and delivered to the Superintendent, the Principal or a designee in person or by registered or certified mail.
4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
  5. If the Superintendent, Principal, or designee has not received a request for hearing within five school days following receipt of the written notice, the Principal's recommended consequence shall automatically go into effect.
  6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the actual receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after actual receipt, the student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
  7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.
  8. If a hearing is required to be provided, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer.

Hearing Procedure:

1. **Hearing Officer.** The hearing officer shall be any person designated by the Superintendent. The hearing officer shall be an individual who has had no involvement in the charge, will not be a witness at the hearing and who has not brought the charges against the student. It shall be the duty of the hearing officer to remain impartial throughout all deliberations. The hearing officer shall be available prior to any hearing held pursuant to this policy to answer any questions the administrative representative, the student, the student's parents, or guardian, may have regarding the nature and conduct of the hearing.
2. **Administrative Representative.** The Principal may appoint an administrative representative to present the facts and evidence. Such administrative representative may be an attorney or may be represented by an attorney, but any such attorney shall not advise the hearing officer or parties who may review the proceedings as their counsel.

3. **Notice of Hearing.** If a hearing is requested within five school days of receipt of the notice, the hearing officer shall, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents or guardian of the time and place for the hearing. The hearing shall be scheduled within a period of five school days after it is requested. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the administrative representative, and the student, the student's parents, or guardian, except with the consent of all of the parties.
4. **Continuance.** Upon written request of the student or the student's parents or guardian, the hearing officer shall have the discretionary authority to continue from time to time the hearing. In addition, the hearing officer may continue the hearing upon any good cause.
5. **Access to Records.** The administrative representative, the student, the student's parent or guardian and the legal counsel of the student shall have the right to examine the records and affidavits and the statements of any witnesses in the possession of the school district at any reasonable time prior to the hearing.
6. **Hearing Procedure.** The hearing shall be attended by the hearing officer, the student, the student's parents, or guardian, the student's representative if any, and the administrative representative. Witnesses shall be present only when they are giving information at the hearing or with the consent of both parties. The student may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing officer at times when the student's psychological evaluation or emotional problems are being discussed. The student or the student's parents or guardian or both may be represented by legal counsel. The hearing examiner may exclude anyone from the hearing when his/her actions substantially disrupt an orderly hearing. The formal rules of evidence shall not apply at the hearing. The administrative representative shall present to the hearing officer statements, in affidavit form, of any person having information about the student's conduct and the student's records, but not unless such statements and records have been made available to the student, the student's parents, guardian or representative prior to the hearing. The information contained in such records shall be explained and interpreted prior to or at the hearing to the student, parents or guardian, or representative at their request, by appropriate school personnel. The student, the student's parents, guardian, or representative, the administrative representative or the hearing officer may ask witnesses to testify at the hearing. Such testimony shall be under oath and the hearing officer shall be authorized to administer the oath. The student, parent, guardian, or representative, administrative representative, or the hearing officer shall have the right to question any witness giving information at the hearing, the student may testify in his/her own defense in which case he/she shall be subject to cross-examination nor will any conclusion be drawn therefrom. Any person giving evidence by written statement or in person at a hearing shall be given the same immunity from liability as a person testifying in a court case. A single hearing may be conducted for more than one student if in the discretion of the hearing examiner a single hearing is not likely to result in confusion or prejudice to the interest of any of the students involved. If during the conduct of such a hearing, the hearing examiner concludes that any of such student's interests will be

substantially prejudiced by a group hearing, or that confusion is resulting, the hearing examiner may order a separate hearing for each or any of said students.

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

disposition of the matter. The board may alter the Superintendent's disposition of the case if it finds his/her decision to be too severe, but it may not impose a more severe sanction. A designated method of giving notice by the Board of Education or committee thereof, if required, for any Board review shall be by posting on the schoolhouse door.

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

## **Section 2     Disciplinary Point System – 100 Point Maximum per School Year**

The purpose of the discipline point system is to:

1. Improve the educational environment for students, teachers, parents, and staff.
2. Inform students and parents of rules and policies
3. Record discipline violations in a systematic way

Parents and students must be made aware of any violation of school policies and procedures concerning behavior. Progressive discipline is based upon the belief that an individual does not have the right to infringe upon the rights of others. Also, all people concerned with the school have the responsibility of creating a positive learning environment. The vehicle used to implement the discipline system is a point system. Each student will begin with zero points at the beginning of the school year. Each discipline action will carry a point value. If 100 points are obtained before the end of the school year, then the student will be recommended for expulsion and due process will be followed. The length of suspension or expulsion will carry over into the next semester/year if the semester or school year ends before the suspension or expulsion has been served.

The following categories will be used as a guideline to determine consequences for student misconduct, however, not all behavior can be predicted and/or categorized; therefore, the administration reserves the right to handle situations on an individual basis.

State law gives the administration and teaching personnel in the school the responsibility of maintaining good order and discipline. Those in charge of the classrooms and activities may take such actions as are necessary regarding student behavior, including, but not limited to counseling, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school before or after regular hours to do additional work, requirements that a student receive certain counseling and restriction of extracurricular activities. In some disciplinary cases an audio recorder will be used. If a student is referred to the administration by reason of violating established rules and standards, one or more of the following forms of disciplinary action might be taken:

### DETENTION

The administration/teaching staff as a corrective measure for infractions of school policy and behavioral problems assigns detention time. Students serving detention are expected to:

1. Report to the office/classroom immediately after school.
2. Bring adequate schoolwork and supplies to keep busy for the entire period.
3. Report to the office/room every afternoon at 3:40 p.m. until the detention time is made up.

Failure to report for detention will result in additional detention time being assigned. Continued refusal to complete the detention will result in a parent conference and suspension. Teachers may take a student to their classroom for individual help and study. Conflicts with transportation or jobs will be taken into consideration if the student indicates there is a problem prior to the detention time being served. This will not excuse detention time.

#### IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Any disciplinary action whereby a student is separated from class attendance, but is required to be at school until 4:00 p.m. In-school suspension generally lasts from one to three days.

#### SHORT TERM SUSPENSION

Up to and including five (5) school days. Schoolwork will be due upon return for full credit after a first offense. Make arrangements to pick up work before leaving. (See Section 1)

#### LONG TERM SUSPENSION

More than five school days, but less than twenty school days. (See Section 1)

#### MANDATORY REASSIGNMENT

Assignment to another educational setting.

#### EXPULSION

Exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds, and activities. (See Section 1)

## **Section 3 Disciplinary Point System Chart**

### **PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINE LEVELS**

**Actions that are not disruptive in nature to the learning process, discipline would be the same as category 1 but without points. Failure to attend detention would result in points.**

- A. Detention**
- B. Detentions**
- C. 1-5 Days In-School Suspension**
- D. 5-10 Days In-School Suspension**
- E. 1-5 Days Out-of-School Suspension**

**F. 5-10 Days Out-of-School Suspension**

**G. 10 Days Out-of-School Suspension**

**H. Recommend Expulsion**

**I. Police will be notified**

**Note: Parents will be notified at levels C through I. In-School Suspension may be substituted for Out-of-School Suspension**

Offense	Category	Points	1	2	3	4	5
Public Display of Affection	I	0	A	B	B	C	E
Dress Code Violation	I	0	A	B	B	C	E
Other	I	0	A	B	B	C	E
Sleeping in Class	II	8	A	B	B	C	E
Disruption of class/school/assembly	II	8	A	B	B	C	E
Parking Illegally	II	8	A	B	B	C	E
Inappropriate Behavior/Gestures	II	8	A	B	B	C	E
Profanity/Vulgarity	II	8	A	B	B	C	E
Failure to attend detention	II	8	A	B	B	C	E
Cell Phone/Headphones/Electronic Device (Confiscation)	II	8	A	B	C	E	E
Repeated violations of Category I	II	8	A	B	B	C	E
Other	II	8	A	B	B	C	E
Skipping/Cutting Class/Leaving without Permission	III	10	B	B	C	C	E
Disorderly Conduct	III	10	B	B	C	C	F
Failure to identify self to school officials	III	10	B	B	C	C	F
Inappropriate Dress	III	10	B	B	C	C	F
Indecent Material	III	10	B	B	C	C	F
Jeopardizing the safety of oneself or others	III	10	B	B	C	C	F

Leaving school grounds without permission	III	10	B	B	C	C	F
Lying	III	10	B	B	C	C	F
Misuse of school Material and Equipment	III	10	B	B	C	C	F
Not following request of school official	III	10	B	B	C	E	F
Trespassing	III	10	B	B	C	C	F
Skipping Assigned Detention	III	10	B	B	C	C	F
Other	III	10	B	C	E	E	F
Cheating/Plagiarism	IV	14	C	C	E	F	F
Careless Driving/Speeding	IV	14	C	C	E	F	F
False Call/Forgery of Notes	IV	14	C	C	E	F	F
Vandalism	IV	14	C	C	E	F	F
Theft 1	IV	14	C	C	E	F	F
Disrespect to Faculty Members	IV	14	C	E	E	F	F
Other IV	IV	14	C	E	E	F	F
Gross Misbehavior	V	21	E	E	E	G	G
Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying	V	21	E	E	E	G	G
Vandalism 2	V	21	E	E	E	G	G
Theft 2	V	21	E	E	E	G	G
Insubordination	V	21	E	E	E	G	G
Fighting	V	21	E	E	E	G	G
Other	V	21	E	E	E	G	G
Use/Possession of Tobacco Products/electronic nicotine delivery systems or products	V	28	E/I	E/I	F/I	F/I	
Indecent Behavior	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
Open/Persistent Defiance of Authority	VI	28	F	G	G	H	

Threatening Behavior	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
Physical Assault	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
Other	VI	28	G	H	H	I	
Under the influence of Alcohol/Drugs	VI	28	F	F	G	G	
Possession of Alcohol/Drug Paraphernalia	VI	28	F	G	G	H	
Extortion	VII	50	G/I	G/I			
False Fire Alarm	VII	50	G/I	G/I			
Possession of Weapon other than Firearm	VII	45	G/I	G/I			
Possession or Use of Firecrackers	VII	45	G/I	G/I			
Terroristic Threats	VII	45	G/I	G/I			
Other	VII	45	G/I	G/I			
Selling, Giving or Exchanging alcohol/drugs	VII	100	H/I				
Arson	VIII	100	H/I				
Bomb Threat	VIII	100	H/I				
Physical Assault (School Employee)	VIII	100	H/I				
Possession and/use of Explosives	VIII	100	H/I				
Use of any instrument as a weapon	VIII	100	H/I				
Possession of Firearm	VIII	100	H/I				
Other	VIII	100	H/I				

## **Section 2     Disciplinary Point System — 100 Point Maximum per School Year**

The purpose of the discipline point system is to:

- 1) Improve the educational environment for students, teachers, parents, and staff.
- 2) Inform students and parents of rules and policies
- 3) Record discipline violations in a systematic way

Parents and students must be made aware of any violation of school policies and procedures concerning behavior. Progressive discipline is based upon the belief that an individual does not have

the right to infringe upon the rights of others. Also, all people concerned with the school have the responsibility of creating a positive learning environment. The vehicle used to implement the discipline system is a point system. Each student will begin with zero points at the beginning of the school year. Each discipline action will carry a point value. If 100 points are obtained before the end of the school year, then the student will be recommended for expulsion and due process will be followed. The length of suspension or expulsion will carry over into the next semester/year if the semester or school year ends before the suspension or expulsion has been served.

The following categories will be used as a guideline to determine consequences for student misconduct, however, not all behavior can be predicted and/or categorized; therefore, the administration reserves the right to handle situations on an individual basis.

State law gives the administration and teaching personnel in the school the responsibility of maintaining good order and discipline. Those in charge of the classrooms and activities may take such actions as are necessary regarding student behavior, including, but not limited to counseling, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school before or after regular hours to do additional work, requirements that a student receive certain counseling and restriction of extracurricular activities. In some disciplinary cases an audio recorder will be used. If a student is referred to the administration by reason of violating established rules and standards, one or more of the following forms of disciplinary action might be taken:

### DETENTION

The administration/teaching staff as a corrective measure for infractions of school policy and behavioral problems assigns detention time.

Students serving detention are expected to:

1. Report to the office/classroom immediately after school.
2. Bring adequate schoolwork and supplies to keep busy for the entire period.
3. Report to the office/room every afternoon at 3:40 p.m. until the detention time is made up.

Failure to report for detention will result in additional detention time being assigned. Continued refusal to complete the detention will result in a parent conference and suspension. Teachers may take a student to their classroom for individual help and study. Conflicts with transportation or jobs will be taken into consideration if the student indicates there is a problem prior to the detention time being served. This will not excuse detention time.

### IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

Any disciplinary action whereby a student is separated from class attendance, but is required to be at school until 4:10 p.m. In-school suspension generally lasts from one to three days.

### SHORT TERM SUSPENSION

Up to and including five (5) school days. Schoolwork will be due upon return for full credit after a first offense. Make arrangements to pick up work before leaving. (See Section 1)

LONG TERM SUSPENSION

More than five school days, but less than twenty school days. (See Section 1)

MANDATORY REASSIGNMENT

Assignment to another educational setting.

EXPULSION

Exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds, and activities. (See Section 1)

BEHAVIOR DEFINITIONS

**Bullying / Cyberbullying / Harassment / Intimidation**

Any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by Seward Public Schools 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 in which there is evidence of attempted control or power over another individual or peer which interferes with said student's learning opportunity.

**Cheating** -- To act dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain or to give an advantage.

**Disrespect to Faculty Member or Employee** -- Lack of Respect

**Disruption of School / Class / Assemblies** -- Examples include yelling and/or running in classrooms or hallways

**Gross Misbehavior** -- Misbehaving that is totally beyond simple inappropriate behavior; overt behavior that threatens property or the safety and well-being of others including the promoting of fighting.

**Illegal Entry** -- Forced entry or entry without administrative authorization into a building, room, or school property.

**Inappropriate Behavior / Gestures** -- Behavior on school grounds or school activities that is not acceptable as measured by the general standards of the school and community including words, gestures, pictures, etc.

**Inappropriate Dress** -- Apparel with drugs, alcohol, sexual references or vulgarity. All students must wear shoes or some form of footwear at all times.

**Indecent Exposure** -- The act of intentionally exposing part of one's body. The act of intentionally exposing the body of another person.

**Indecent Material**—The act of portraying obscenity or vulgarity in pictures or caricatures in assignments, on any personal property visible to others at school, or on any school property. This may also include drug and alcohol depictions.

**Insubordination**—Disregard for the authority of staff members and employees.

**Intimate Acts**—Prolonged public display of affection or inappropriate public physical contact in the school setting or on school property.

**Littering**—To dump, deposit, place, throw, or leave litter in and on school property other than in receptacles set aside for such purposes.

**Loitering**—Being somewhere other than where authorized and refusing to leave when ordered; being in a school area without an authorized pass.

**Major Theft**—Theft of property valued at or over \$20.00

**Minor Vandalism**—Vandalism of property or materials with a value of less than \$20.00.

**Misuse of School Materials**—Misusing and/or using school materials in an unauthorized manner short of major destruction, writing on or marking desks, books, lockers, using shop materials, home economics, food products, etc.

**Physical or Verbal Assault**—The act of initiating a violent, (physical or verbal) attack against another student on school property, on a school bus, or at a school event.

**Plagiarize**—To steal and pass off as one's own work, without crediting the source.

**Possession or Illegal Use of Weapon**—The act of possessing, using, or threatening to use any weapon or instrument capable of inflicting bodily injury.

**Possession / Use of Tobacco/Vapor Products**—Smoking/Chewing/Vaping by any student or the possession of smoking/vaping materials or chewing tobacco) is not permitted on school property, at activities or events. For purposes of the tobacco free environment, possession of cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, nicotine products and vapor products (including e-cigarettes) are violations.

**Profanity**—The use of language that is unacceptable to school/community standards. F-word is placed in Category III.

**Public Display of Affection**—The showing of affection that is not appropriate in the school setting (such as kissing or embracing).

**School Property**—This is defined as any building, buildings, and part of any building, structure, land, or property of the school district.

**Sexual Harassment**—Sexual harassment is behavior expressed in words, pictures or actions that is offensive to a person. Sexual harassment must involve issues of sexuality. Sexual harassment is not welcomed and may be embarrassing or uncomfortable for the victim to experience. Sexual harassment is one-sided. Sexual harassment is about power. Sexual harassment is a violation of law: Title IX, Title VII and/or the Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act. Other laws may also be violated if sexual harassment has happened.

**Theft**—The act of acquiring and/or being in possession of the property of another without consent.

**Trespass**—Entering upon the lands or premises of the school district without authority after having been forbidden to do so by school staff, or upon being notified to depart the area by members of the school staff, refusing or neglecting to depart there from.

**Truancy**—The act of unauthorized absence from school for any period of time. Chronic tardiness may be considered truancy.

**Unauthorized Games in the School Building**—Gambling, poker, video games etc.

**Unlawful Intimidation of School Authority**—Interfering with administrators, teachers, or other school personnel by force or violence.

**Vandalism**—Destruction of school property or property belonging to another.

**Verbal/Physical/Written Threat to Teachers/Staff**—Any verbal, physical or written threat which insults or abuses any staff member or otherwise shows disrespect.

**Vulgarity**—Defined as offensive, lewd, obscene.

## **Section 3 Disciplinary Point System Chart**

### **Category 0 – Zero points – (Log Entry-Teacher Documented)**

1. Teacher discipline for minor offenses:

—(Teacher may issue detentions for first two offenses.)

**1st offense**—Teacher/Student Private Conference

**2nd offense**—Teacher will contact Parent or Guardian

**3rd offense**—Referred to Principal (2 day class Suspension – make-up time after school)

**4th offense**—Referred to Principal (Placed in appropriate category)

### **Category N (Nuisance Items) – 5 points**

Nuisance items include, but are not limited to: personal electronic devices such as but not limited to cell phones, IPODS, IPADS, beepers, laser pointers, etc.

**1st Offense** -- Item confiscated and parent/guardian must come to the school and pick up the item in person.

**2nd Offense** -- Same as 2nd offense and the student will be assigned detention time.

**3rd Offense** -- Same as 2nd offense and the student will receive either ISS or OSS

### **Category I—5 points**

1. Public display of affection
2. Failure to keep locker clean and organized
3. Sharing Lockers or Textbooks
4. Littering
5. Profanity/Vulgarity-Minor
6. Excessive Tardies (Three and each tardy after per term)\*
7. Other

**1st offense** -- Discussion with a principal

**2nd offense** -- Parent notified and Detention assigned (\*Tardies)

**3rd offense** -- 1-day in-school suspension

**4th offense** -- 1-day out-of-school suspension

### **Category II—10 points**

1. Skipping class\*
2. Cheating/Academic Dishonesty
3. Disorderly conduct
4. Inappropriate dress
5. Inappropriate cafeteria behavior
6. Indecent material
7. Leaving school grounds without permission
8. Lying
9. Misuse of school material and equipment
10. Disorderly conduct on school bus
11. Failure to attend detention
12. Refusal to Participate in Class Activity
13. Other

**1st offense** -- Detention (\*1st offense skipping--Detention for each class skipped)

**2nd offense** -- 1-day in-school suspension

**3rd offense** -- 2-day out of school suspension

**4th offense** -- 3-day out of school suspension

**5th offense** -- 5-day out of school suspension

### **Category III—15 points**

1. Disruption of school/class
2. Disruption of assemblies or programs

3. Inappropriate behavioral gestures
4. Disruptive objects
5. Profanity/Vulgarity-Excessive
6. Refusal to serve detention/skip detention
7. Other

**1st offense** -- Parent notification and in school suspension

**2nd offense** -- 2-day in-school suspension

**3rd offense** -- 2-day out of school suspension

**4th offense** -- 3-day out of school suspension

**5th offense** -- 5-day out of school suspension

#### **Category IV—20 points**

1. Careless driving/endangerment
2. False calls
3. Forgery of notes
4. Minor vandalism
5. Theft (Minor/under \$20)
6. Disrespect to staff
7. Other

**1st offense** -- 2-day in-school suspension

**2nd offense** -- 2-day out of school suspension

**3rd offense** -- 3-day out of school suspension

**4th offense** -- 5-day out of school suspension

#### **Category V—25 points**

1. Gross misbehavior
2. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying
3. Major theft
4. Verbal assault
5. Insubordination/Disobedience
6. Fighting -- (Police will be called)
7. Smoking, possession or use of tobacco/vapor on school grounds (Police will be called if under age)
8. Other

**1st offense** -- 3-day out of school suspension

**2nd offense** -- 3-day out of school suspension

**3rd offense** -- 5-day out of school suspension

#### **Category VI—30 points**

1. Indecent exposure
2. Intimate acts
3. Open/Persistent Defiance of Authority
4. Vandalism
5. Threatening behavior: Written, Verbal, or Physical to Staff Members

6. Sexual harassment-Verbal

**1st offense** -- 5 days out of school suspension

**2nd offense** -- 10 day out of school suspension

**Category VII—50 points**

1. Extortion

2. False fire alarm

3. Possession of weapon other than firearm

4. Physical assault (Police will be Called)

5. Alcohol/Drug Possession (Police will be Called)

6. Other

**1st offense** -- 5 days out of school suspension

**2nd offense** -- 10 days out of school suspension

**3rd offense** -- Recommended Expulsion

**Category VIII—100 points (Police will be called)**

1. Arson

2. Bomb threat

3. Physical assault on employee

4. Possession and/or use of explosives

5. Use of any instrument as a weapon

6. Vandalism

7. Possession of a firearm

8. Alcohol/drug selling

9. Physical sexual harassment

10. Other

**1st offense** -- Recommended Expulsion

**Section 4 Additional Student Conduct Rules**

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

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

prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the Principal's office. Students at Seward High School are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for a school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is dangerous to the health and safety of anyone or interferes with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate, such list is not exclusive and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:

- a. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related;
- b. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear (such as shorts and skirts of a length that pose a disruption to the environment of the school, midriffs, spaghetti straps, excessively torn attire, sagging pants or shorts that are worn below the waist, school dress that exposes undergarments such as sports bras, underwear, etc.);
- c. Clothing that is excessively tight fitting or revealing;
- d. Clothing or jewelry that advertises, promotes or makes reference to beer, alcohol, tobacco, **electronic nicotine delivery systems or products**, or illegal drugs;
- e. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon or that would encourage "horseplay" or not needed in the school building (such as but not limited to: chains, trucker wallets, rings, spiked apparel, pliers/tools);
- f. Headwear including hats, caps, hoods, sunglasses, bandanas and scarves;  
**(Students are to remove headwear when entering the building and hats should be placed in school lockers for the duration of the school day and worn after the student leaves the building.)**
- g. Clothing, tattoos or jewelry that displays indecent writing, pictures, slogans, nudity, makes sexual references or carries double meanings and/or creates a distraction at school;
- h. Excessive makeup that causes an unnecessary distraction;
- i. Health laws require that shoes be worn at all times while at school;
- j. No blankets in the classrooms.
- k. No backpacks or bags in the classroom. All bags need to be place in assigned locker. This includes 5th period.

Consideration will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability or to convey a particularized message protected by law.

Coaches, sponsors or teachers may have additional requirements for students who are in special lab classes, students who are participants in performing groups or students who are representing the school as part of an extracurricular activity program.

~~On a first offense of the dress code, the student may call home for proper apparel. If clothes cannot be brought to school, the student may be sent home to change clothes or be provided with proper apparel. Continual violation of the dress code will result in disciplinary actions under the Student Code of Conduct above. Further, in the event the~~

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

2. **Bullying and harassment are prohibited.** Students who engage in bullying or harassing behavior are subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Bullying behavior is defined as the use of verbal, nonverbal, written, and electronic communication (including but not limited to instant messaging, text messaging, emailing, and using websites) to threaten, intimidate, ridicule, humiliate, or harass any person.
  - a. A student who engages in bullying behavior on district property, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the district 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 shall be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, long-term suspension and expulsion.
  - b. 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.
  - c. The extent of the disciplinary consequences will depend on the frequency, duration, severity, and effect of the bullying behavior.

**Dating Violence:** Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated. Students who engage in dating violence will receive consequences that are consistent with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act and this district's student discipline policies.

**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.

3. **Computer Use/Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet**

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

#### **Acceptable Use**

- Students may use the Internet to conduct research assigned by teachers.
- Students may use the Internet to conduct research for classroom projects.
- Students may use the Internet to gain access to information about current events.
- Students may use the Internet to conduct research for school-related activities.
- Students may use the Internet for appropriate educational purposes.

#### **Unacceptable Use**

- Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
- Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
- Students shall not use electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers without approval.
- Students shall not use school computers to participate in online auctions, online gaming or mp3 sharing systems. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
- Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
- 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.
- Students shall not erase, rename or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs or disks.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.
- Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.
- Students shall not forge electronic mail messages, web pages, digital communications, or web-based communications, including but not limited to facebook, and twitter, etc.

- Students shall not use technology to intimidate, harass or threaten others (Cyberbullying).

### **Methods of Enforcement**

- 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - Consequences for Violation of this Policy
  - 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:*
    - Loss of computer privileges;
    - Short-term suspension;
    - Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; and
    - Other discipline as school administration and the school board deem appropriate.
    - Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.
4. Students are not given hallway passes, restroom passes or telephone passes to leave a classroom unless special circumstances arise. **Students are not given passes the first ten minutes and the last ten minutes of class.**
  5. Students in the hallway during class time must have a pass with them.
  6. Food, candy and drinks are allowed in the classroom (at teachers' discretion) and hallways. Sack lunches are the only "outside" food allowed to be consumed during lunch. No "fast food" is allowed to be delivered **unless approved in advance by administration**. Containers, such as water or juice bottles, that have been previously opened and brought into the building are subject to search.
  7. Students are expected to bring all books and necessary materials to class.
  8. Assignments for all classes are due as assigned by the teacher.
  9. At the end of each period, the teacher dismisses the students. Students are not to begin to pack up or leave the class until the dismissal bell has rung and the teacher has dismissed the class.

10. Special classes such as industrial technology, agriculture, art, physical education, computers and other lab based classes will have other safety or clean-up rules that will be explained to you by that teacher which must be followed.
11. Students are not to bring items to school that are not required for educational purposes as they may be taken from your locker and will not be allowed in the classroom. These items are classified as “nuisance items” and include, but are not limited to: a) ~~personal stereos such as iPods~~ earbuds – unless teachers give special permission in their classroom and it does not cause a distraction to the learning, ~~b) beepers~~, b) laser pointers, c) pliers/tools, etc.
12. ~~Students are to have only one earbud or headphone at any time--even with permission--due to safety concerns.~~
13. Students are to keep the hallways clear so others may pass.
14. Snow handling is prohibited.
15. Students are not allowed to record others without administration approval and consent of others being recorded.
16. By bringing their cell phones and other electronic communication devices to school, students consent to the search of said devices by school staff when the staff determines that such a search is reasonable and necessary.
17. Students may not have cell phones or electronic devices on while they are in locker rooms or restrooms.
18. The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise (commonly called texting, sexting, e-mailing, etc.) may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.
19. While on school property, as a school activity or in a school vehicle, students may not use their cell phones or electronic devices to bully, harass or intimidate any other person.
20. Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their electronic devices. The district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of any electronic device, including any calls or downloads.
21. Cell phone, ~~earbuds, headphones~~ and other electronic communication devices may be used before school, after school, and during school hours during passing periods and at lunch. ~~(Due to safety, all students are required to have one ear open and free of earbuds/headphones during these approved time periods to be able to hear alarms and instructions)~~ Cell phones/headphones and other electronic communication devices may not be used or worn during instructional time unless the classroom teacher has given permission and should be placed in the classroom designated area or in the student’s

locker. The use of these devices during instructional time will be subject to the following consequences:

- 1st Offense: Phone/Headphone/Electronic devices brought to the office and parent must come to school and claim. One ½ hour detention assigned.
- 2nd Offense: Phone/Headphone/Electronic devices brought to the office and student must serve one hour detention. Parent must come to the office and claim.
- 3rd Offense: Phone/Headphone/Electronic devices brought to the office and student serves one day of in-school or out-of-school suspension. Parent must come to school and claim.
- 4th and each subsequent offense: Phone/Headphone/Electronic devices brought to the office and student serves three-day out-of-school suspension. Parent must come to school and claim.

## **1 to 1 Chromebook Initiative Policies and Procedures**

Seward Public Schools is proud to offer our high school students Chromebook devices for use at school and home. The 1 to 1 Chromebook program, which provides mobile computing and wireless technology to all grade 9-12 students, has been designed to enhance delivery and assist with individualized instruction.

**For parents and students, the following information is provided to help everyone understand the expectations and the responsibility of care and use related to receiving an Chromebook.**

- Students will receive instruction on the proper use and care of an Chromebook.
- Students will be able to take the Chromebook home during the school year once the student and parent have signed the Chromebook Loan Agreement Form, the Student Handbook Receipt, and paid the required technology fee.
- Students are expected to treat the Chromebook as a valuable piece of equipment.
- Students must take all precautions to prevent theft; for example, do not leave the Chromebook unattended or in a car.
- Students must take precautions to prevent damage to the Chromebook; for example, do not leave the Chromebook where there is danger of coming into contact with moisture or excessive heat/cold temperatures.
- Students are to use the Chromebook to access only socially and educationally appropriate materials and websites.
- Students who wish to use the Chromebook to purchase goods and services from the Internet have full responsibility for any financial obligations incurred from doing so.

- Students are to use the Chromebook in accordance with all Seward Public Schools technology policies including all stipulations found on the Chromebook Loan Agreement Form.
- Chromebook are property of Seward Public Schools and must be returned at the end of the school year, upon withdrawal from Seward Public Schools, and/or at the request of the administration. Willful failure to return the Chromebook in accordance with the stated conditions will result in criminal prosecution.
- Since the Chromebook are property of the school district, officials of the school have the right to review all material stored on or accessed by any Chromebook and/or student. School officials may revoke a student's Chromebook privileges for any misuse or violation of policies.

### ***Receiving Your Chromebook***

Chromebooks will be distributed during our "Chromebook Orientation." At least 1 parent and student must attend an annual session for Chromebook orientation and information. Before receiving an Chromebook, students and parents must sign and return the following items:

1. Chromebook Loan Agreement/Acceptable Use Form
2. Signed receipt of the Student/Parent Handbook
- ~~3. Pay technology fee~~

This equipment is, and at all times, remains the property of Seward Public Schools of Seward, Nebraska, and is here with lent to the Student/Borrower for educational purposes only for the academic school year. Student/Borrower may not deface or destroy this property in any way. Inappropriate use of the Chromebook may result in the Student/Borrower losing his/her right to use this Chromebook. The equipment will be returned to the school when requested by Seward Public Schools, or sooner, if the Student/Borrower withdraws from Seward Public Schools prior to the end of the school year.

Nebraska statutes 79-737 and 79-2,127 allow the District to obtain reimbursement from, or on behalf of, students for any damage to, loss of, or failure to return school property. Student/Borrower acknowledges and agrees that his/her use of the District Property is a privilege and that by Student/Borrowers agreement to the terms hereof, Student/Borrower acknowledges his/her responsibility to protect and safeguard the District Property and to return the same in good condition and repair upon request by Seward Public Schools. The Chromebook must be returned in good working order with all original parts.

~~*\*Any student and parent who may need assistance in paying the Chromebook technology fee should contact your building principal.*~~

### ***Using Your Chromebook At School***

Chromebooks are intended for use at school each day. Students are responsible for bringing their Chromebooks to school and all classes each day, unless specifically told not do so by a teacher or administrator. If students forget to bring an Chromebook to school, they may check

out a loaner for the day from the school's media center. Loaners are on a first come, first serve basis and are subject to availability. Repeat violations will result in disciplinary action.

Chromebooks must be brought to school each day fully charged. Chromebooks have battery life of up to 10 (ten) hours, so charging should not be needed throughout the school day. Charge stations will be available in the library in the mornings and during lunch for those who forget to charge. Only charge your Chromebook with the charger you are given at checkout or a school provided charger. All students are provided lockers with your own locker combination. **DO NOT SHARE YOUR COMBINATION** with any other student(s).

### **Chromebook Repairs**

- Loaner Chromebooks may be issued to students when they leave their Chromebooks for repair with the Technology team located in the library, if available.
- Students will be expected to return the loaner Chromebook by the end of the school day to the library until their issued Chromebook returns from repair.

The student is financially responsible for all damages and repairs to the Chromebook.

<b>Lost/Stolen/Destroyed</b>	<b>\$320</b>
<b>Screen Repair</b>	<b>\$100</b>
<b>AC Adapter</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Keyboard (broken keys)</b>	<b>\$25</b>
<b>Case</b>	<b>\$40</b>

**Chromebook - lost/stolen/destroyed - \$320**

**Screen Replacement and Labor - \$175**

**Broken top/bottom case and Labor - \$65**

**AC Adapter - \$40**

**Keyboard (broken keys) and Labor - \$65**

**Case - \$40**

Seward Public Schools purchased cases to help protect your device. Students are still reminded to handle the Chromebooks with extra care to avoid any damage. Other students will use these Chromebook cases again in the future. Students may not mark on the cases or put anything on the case that might damage the case, like duct tape, stickers **not issued by the school**, or jewels.

### **Screensavers and Background**

- Only appropriate backgrounds and screensavers may be used on the Chromebook.
- Presence of any weapons-related, pornographic, inappropriate language, alcohol or drug-related, gang-related, or inappropriate pictures or words on the Chromebook or within its files, as determined by the administration, will result in disciplinary action and where appropriate, law enforcement officials.

- The Chromebook is the property of Seward Public Schools. Therefore, staff, teachers, and administration have the right to check any material being used or stored on the Chromebook at any time.
- Violations of this policy can result in disciplinary action.

### ***Sound***

Sound should be muted at all times unless permission is obtained from a teacher administrator for educational purposes or earbuds are in use.

### ***Managing Your Files and Saving Your Work***

Students should save all of their work to their Google Drive. It is the student's responsibility to ensure work is not lost due to technical mistakes and accidental deletions.

### ***Security***

Chromebooks will be filtered by software for appropriate use at school and off campus. Parents/guardians are responsible for monitoring appropriate use while off school grounds. Please see an administrator if any inappropriate sites are seen or accessed.

The District is not responsible for any viruses that may be transferred to or from Student/Borrowers other data storage medium and Student/Borrower agrees to use his/her best efforts to assure that the District Property is not damaged or rendered inoperable by any such electronic virus while in Student/Borrowers possession.

### ***Inspection***

Students may be selected at random to provide their school-issued Chromebook for inspection without notice by administrators and/or the technology department.

### ***Chromebook Identification and Protection***

- Student Chromebooks will be labeled in the manner specified by the school. Under no circumstances are students to modify, remove, or destroy these labels.
- Tampering with the Chromebook security measures is forbidden. Violations of this policy will result in disciplinary action and possible loss of technology use privileges.

### ***Acceptable Use Guidelines***

- Students are responsible for their ethical, socially appropriate and educational use of the technology resources of Seward Public Schools.
- Access to Seward Public Schools technology resources is a privilege, not a right. Each employee, student, and/or parent will be required to follow all applicable technology, including stipulations in the Chromebook Loan Agreement and the Student/Parent Handbook.
- Transmission of any materials that is in violation of the law is prohibited and law enforcement will be contacted. This includes, but is not limited to the following:

confidential information, copyrighted material, threatening or obscene material, and Chromebook viruses.

- Any attempt to alter data, the configuration of the Chromebook, or the files of another user, without the consent of the administration and/or technology department, is against our Acceptable Use policy and will result in disciplinary action, including the loss of privileges to check out Chromebook for home use.
- The Student/Borrower agrees to not use the Chromebook for commercial use or political advocacy.

### ***Integrity and Civility***

In addition to any standard or rules established by the schools, the following behaviors are specifically prohibited as they violate the standard of integrity and civility associated with our school district:

- Cheating
- Plagiarizing
- Falsifying information
- Violating copyright laws
- Hacking into others' systems, including the school and/or district
- Gaining unauthorized access to any network or other Chromebook or computer

### ***Email***

Student/Borrower are assigned a school email account to use for appropriate academic communication with other students and staff members. Outside email accounts should not be used on this school device at any time.

### ***Technology Left in Unlocked Areas***

- Under no circumstances should Chromebooks or other technology equipment be left in unlocked areas. Do not leave unattended in locker areas, PE or athletic locker rooms, classrooms, commons areas, cafeteria, bathrooms, busses, or hallways. Any Chromebook left in these areas is in danger of being stolen.
- Lockers are to be locked at all times. Do not share your locker combination with anyone, including "best friends."
- Unsupervised Chromebook will be confiscated by staff and taken to the administrative office. Disciplinary action may result from Chromebooks being left without supervision. Each student is responsible for his or her Chromebook once it has been issued to the student.

### ***Chromebooks in the Classroom***

Each student will have the opportunity to utilize their Chromebook in their daily learning. Students are reminded that the machines are school property and should be treated accordingly. Students using the Chromebook for inappropriate uses at home or school will conference with an administrator to determine an appropriate consequence. Students who violate the educational intent of the Chromebook will be subject to the disciplinary procedures

found in Article 8 of the Seward High School Student/Parent Handbook related to the use of school technology, internet or general behavior involving the Chromebook.

- Each class will begin with the Chromebook put face down on the desk or below the desk, depending on the classroom, to begin each period.
- Teachers who begin the day with an Chromebook activity will give specific instructions for the activity and how the student Chromebook will be utilized within the activity.
- Teachers will notify students when the Chromebooks are appropriate for use in the classroom.
- Students may not use any gaming or social media applications during a scheduled class time.
- Students must keep volume on mute or will use earbuds.
- The Chromebook must be kept in its school issued Chromebook case. Chromebooks not in this case will be confiscated unless permission has otherwise been given by school administration or technology personnel (i.e. protective keyboard case).

**Please see the Chromebook Parent/Student Agreement in the Appendix. A signed copy must be on file in the High School Office to check out and use a school issued Chromebook.**

# **Extra-Curricular Activities - Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations**

## **Section 1 Extra-Curricular programs**

Extra-curricular programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Seward High School will adhere to the rules and regulations set forth in Title IX guidelines on sex discrimination as well as other pertinent rules and regulations.

## **Section 2 Activity Philosophy**

Activities are considered an integral part of the school's program of education and provide experiences that will help boys and girls 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. We believe that participation in activities, both as a player 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, to the team, to the student body, to the community and to 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 people and citizens.

### Safety

The school's philosophy is also 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, and to exercise common-sense. In addition, the school requires that activity team members travel to and from out-of-town events as a unit. Any exceptions to this rule must be approved by both the parents and the coach/sponsor and should be done in writing prior to the departure to the event or prior to releasing the student with the parent/guardian. The note should be given to the Principal, Activities Director, or their designee. Only those people involved with the activity will be allowed to travel in the school vehicle.

### 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.

### **Section 3 Activity Fees**

#### Activity Pass Fees

All students participating in activities will be required to purchase a full year activity pass. This activity pass admits the student to all home activities during the school year. Exceptions include the musical and any Central Conference or NSAA District/State tournaments hosted by Seward Public School. The cost of the pass to activity participants is \$20.

- a. Those students who participate in spring activities only are still required to purchase the full year pass. Students are encouraged to purchase their activity pass in the fall so they can get a full school year of use.

#### Activity Participation Fee

Students will be charged a participation fee of \$20 if they are involved in one or more NSAA sponsored activities) during the school year. This fee will be placed in the student activity participation account for use at the discretion of the district for activity related expenses incurred by the district. The Activity Participation fee needs to be paid prior to the student's participation in activities.

### **Section 4 Activity Code of Conduct**

This activity code of conduct is supplemental to the Seward High School student code of conduct which is detailed in this handbook and any action taken hereunder may be in addition to any action under the student code of conduct said policy.

#### Grounds for Extracurricular Discipline

The grounds for suspension from practices, participation in interscholastic competition, or other participation in extracurricular activities and competitions are set forth below. In becoming familiar with the conduct rules for extracurricular activities, participants need to remember that they are not only representing themselves, but also, their school and community in all of their actions. Special conduct rules exist for the reasons that:

#### Participants in Activities Assume Responsibility for Leadership and are Representatives of Our School

Participants in extra-curricular activities assume a leadership role. The student body, the community and other communities judge our school on the students' conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image. The students' performance and devotion to high ideals make their school and community proud.

### Activities are a Privilege

Extra-curricular activities have an important place in the educational program of the Seward Public School district. It is a privilege for the students who choose to participate. Students who participate and are accepted into the program are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self-respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. It is the belief that accepting responsibility for one's actions is a part of that philosophy.

The conduct rules apply to conduct of the student, 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). The 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.

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, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
3. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person.
4. 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.
5. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, to any student, or to any other person.
6. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from such student.
7. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon.
8. Engaging in the selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcoholic beverages, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, inhalants (including vapor products) or being under the influence of any of the above; or possession of drug paraphernalia.  
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/tobacco/drugs 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. In addition, "possession" of alcohol or drugs may be considered to have occurred for purposes of school rules if the student is in such close proximity to alcohol or drug (for example, a student being in a car where alcohol is in the back seat and no adults are present in the car) or to others who are consuming alcohol or drugs (for example, being at a student party at which other students are drinking) that school

officials may reasonably determine the student was in “possession” of the items as well. Because of the complexity of this issue, “possession” will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

9. Engaging in 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 alcoholic beverages, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, **electronic nicotine delivery systems or products**, or inhalants.
10. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities.
11. Tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
12. 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.
13. Public indecency.
14. Repeated violation of any of the rules adopted by the school district or the school.
15. Engaging in any unlawful activity as determined by the United States or the State of Nebraska.
16. Dressing in a manner wherein such dress is dangerous to the student’s health and safety or to the health and safety of others or is distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process.
17. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Seward Public Schools buses.
18. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a firearm or other dangerous weapon in a place where such items are prohibited.
19. 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.
20. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of each 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.
21. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an athletic/activity event.
22. Failure to attend all scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant’s attendance, the coach will determine the validity of the reason. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or supervisor prior to all missed practices or meetings.
23. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or supervisor of an extracurricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or supervisor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation.

24. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.
25. The NFHS Sports Medicine Advisory Committee strongly opposes the use of dietary supplement for the purpose for obtaining a competitive advantage (November 21, 2014). Seward Public Schools discourages the use of these supplements, rather SPS encourages a balanced diet to obtain the necessary nutrition to compete at the highest level. It is ultimately the parents decision to allow their son/daughter to use dietary supplements but the school district will not allow students to possess or consume them at school. Supplements will be prohibited on SPS grounds.
26. Any violation of any other school rule, requirement, coach/sponsor rule, or lawful directive of any sponsor, coach, administrator, or other district staff member.

### Hazing

The School District of Seward believes that all individuals should be treated with respect and dignity. Students should be able to participate in school-sponsored programs in an environment free from any behavior that is intimidating, hostile, offensive, or dangerous. Students found to be in violation of this policy are subject to the Activity Code of Conduct, as well as all other applicable school policies.

### Nebraska Code 28-311.06 defining Hazing:

(1) For purposes of this section and section 28-311.07: (a) Hazing shall mean 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 with any organization as defined in subdivision (1)(b) of this section. Such hazing activity shall include whipping, beating, branding, 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 which endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person; and (2) It shall be unlawful to commit the offense of hazing. Any person who commits the offense of hazing shall be guilty of a Class II misdemeanor.

### Drug (including tobacco and [electronic nicotine delivery systems or products](#)) and Alcohol Violations

Students who are found to be in violation of sub-paragraphs 8 or 9 of the above conduct rules shall be subject to the following disciplinary action.

#### 1. **First Violation**

Suspension from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 10 (ten) school days and a minimum of two activities. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student. **The student will need to successfully complete the school approved alcohol/drug/nicotine online prevention course. Proof of successful completion of course must be submitted to the school Activities Director prior to reinstatement in school activities. Failure to participate and successfully complete the**

online course may cause the participating student to be suspended from extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year. All costs associated with either program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian. Students who self-report an infraction of the drug and alcohol policy shall have the suspension reduced by 50% for first violation.

**2. Second Violation (Students may select Option A or B)**

Option A: Suspension from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 1 (one) calendar year. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

-- OR --

Option B: Suspension from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as prom) for 30 (thirty) school days. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student. If students choose option B, students and parents also agree to participate in a school-approved counseling program for chemical dependency. Said program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor and be approved by the school administration. Proof of successful completion of program must be submitted in writing to school Activities Director. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency counseling program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the school year. All costs associated with either program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian. Students and/or parents interested in counseling programs to help deal with this issue are encouraged to obtain such information from the Counselor's and/or the Activities Director's office at the High School.

**3. Subsequent Violations**

Upon finding of a subsequent violation, the student will be suspended from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 1 (one) calendar year. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

Anabolic Steroids

A student who possesses, dispenses, delivers, or administers anabolic steroids shall be subject to the following sanctions: (Nebraska State Statute)

1. First Violation –The student shall be suspended from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including all organizations and special events such as prom) for 30 (thirty) school days. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.
2. Second or Any Subsequent Violation –The student shall be suspended from participating in the extra-curricular program and all school activities (including organizations and special events such as homecoming and prom) for 1 (one) calendar year. The first day of the suspension will be the day of the conference with the student.

### Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline

Students may be suspended by the Principal or the Principal's designee from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in extracurricular activities for violation of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Seward Public Schools Board of Education or the administrative staff of the school. The following procedures will be followed with regard to suspension:

1. The school official(s) considering the suspension will make 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 school purpose.
2. Prior to the suspension, the student is to be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and be given the opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. If the student is not readily available to meet with the school official for this purpose before the suspension is to begin, then the suspension may be imposed at that time so long as the opportunity for the student to hear the charges and evidence and for the student to tell his or her side of the story occurs as soon as reasonably practicable. An effort to schedule a meeting for this purpose should be made by the student and the student's parent or guardian as well. Given the fact that extracurricular activity suspension actions at times need to be taken outside the regular school day, a telephone conference may be used to give the student the opportunity to provide the student's position.
4. Within two school days or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal or Principal's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents, or guardian describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reason for the action taken and the right to a hearing upon request on the specified charges.
5. An opportunity will be afforded the student, parents, or guardian of the student, at their request, to confer on an informal basis with regard with the school official who has imposed the suspension and to give that school official any further information in the student's defense.
6. If the student or student's parents or guardian are not satisfied with the determination of the school official, an informal hearing may be requested before the Superintendent. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian will either be provided with the initial notice letter or be made available in the Principal's office. This request must be received by the building principal within five days of receiving the initial written notice of suspension.
7. If a hearing is requested, it shall be held within ten calendar days of the request. The Superintendent will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing within five days of receiving the request. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending an appeal.

8. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days. The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the hearing itself) shall be kept by the school.
9. Nothing contained in this regulation shall prevent the participant, parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school personnel at any stage.

## **Section 5 Academic Grade Standards for Activities Participation**

Participation in extra-curricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the principal mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extra-curricular school activities must therefore:

### Maintain passing grades in all classes

Any student failing class(es) when grades are checked is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities. Students who are academically ineligible cannot travel with any team, suit up for any event, or participate in any special school activity (such as homecoming or prom.) Activity practice is permitted, however, teachers or coaches/sponsors may require students to stay after school to complete missing work.

Eligibility is checked every week, usually on Monday, beginning the start of the third week of each term. If a student is ineligible, they may become eligible to participate by taking a grade sheet to all of their teachers to verify passing grades in all classes and return it to the office.

Eligibility requirements shall not apply to:

- (A) Instructional field trips, which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience;
- (B) Activities or events, which are a part of the students' grade requirements.

### Attendance and Academics

Student participants are expected to apply themselves academically by following these expectations:

1. Attend school regularly and show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic Achievement.
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 he/she should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.
3. Attendance, for the full day, the day of a contest is required to be eligible for the contest that day. Arrangements in advance for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments, funerals or other activities, can be made with the building Principal in writing. 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. This policy also applies to being eligible for daily practice.

4. Appearance: Participants will dress appropriately for the activity in which they are involved and will at all times maintain a neat, clean and well groomed appearance.

## **Section 6 Team Selection, Playing Time, Conflicts, and Transportation**

*“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. 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. 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.
3. At the freshmen level, the emphasis will be on fundamental skill development and teamwork. At the junior varsity level, the emphasis will be on preparation for varsity competition. However, coaches will determine the amount of playing time for individual athletes.
4. When the situation arises where a student is involved in two school activities and the schedules conflict, the administration will make the final determination in regards to which event the student will participate. Some of the factors that will be considered are: the level of competition ex. varsity versus non-varsity; importance of competition ex. state versus districts versus conference versus regular season; the type of event ex. academic versus athletic; student's role on the team; coach or sponsor's input; student's input.
5. Students are expected to ride school transportation to and from all school-sponsored activities. Students wanting to ride home with parents should make arrangements ahead of time. Students may not drive themselves to activities unless pre-approved by the Administration.
6. Alternate transportation forms must be signed at least 24 hours in advance of the event. This option is to be used for unavoidable and uncontrollable conflicts. For example, a student is involved in two activities that are occurring on the same day with overlapping times may necessitate a parent driving the student from one event to the other.

### General Lettering Criteria and Post-Season Awards

Lettering in a school activity is for those participants who have met stated levels of performance. These general considerations govern lettering in Seward activities:

1. The participant must be in good standing (member of the organization) at the end of the season to receive a letter.
2. Participants injured and who must drop out of a school activity, may be given special consideration.
3. Sponsors who believe there are special conditions or unusual situations (other than alcohol, tobacco or drug and/or criminal activity suspensions) for a participant s/he may letter that participant.
4. Students who participate in an activity for four years, may letter in that activity.
5. Students must participate in 25% of the varsity contests, innings, quarters... or score in a major Track and Field meet. Coaches may use discretion for seniors who have met all criteria with the exception of the participation requirement.
6. A student manager may receive a varsity letter at the discretion of the sponsor.
7. A sponsor may revoke a letter for disciplinary reasons.
8. A violation of team training rules prohibits an athlete from lettering.

### **Section 7 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. Following a contest is not an appropriate time or place for this conversation. Please abide by the standard 24 hour rule, do not make contact with the coach until 24 hours after the game/contest.

#### Lines of Communication

Students are encouraged to visit with their coach/sponsor if they have questions about playing time or role on the team. If the student does not have their questions answered, the parent may contact the coach. The head coach is next level for communication. If an issue is still not resolved, the parent may request a meeting with the Activity Director. The chain of command will continue to the building principal followed by the superintendent.

#### Parents' Role in Interscholastic Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities Communicating with your children

1. 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.

2. Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
8. 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.
9. Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

#### Communicating with the coach

1. Communication you should expect from your child's coach includes:
  - a. Philosophy of the coach
  - b. Expectations the coach has for your child
  - c. Locations and times of all practices and contests
  - d. Team requirements
  - e. Procedure should your child be injured
  - f. Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
2. Communication coaches expect from parents
  - a. Concerns expressed directly to the coach
  - b. Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
  - c. Specific concerns in regard to a coach's philosophy and/or expectations
3. Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches:
  - a. The treatment of your child, mentally, and physically
  - b. Ways to help your child improve
  - c. Concerns about your child's behavior
  - d. 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.
4. Issues not appropriate to discuss with coaches:
  - a. Playing time
  - b. Team strategy
  - c. Play calling

- d. Other student-athletes
- 5. Appropriate procedures for discussing concerns with the coaches:
  - a. Call to set up an appointment with the coach
  - b. 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)
- 6. What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution?
  - a. Call the athletic director to set up a meeting with the athletic director, coach, and parent present.
  - b. At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.

### **Section 8 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 noise makers 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.

#### NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

The School District of Seward does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of

employment or educational programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning The School District of Seward's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Superintendent Greg Barnes, in writing at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska or by telephone at (402) 643-2941. Any person may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, in writing at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114-3302 or by telephone at (816) 268-0550, regarding compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.

### **Section 9 Nebraska School Activities Association Concussion Guidelines/ Recommendations**

Concussion has been reported to account for approximately 4-5% of all injuries in high school sports. Football is the most common sport for concussion. Although most concussions are short lived, experience has shown that if a second injury occurs during the recovery phase of the initial injury, a phenomenon known as the "second-impact syndrome" can occur. This second injury can occur from a very minor blow which under normal circumstances might not cause injury at all. Although uncommon, the second-impact syndrome is often fatal and if an individual survives they are rarely neurologically normal. This abnormal mental state usually remains for life. The second-impact syndrome has only been described in athletes younger than 20 years old (except in boxers). These recommendations are offered with the goal of reducing the potential for serious neurologic/ brain injury in Nebraska high school athletes.

Concussion/ mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) can be defined as a brief and usually short lived neurological impairment, which occurs after a direct or indirect blow to the head or body. The impairment is often immediate, and symptoms typically resolve spontaneously. Acute clinical symptoms represent a functional disturbance rather than a structural injury to the brain. The clinical symptoms that occur may or may not include loss of consciousness. Typical signs and symptoms of concussion include confusion, headache, and amnesia. More subtle problems may include difficulties with concentration and attention, behavioral changes, and ataxia (inability to coordinate the muscles in voluntary movement).

#### ***When a player shows ANY sign or symptom of a concussion***

1. Perform an on-field mental status evaluation.
2. The player should not be allowed to return to play in the current game or practice.
3. The player should not be left alone; and regular monitoring for deterioration is essential over the initial few hours following injury.
4. The player should be medically evaluated (by an appropriate health care provider) following the injury.
5. Return to play should follow a medically supervised stepwise process.

A player should never return to play while symptomatic. "When in doubt, sit them out!"

#### **Return to Play Protocol**

The majority of injuries will be simple concussions and such injuries recover spontaneously over several days. In these situations, it is expected that an athlete will proceed rapidly through the stepwise return to play strategy.

During this period of recovery in the first few days following an injury, it is important to emphasize to the athlete that physical AND cognitive rest is required. Activities that require concentration and attention may exacerbate the symptoms and result in a delayed recovery. This concept of “cognitive rest” appears to be of significant importance in student athletes.

*The return to play following a concussion follows a stepwise process:*

1. No activity, complete rest. Once asymptomatic, proceed to step 2.
2. Light aerobic exercise such as walking or stationary cycling, no resistance training.
3. Sport specific exercise (e.g., running) or progressive addition of resistance training.
4. Non-contact training drills.
5. Full contact training after medical clearance.
6. Game play.

With this stepwise progression, the athlete should continue to proceed to the next level if asymptomatic at the current level. If any post-concussion symptoms occur, the patient should drop back to the previous asymptomatic level and try to progress again after 24 hours.

In cases of complex concussion, the rehabilitation will be more prolonged and return to play advice should be more circumspect. It is recommended that complex cases be managed by physicians with a specific expertise in the management of such injuries.

An additional consideration in return to play is that concussed athletes should not only be symptom free but also should not be taking any pharmacological agents/ medications that may affect or modify the symptoms of concussion.

Neuropsychological testing is being used more frequently as a clinical assessment tool and provides objective measurement of cognitive function. Cognitive function may be impaired despite resolution of symptoms. Ideally, neuropsychological testing would be compared with pre-injury baseline testing.

Injuries where outside treatment/care is sought will require a medical clearance to return to competition.

*REFERENCES:*

- Guskiewicz KM, et. al.: National Athletic Trainers' Association Position Statement: Management of Sport-Related Concussion. J Athl Train. 2004;39(3):280-297
- Hering SA, et.al.: Selected issues for the adolescent athlete and the team physician: a consensus statement. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2008;1997-2012
- Hering SA, et. al.: Concussion (mild traumatic brain injury) and the team physician: a consensus statement. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2006;395-399

## **NSAA/SEWARD HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION FORMS**

**(See Appendix)**

1. Seward Public Schools Adult Code of Conduct
2. Seward High School STUDENT & PARENT CONSENT FORM For InterScholastic Participation
  - a. STUDENT & PARENT CONSENT SIGNATURE FORM – MUST BE RETURNED PRIOR TO PRACTICE
3. NSAA Student & Parent Consent Form
4. NSAA Guide for Students “Guarding your Eligibility”
5. PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL FORMS
  - a. PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION (HISTORY FORM) – STAYS WITH PHYSICIAN
  - b. PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION (EXAM FORM) – STAYS WITH PHYSICIAN
  - c. PRE-PARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION (CLEARANCE FORM – MUST BE RETURNED TO SHS BEFORE STUDENT WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES)

### **Section 10 Varsity Sports Seasons**

All interscholastic sports are divided into three seasons--fall, winter, and spring. The divisions of sports, the date of the first allowed organized practice, and the closing date of the season shall be as follows. No individual shall participate simultaneously in more than one sport per season. Athletes are not allowed to participate in activities outside the school while involved in the same activity in school. Cross Country/Road Races are specific examples. (Dates subject to changes)

<b>FALL</b>	<b>FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE</b>	<b>CLOSE OF SEASON</b>
Cross-Country	August 12	State Meet Oct. 25
Football	August 12	State Finals Nov. 25
Girls Golf	August 12	State Meet Oct. 14-15
Volleyball	August 12	State Meet Nov. 7-9
Softball	August 12	State Meet Oct. 16-18
<b>WINTER</b>	<b>FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE</b>	<b>CLOSE OF SEASON</b>
Girls Basketball	November 18	State Tourney Mar. 5-7
Boys Basketball	November 18	State Tourney March 12-14
Wrestling	November 18	State Meet Feb 20-22

<b>SPRING</b>	<b>FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE</b>	<b>CLOSE OF SEASON</b>	
Boys Golf	March 2	State Meet	May 26-27
Track	March 2	State Meet	May 22-23
Soccer	March 2	State Meet	May 13-16, 18-19
Baseball	March 2	State Meet	May 16, 18-21

### **Section 11 Activity Participant Fees**

1. All students participating in activities will be required to purchase a full year activity pass. This activity pass admits the student without charge to most regular season home activities during the school year. Exceptions include tournaments, the musical, and any Central Conference or NSAA District/State tournaments hosted by Seward High School. The cost of the pass to activity participants is \$20. The Activity Pass must be purchased prior to the student's participation in activities.
2. Students will be charged a participation fee of \$20 if they are involved in one or more NSAA sponsored activities during the school year. This fee will be placed in the student activity participation account for use at the discretion of the district for activity related expenses incurred by the district. The Activity Participation fee needs to be paid prior to the student's participation in activities.

## State and Federal Programs

### Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Seward Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status in the admission, access to its facilities or programs or activities, treatment, or employment.

### Section 2 Designation of Coordinators

Any person having concerns or needing information about the District's compliance with anti-discrimination laws or policies should contact the District's designated Coordinator for the applicable anti-discrimination law.

Law, Policy or Program	Issue or Concern	Coordinator
Title VI	Discrimination or harassment based on race, color, or national origin; harassment	Superintendent
Title IX	Discrimination or harassment based on sex; gender equity	Superintendent
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disability Act (ADA)	Discrimination, harassment or reasonable accommodations of persons with disabilities	Superintendent
Homeless student laws	Children who are homeless	Superintendent
Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities	Safe and drug free schools	Superintendent

The Coordinator may be contacted at: Superintendent, 410 South Street, Seward, Nebraska 68434, telephone number (402) 643-2941.

### **Section 3 Anti-discrimination & Harassment Policy**

Elimination of Discrimination. The Seward Public Schools hereby gives this statement of compliance and intent to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination or harassment and requiring accommodations. This school district intends to take necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination or harassment or which require accommodations.

#### Preventing Harassment and Discrimination of Students.

**Purpose:** Seward Public Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunities to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination or harassment of any kind by administrators, teachers, co-workers, students or other persons is prohibited. In addition, Seward Public Schools will try to protect employees and students from reported discrimination or harassment by non-employees or others in the workplace and educational environment.

For purposes of this policy, discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status, is prohibited. The following are general definitions of what might constitute prohibited harassment.

In general, ethnic or racial slurs or other verbal or physical conduct relating to a person's race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status constitute harassment when they unreasonably interfere with the person's work performance or create an intimidating work, instructional or educational environment.

Age harassment (40 years of age and higher) has been defined by federal regulations as a form of age discrimination. It can consist of demeaning jokes, insults or intimidation based on a person's age.

Sexual harassment is defined by federal and state regulations as a form of sex discrimination. It can consist of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or physical or verbal conduct of a sexual nature by supervisors or others in the workplace, classroom or educational environment.

***Sexual harassment may exist when:*** Submission to such conduct is either an explicit or implicit term and condition of employment or of participation and enjoyment of the school's programs and activities;

Submission to or rejection of such conduct is used or threatened as a basis for employment related decisions, such as promotion, performance, evaluation, pay adjustment, discipline, work assignment, etc., or school program or activity decisions, such as admission, credits, grades, school assignments or playing time.

The conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work or educational performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working, class room or

educational environment.

Sexual harassment may include explicit sexual propositions, sexual innuendo, suggestive comments, sexually oriented "kidding" or "teasing", "practical jokes", jokes about gender-specific traits, foul or obscene language or gestures, displays of foul or obscene printed or visual material, and physical contact, such as patting, pinching or brushing against another's body.

**Complaint and Grievance Procedures:** Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination or harassment to their immediate supervisor or classroom teacher. However, if the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student is encouraged to go to the next level of supervision. In the case of a student, the Principal would be the next or alternative person to contact.

If the employee or student's complaint is not resolved to his or her satisfaction within five (5) to ten (10) calendar days, or if the discrimination or harassment continues, or if as a student you feel you need immediate help for any reason, please report your complaint to the Superintendent of Seward Public Schools. If a satisfactory arrangement cannot be obtained through the Superintendent, the complaint may be processed to the Board of Education.

The supervisor, teacher or the Superintendent will thoroughly investigate all complaints. These situations will be treated with the utmost confidence, consistent with resolution of the problem. Based on the results of the investigation, appropriate corrective action, up to and including discharge of offending employees, and disciplinary action up to expulsion against a harassing student, may be taken. Under no circumstances will any threats or retaliation be permitted to be made against an employee or student for alleging in good faith a violation of this policy.

#### **Section 4 Multicultural Policy**

The philosophy of the District's multicultural education program is that students will have improved ability to function as productive members of society when provided with: (a) an understanding of diverse cultures and races, the manner in which the existence of diverse cultures and races have affected the history of our Nation and the world, and of the contributions made by diverse cultures and races (including but not be limited to African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans) and (b) with the ability and skills to be sensitive toward and to study, work and live successively with persons of diverse cultures and races. The mission shall also include preparing students to eliminate stereotypes and discrimination or harassment of others based on ethnicity, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, age, or disability.

#### **Section 5 Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973**

The following is a description of the rights granted to qualifying students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs

- without discrimination because of his/her disability
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
  3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
  4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
  5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities which are comparable to those provided to every student.
  6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
  7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if The setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
  8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
  9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's Identification, evaluation and placement.
  10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent.)
  11. File a local grievance.

### **Section 6 Notification of Rights Under FERPA**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. They are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff

member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility. Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another School District in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Family Policy Compliance Office  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20202-4605

### **Notice Concerning Directory Information**

The District may disclose directory information. The types of personally identifiable information that the District has designated as directory information are as follows:

1. Student's Name, address, telephone listing, and the name, address, telephone listings (if not unlisted), e-mail address and work or other contact information of the student's parent/guardian or other adult acting in loco parentis or with authority to act as parent or guardian in educational matters for the student;
2. School and dates of attendance;
3. Student's current grade;
4. Student's enrollment status (e.g. full-time or part-time);
5. Student's date of birth and place of birth;
6. Student's extra-curricular participation;
7. Student's achievement awards or honors;
8. Student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
9. Student's photograph; and
10. School or school district the student attended before he or she enrolled in Seward Public Schools.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District does not designate as directory information personally identifiable information from students' education records where the District determines that the disclosure to the potential recipient poses a risk to student safety or well-being, including but not limited to circumstances where the potential recipient is a registered sex offender and the personally identifiable information would permit the potential recipient to communicate with or otherwise contact the student.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate information about the student as directory information. The period of time within which a parent or eligible student has to notify the District in writing that he or she does not want information about the student designated as directory information is as follows: two (2) weeks from the time this information is first received. Please contact the Superintendent's office to indicate your refusal to have your child's information designated as directory information.

The District may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions in this section.

The District's policy is for education records to be kept confidential except as permitted by the FERPA law, and the District does not approve any practice which involves an unauthorized disclosure of education records. In some courses student work may be displayed or made available to others. Also, some teachers may have persons other than the teacher or school staff, such as volunteers or fellow students, assist with the task of grading student work and returning graded work to students. The District does not either approve or disapprove such teaching practices, and designates such student work as directory information and/or as non-education records. Each parent and eligible student shall be presumed to have accepted this designation in the absence of the parent or eligible student giving notification to the District in writing in the manner set forth above pertaining to the designation of directory information. Consent will be presumed to have been given in the absence of such a notification from the parent or eligible student.

Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit: The District designates the Seward Police Department as the District's "law enforcement unit" for purposes of (1) enforcing any and all federal, state or local law, (2) maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District, and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools.

### **Section 7 Notice Concerning Disclosure of Student Recruiting Information**

The No Child Left Behind Act requires that the District provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that the District not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental consent. The District will comply with any such request.

### **Section 8 Notice Concerning Staff Qualifications**

The No Child Left Behind Act gives parents/guardians the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers. Upon request, the District will give parents/guardians 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. You may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree. We will also, upon request, tell parents/guardians 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 an administrator in your child's school building. The information will be provided to you in a timely manner. Finally, the District will give timely notice to you if your child has been assigned, or has been

taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the Act.

## **Section 9 Student Privacy Protection Policy**

It is the policy of Seward Public Schools to develop and implement policies which protect the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws. The District's policies in this regard include the following:

*Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties:* Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.

*Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive:* The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed "Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive"), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

*Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials:* Parents have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term "instructional materials" for purposes of this policy. The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times and place as will not interfere with the educator's intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.

*Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations or Screenings.* The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parental opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance

with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: "Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events."

*Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students:* The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information. "Personal information" for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: a student or parent's first and last name, home address, telephone number, and social security number. The term "personal information," for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

*Parental Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information:* While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five (5) school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

*Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection Policy:* The District provides parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy and other policies related to student privacy. Such notice shall be given to parents of students enrolled in the District at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after

any substantive change in such policies.

**Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events:** The District will directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information).

Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and,

Any non-emergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parental opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities.

In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

**Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive:** Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be “sensitive” for purposes of this policy:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student’s parent;
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student’s parent;
3. Sex behavior or attitudes;
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has 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 students or the student’s parent;
8. Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

## **Section 10 Parental Involvement Policies**

### ***A. General - Parental/Community Involvement in Schools:***

Seward Public Schools welcomes parental involvement in the education of their children. We recognize that parental involvement increases student success. It is the District's policy to foster and facilitate, to the extent appropriate and in their primary language, parental information about, and involvement in, the education of their children. Policies and regulations are established to protect the emotional, physical and social well-being of all students.

1. Parental involvement is a part of the ongoing and timely planning, review and improvement of district and building programs.
2. Parents are encouraged to support the implementation of district policies and regulations.
3. Parents are encouraged to monitor their student's progress by reviewing quarterly report cards and attending parent-teacher conferences.
4. Textbooks, tests and other curriculum materials used in the district are available for review by parents upon request.
5. Parents are provided access to records of students according to law and school policy.
6. Parents are encouraged to attend courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities with prior approval of the proper teacher or counselor and administrator. Parents' continued attendance at such activities will be based on the students' well-being.
7. Testing occurs in this school district as determined to be appropriate by district staff to assure proper measurement of educational progress and achievement.
8. Parents submitting written requests to have their student excused from testing, classroom instruction and other school experiences will be granted that request when possible and educationally appropriate. Requests should be submitted to the proper teacher or administrator within a reasonable time prior to the testing, classroom instruction or other school experience and should be accompanied by a written explanation for the request. A plan for an acceptable alternative shall be approved by the proper teacher and administrator prior to, or as a part of, the granting of any parent request.
9. Participation in surveys of students occurs in this district when determined appropriate by district staff for educational purposes. Parents will be notified prior to the administration of surveys in accordance with district policy. Timely written parental requests to remove students from such surveys will be granted in accordance with district policy and law. In some cases, parental permission must be given before the survey is administered.
10. Parents are invited to express their concerns, share their ideas and advocate for their children's education with board members, administrators and staff.
11. School district staff and parents will participate in an annual evaluation and revision, if needed, of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.

**B. *Title I Parental Involvement Policy:*** The District's Title I Parental Involvement Policy is established in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act. The District has a parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children. The parental involvement policy applicable to parents of all children is not replaced by this Title I Parental Involvement Policy and shall continue to be applicable to all parents, including parents participating in Title I programs.

It is the policy of the District to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in Title I programs consistent with the Title I laws. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

*Expectations for Parental Involvement:* It is the expectation of the District that parents of participating children will have opportunities available for parental involvement in the programs, activities, and procedures of the District's Title I program. The term "parental involvement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in this parental involvement policy. The District intends to meet this expectation through the following activities:

1. Involving parents in the joint development of the District's Title I plan and the processes of school review and school improvement.
2. Providing coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
3. Building the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.
4. Coordinating and integrating parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other programs.
5. Conducting, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under the Title I program, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I programs, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies of the District.
6. Involving parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I.

*Policy Involvement:*

Each school served under the Title I program will:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the Title I program.
2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. If sufficient funds are provided for this purpose, the District may assist parental involvement in such meetings by offering transportation, child care, or home visits.
3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs.
4. Provide parents of participating children: (1) timely information about programs under Title I, (2) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and (3) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
5. If the District operates a school-wide program under Title I and such plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parental comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the District.

*Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement:*

As a component of the District's parental involvement policy, each school served under the Title I program will jointly develop with parents for all children served under the Title I program a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire 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. Such compact shall: (1) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the State's student academic achievement standards and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and (2) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum: (i) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; (ii) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; and (iii) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

*Building Capacity for Involvement:*

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the District, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school participating in the Title I program and the District: (1) shall provide assistance to

participating parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; (2) shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; (3) shall educate teachers, student service personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; (4) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teacher Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; (5) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; (6) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training; (7) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title I if the District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training; (8) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions; (9) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents; (10) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation; (11) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement; (12) may establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under Title I; (13) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and (14) shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Title I as parents may request.

*Accessibility:*

In carrying out the parental involvement activities for this Title I Parental Involvement policy, the District shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Title I in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

*Use, Distribution, and Updating of this Policy:*

This Title I Parental Involvement Policy shall be incorporated into the District's Title I plan, shall be distributed to parents of participating children, shall be made available to the local community, and shall be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.

## **Section 11 Homeless Students Policy**

Homeless children for purposes of this Policy generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable federal and state law.

*No Stigmatization or Segregation of Homeless Students:* It is the District's policy and practice to ensure that homeless children are not stigmatized or segregated by the District on the basis of their status as homeless.

*Homeless Coordinator:* The Homeless Coordinator shall serve as the school liaison for homeless children and youth and shall ensure that: (1) homeless children are identified by school personnel; (2) homeless children enroll in, and have a full and equal opportunity to succeed in, school; (3) homeless children and their families receive educational service for which they are eligible and referrals to health, dental, and mental health services and other appropriate services; (4) the parents or guardians of homeless children are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children; (5) public notice of the educational rights of homeless children is disseminated where such children receive services under the federal homeless children laws, such as schools, family shelters, and soup kitchens; (6) enrollment disputes are mediated in accordance with law; and (7) the parents or guardians of homeless children, and any unaccompanied youth, are fully informed of transportation services available under law. The Homeless Coordinator shall coordinate with State coordinators and community and school personnel responsible for the provisions of education and related services to homeless children. The Homeless Coordinator may designate duties hereunder as the Homeless Coordinator determines to be appropriate.

*Enrollment of and Services to Homeless Children:* A homeless child shall be enrolled in compliance with law and be provided services comparable to services offered to other students in the school in which the homeless child has been placed. Placement of a homeless child is determined based on the child's "school of origin" and the "best interests" of the child. The "school of origin" means the school that the child attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child was last enrolled. Placement decisions shall be made according to the District's determination of the child's best interests, and shall be at either: (1) the child's school of origin for the duration of the child's homelessness (or, if the child becomes permanently housed during the school year, for the remainder of that school year) or (2) the school of the attendance area where the child is actually living. To the extent feasible, the placement shall be in the school of origin, except when such is contrary to the wishes of the homeless child's parent or legal guardian. If the placement is not in the school of origin or a school requested by the homeless child's parent or legal guardian, the District shall provide a written explanation of the placement decision and a statement of appeal rights to the parent or guardian as provided in Nebraska Rule 19.

If the homeless child is an unaccompanied youth, the Homeless Coordinator shall assist in the placement decision, consider the views of the unaccompanied youth, and provide the unaccompanied youth with notice of the right to appeal. The process to resolve disputes concerning the enrollment or placement of a homeless child or youth is as follows:

1. The district shall provide a written response and explanation of a decision regarding any complaint or dispute of a parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge or control of a homeless child or youth within thirty (30) calendar days of the time such complaint or dispute is brought;
2. The enrollment of the homeless child or youth in the school where enrollment is sought during the time such dispute is being considered;
3. And notice of the right to appeal as provided in Nebraska Rule 19.

Any parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge or control of a homeless child or youth that is dissatisfied with the decision of a school district after the dispute resolution process may file an appeal with the Commissioner of the Nebraska Department of Education within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the decision. Such appeals are informal and shall be submitted to the Commissioner in writing, as outlined in Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19, Section 005.03. The District shall immediately contact the school last attended by the homeless child to obtain relevant academic and other records. If the homeless child needs to obtain immunizations or medical records, the District shall immediately refer the parent or guardian of the homeless child to the Homeless Coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records. The District may nonetheless require the parent or guardian of the homeless child to submit contact information.

Transportation will be provided to homeless students, to the extent required by law and comparable to that provided to students who are not homeless, upon request of the parent or guardian of the homeless child, or by the Homeless Coordinator in the case of an unaccompanied youth, as follows: (1) if the homeless child's school of origin is in the District, and the homeless child continues to live in the District, transportation to and from the school of origin shall be provided by the District; and (2) if the homeless child lives in a school other than the District, but continues to attend the [Name] Public Schools based on it being the school of origin, the new school and [Name] Public Schools shall agree upon a method to apportion the responsibility and costs for providing the child with transportation to and from the school of origin and, if they are unable to agree, the responsibility and cost for transportation shall be shared equally.

## **Section 12 Breakfast and Lunch Programs**

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of the school. To encourage good nutrition, a well-balanced lunch is offered at a reasonable price.

Food Service Prices: • Lunch: HS **\$2.85**

Seward Public Schools has agreed to participate in the National School Lunch Program and accepts responsibility for providing free and reduced price meals to eligible children in the schools under its jurisdiction. Seward Public Schools provides the United States Department of Agriculture required nondiscrimination statement:

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, officers, 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 the USDA.

Those students wishing to participate in the free and reduced lunch/breakfast program must turn in their application to the district office.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, 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 the 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](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: US Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington D.C. 20250-9410
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442
3. Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

The school food authority assures the State Department of Education that the school system will uniformly implement the following policy to determine children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals in all National School Lunch Programs. In fulfilling its responsibilities the school food authority:

1. Agrees to serve meals free to children from families whose income meets eligibility guidelines.
2. Agrees to serve meals at a reduced price to children from families whose income falls between free meal scale and the poverty guidelines.
3. Agrees to provide these benefits to any child whose family's income falls within the criteria in Attachment A after deductions are made for the following special hardship conditions which could not reasonably be anticipated or controlled by the household: Unusually high medical expenses; shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of reported income; special education expenses due to the mental or physical condition of a child; disaster or casualty losses.
4. In addition, agrees to provide these benefits to children from families who are experiencing strikes, layoffs and unemployment which cause the family income to fall within the criteria set forth in federal guidelines.
5. Agrees there will be no physical segregation of, nor any other discrimination against, any child because of his inability to pay the full price of the meal. The names of the children eligible to receive free and reduced price meals shall not be published, posted or announced in any

manner and there shall be no overt identification of any such children by use of special tokens or tickets or any other means. Further assurance is given that children eligible for free or reduced price meals shall not be required to: Work for their meals; use a separate lunch room; go through a separate serving line; enter the lunchroom through a separate entrance; eat meals at a different time; or eat a meal different from the one sold to children paying the full price.

6. Agrees in the operation of child nutrition programs, no child shall be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, or national origin.
7. Agrees to establish and use a fair hearing procedure for parental appeals to the school's decisions on applications and for school officials' challenges to the correctness of information contained in an application or to be continued eligibility of any child for free or reduced price meals. During the appeal and hearing the child will continue to receive free or reduced priced meals. A record of all such appeals and challenges and their dispositions shall be retained for three (3) years. Prior to initiating the hearing procedures, the parent or local school official may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and school official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of data submitted in the application and decisions rendered. Such a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing. The hearing procedure shall provide the following:
  - a. A publicly-announced, simple method for making an oral or written request for a hearing.
  - b. An opportunity to be assisted or represented by an attorney or other person.
  - c. An opportunity to examine, prior to and during the hearing, the documents and records presented to support the decision under appeal.
  - d. Reasonable promptness and convenience in scheduling a hearing and adequate notice as to the time and place of the hearing.
  - e. An opportunity to present oral or documentary evidence and arguments supporting a position without undue interference.
  - f. An opportunity to question or refute any testimony or other evidence and to confront and cross-examine any adverse witnesses.
  - g. The hearing be conducted and the decision made by a hearing official who did not participate in the decision under appeal or in any previous conference.
  - h. The parties concerned and any designated representative thereof be notified in writing of the decision of the hearing official.
8. Agrees to designate the Superintendent to review applications and make determinations of eligibility. This official will use the criteria outlined in this policy to determine which individual children are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
9. Agrees to develop and send to each child's parent or guardian a letter as outlined by State Department of Education including an application form for free or reduced price meals at the beginning of each school year. Applications may be filed at any time during the year. All children from a family will receive the same benefits.

The following information will be available in the office of the Superintendent:

- Eligibility criteria for free and reduced meals
- Parent letter and application
- Public release
- Collection procedure

### **Section 13 Asbestos Management Plan**

Federal law requires districts to have an asbestos management plan for all of its buildings—owned or leased—and to update it periodically, among other requirements for inspections and training if staff work in buildings which contain or may contain asbestos. The asbestos plan for the high school can be found at the Seward Maintenance Office located at 2401 Karol Kay Blvd. Seward, NE 68434

# Appendix

Acknowledgement of Parent-Student Handbook  
Chromebook Loan Agreement/Acceptable Use Form  
Seward Alternative Education Center (SAEC) Student Application  
Seward Alternative Education Center (SAEC) Parent Application  
Seward Public Schools Adult Code of Conduct  
Seward High School Activities Consent Form  
Nebraska School Activity Association ("NSAA") Student and Parent Consent Form  
NSAA Guidelines for Student Activities  
Physical Forms

## Receipt of Student-Parent Handbook

The Student-Parent Handbook of Seward High School is available on the internet at [www.sewardpublicschools.org](http://www.sewardpublicschools.org).

Because of the expense of printing the handbooks, we are asking that you consider using the internet to access and review the 2019-2020 Student Parent Handbook. Using the internet to access the handbook will allow the district to direct printing dollars to instructional needs and eliminate the need for you to search for your handbook when you have questions throughout the year.

**Thank you for providing the 2019-2020 Student-Parent Handbook online. I will review it on the internet. My signed receipt below acknowledges receipt of the Handbook in a satisfactory manner via the internet.**

**I prefer a paper copy of the Handbook.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2019-2020 Student-Parent Handbook of Seward High School. It is understood that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules information about Safe and Drug-Free Schools, 1:1 Chrome Initiative and Extracurricular Activities and that the undersigned, as student, agrees to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that it is understood that the District's policies of non-discrimination and equity, and that specific complaint and grievance procedures exist in the handbook which should be used to respond to harassment or discrimination.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Chromebook Loan Agreement/Acceptable Use Form

## Parent Responsibilities

Your son/daughter has been issued a Chromebook to improve and personalize his/her education this year. It is essential the following guidelines be followed to ensure the safe, efficient, and ethical operation of this Chromebook.

- I will supervise my sons/daughters use of the Chromebook at home.
- I will discuss our family values and expectations regarding use of the Internet and email at home and will supervise my sons/daughters use of the Internet and email.
- I will not attempt to repair or alter the Chromebook.
- I will report to the school any problems with the Chromebook.
- I understand if my son/daughter comes to school without his/her Chromebook, they will be held accountable according to the student handbook.
- I agree to make sure the Chromebook is returned to the school when requested and upon my sons/ daughters withdrawal from Seward Public Schools.
- I have read and understand the expectations related to the Chromebook 1-to-1 learning initiative in the Seward High School Student/Parent Handbook.

## Student Responsibilities

Your chromebook is an important learning tool and is for educational purposes only. In order to take your Chromebook home each day, you must be willing to accept the following responsibilities:

- When using the Chromebook at home, at school, and anywhere else I may take it, I will follow the policies and student handbook of the Seward Public Schools and abide by all local, state, and federal laws.
- I will treat the Chromebook with care by not dropping it, getting it wet, leaving it outdoors, or using it with food or drink nearby.
- My Chromebook is my responsibility and I will properly care for it at all times.
- I will not load inappropriate material on the Chromebook.
- I will honor my family values when using the Chromebook.
- I will not give personal information when using the Chromebook.
- I will bring the Chromebook to school every day with the battery fully charged.
- I agree email (school), or any other Chromebook communication should be used only for appropriate, legitimate, and responsible communication.
- I will keep all accounts and passwords assigned to me secure, and will not share these with any other students.
- I will clean my Chromebook using only appropriate cleaning solution suggested by the school tech department.
- I will return the Chromebook when requested and upon my withdrawal from Seward Public Schools.
- I will keep the Chromebook in its protective case at all times.
- I have read and understand the expectations related to the Chromebook 1-to-1 learning initiative in the Seward High School Student/Parent Handbook.

Seward Public Schools is NOT RESPONSIBLE, NOR LIABLE for and disclaims any liability arising from any injury or damage caused by or stemming from unauthorized access to the network, inappropriate use of unauthorized or authorized use of the network. The student and the student's parents/guardians, by submitting to the Acceptable Use Policy through your signature, agree to waive Seward Public Schools from any liability for physical or emotional harm or damage to a student that is caused by or related to the inappropriate use of technology.

By signing this form, you are agreeing to this Chromebook Loan Agreement and Acceptable Use Form.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## **Seward Alternative Education Center Student Application**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Seward Alternative Education Center (SAEC) Expectations**

#### **I will...**

- \_\_\_ follow all High School/Middle School and SAEC rules.
- \_\_\_ follow the Attendance Policy while enrolled at the SAEC
- \_\_\_ follow the District's Tobacco/Alcohol/Drug Policy while on School District of Seward property.
- \_\_\_ choose to take responsibility for my learning.
- \_\_\_ come to class prepared with books, worksheets, and a pen or pencil.
- \_\_\_ work on assignments during class.
- \_\_\_ show respect toward staff and fellow students at all times.
- \_\_\_ use appropriate language while on school property.

The staff wants every day and every minute in school to be a positive one; because of this, you may be asked to leave for the day when classroom expectations are not met. This will count as an absence and you may be asked to return to school with a parent for a meeting with the staff. This will allow for clear communication on classroom expectations, along with an update on your current progress. This is designed to protect the learning environment of the other students.

The reason(s) I want to be considered for SAEC placement:

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My plan for completing my education is:

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**Employment Record**

Name of Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Employment Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your responsibilities:

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I have read and understand the handbook for Seward High School and the specific rules for SEAC. I agree to follow school policies and meet the Seward Alternative Education Center's expectations as defined on this application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**This form needs to be signed and returned on a yearly basis.**



## Seward Alternative Education Center Parent Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

The reason(s) I want my child to be considered for Seward Alternative Education Center (SAEC) placement:

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Our plan for completing his/her education is:

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As a parent/guardian, I understand that my support in the education of my child is extremely important. I agree to:

1. Attend two parent/teacher conferences annually.
2. Provide a quiet place in my home for study time.
3. Review my student's progress weekly.
4. Communicate with SAEC staff as needed in order to assure academic success.

I have read and understand the SHS Handbook.

\_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**This form needs to be signed and returned on a yearly basis.**



## Seward Public Schools Adult Code of Conduct

Athletic programs play an important role in promoting the physical, social, and emotional development of our children. It is essential for parents/guardians to encourage athletes to embrace the values of good sportsmanship. In order to do this, adults involved or attending athletic events should be models of good sportsmanship and should lead by example by demonstrating fairness, respect and self control.

- I therefore pledge to be responsible for my words and actions while attending a Seward Public School event and will conform my behavior to the following Code of Conduct.
- I/we will encourage good sportsmanship by demonstrating positive support for all players, cheerleaders coaches and officials at every game, meet, practice or other event.
- I/we will place the emotional and physical well-being of my athlete ahead of my personal desire to win.
- I/we will support coaches and officials working with my athlete(s), in order to encourage a positive and enjoyable experience for all.
- I/we will demand a sports environment free from drugs, tobacco, and alcohol and will refrain from use at all athletic activities.
- I/we remember that the activity is for the athletes--not the ADULTS.
- I/we will do my best to make the activity fun for the athletes.
- I/we will ask my athlete to treat other players, cheerleaders, coaches, fans, parents and officials with respect regardless of race, creed, sex or ability.
- I/we agree not to deliberately incite or participate in "unsportsmanship like" conduct at any athletic event.
- I/we agree not to use abusive or profane language at any time at any athletic event.
- I/we agree not to criticize, belittle, antagonize, berate, or otherwise incite the opposing team, its players, coaches, cheerleaders or fans by word of mouth or gestures.
- I/we agree not to criticize, belittle, antagonize, berate, or otherwise incite the opposing team, its players, coaches, cheerleaders or fans by the use of social media (e.g., Facebook, Snapchat, Twitter, etc.).
- I/we agree to accept decisions of the game officials, judges, as being fair and called to the best of their ability.
- I/we agree to follow the proper chain of command when having a complaint or voicing my opinion regarding a concern within the Seward athletic program. The chain is:
  - A. Coach
  - B. Head Coach/Cheer Director
  - C. Activities Director
  - D. Request a meeting with the Administration.
- I/we agree to take responsibility for any actions that violates this code of conduct by a guest or relative attend a Seward activity event.
- I/we understand that any act of disrespect from a parent/fan directed towards game officials/judges, players or coaches, fans from either team or creating a disturbance either in the stands or on the playing field may result in an ejection from the contest and suspension for a longer period of time from Seward activities.
- I/we understand by signing this we have read this Code of Conduct and understand what it means to be a good role model for Seward athletes.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Seward High School Student And Parent Consent Form

## For Interscholastic Participation

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (**Student's Name**) request to participate in Seward High School interscholastic activities in the 2019-2020 school year. In making this request, Student states: This application to participate in interscholastic activities for the Seward High School is entirely voluntary on my part. I have read the eligibility rules and regulations of the Nebraska School Activities Association and the rules and regulations of Seward High School. I am not in violation of such rules.

(I am)(We are) the Student's parent or guardian ("Parent") and hereby give consent for the Student to participate in Seward High School interscholastic activities in the 2019-2020 school year.

Parent and Student hereby give the following statements, agreements and consents:

**WARNING OF RISK:** I realize that participation involves the potential for injury which is inherent in all interscholastic activities. Even with the protective equipment, safety rules and instruction and direction of coaches and sponsors that are provided, injuries are still a possibility. 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, and on rare occasions, injuries so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis and death. *I acknowledge that I have read and understand this warning.*

**MEDICAL:** Parent is responsible for any professional medical and/or related services; the school shall not be liable for payment of such services. Parent and Student give permission to any and all of the Student's health care providers to release and discuss all records and information such health care providers may have about Student (including otherwise confidential medical information and records) to Seward High School and its employees, staff, agents, and consultants. Parent and Student further give permission to Seward High School, its employees, staff, agents, and consultants, to release and discuss all records and information it has (including otherwise confidential medical information or records) to Student's health care providers and to others as Seward High School may determine appropriate for the purposes of determining activity eligibility, fitness or injury status, or to respond to an emergency.

**INSURANCE:** I acknowledge that insurance coverage is recommended for all participants. The expense of insurance coverage is Parent's responsibility. Information regarding insurance is available in the Athletic

Director's office.

**INJURY REPORTING:** Parent and Student agree to report to coaches and trainers any injury whatsoever suffered by Student before, during or after the season, practice or games, whether such injury occurred as a part of participation in the extra-curricular activity, or outside of such activity.

**ELIGIBILITY RULES:** The major rules and regulations governing Student's eligibility to participate in interscholastic activities have been disclosed to Student and Parent. I have read the Nebraska School Activities Association rules of eligibility for participation in interscholastic activities, including the parent domicile, student transfer and scholastic rules. I understand that activity participants must be enrolled in at least 20 hours per week, be regular in attendance, and have on school records a minimum of 20 hours credit for the immediate preceding semester. Seward High School includes additional eligibility requirements as set forth in the Student-Parent Handbook.

**TRANSPORTATION:** I understand the activity may be conducted at a location other than Seward High School. In some instances Seward High School will not provide transportation to the activity. In such cases transportation to the site is the responsibility of Parent and Student. I understand that Seward High School is not responsible when Student is provided transportation by a private vehicle driven by others.

**GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP:** I understand good sportsmanship is essential to the success of the activity program. A failure to follow the principles of good sportsmanship or other inappropriate behavior may result in removal from the contest and may result in suspension from attending future contests or

activities.

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION:** I consent to academic information including grade point average, class rank and any academic awards/recognition received by Student to be released. Most typically this information will be used for the purpose of recognizing excellence in both athletics and academics and released for publication in newspapers, school publications and for awards banquets or assemblies, all-conference or all-state awards.

**UNIFORM/EQUIPMENT RETURN:** I agree to return all uniforms and equipment issued to me promptly on request and upon the ending of my participation in good condition; subject to wear and tear that occurs from normal use. I accept financial responsibility for the return of items assigned to Student and agree to reimburse the school the actual replacement value of the items in the event that they are not returned or are damaged, and for cost of repairs if they can be repaired. I understand that failure to reimburse the school in a timely fashion could affect extracurricular activity eligibility.

**ACTIVITY CODE:** The Seward High School Student-Parent Handbook includes an

Activity Code that sets out rules of behavior. Student agrees to comply with the Activity Code. In the event I am uncertain as to whether particular behavior or conduct would violate the Activity Code, I understand that I should ask the Athletic Director for advice before engaging in the behavior or conduct. I agree that participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege that may be denied by suspension or other discipline if Student does not comply with the Activity Code.

I agree that the Activity Code is a set of school rules and are not to be interpreted the same way as a criminal code. As such, I agree that the rules are subject to interpretation by school officials. I also agree that school officials may determine that a violation of the Activity Code has occurred when school officials reasonably determine from whatever information they find credible that the Student engaged in the conduct in question. School officials may determine that a violation of the Activity Code has occurred even though a criminal charge related to the conduct is still pending and even if Student has been found not guilty or the criminal charge has been otherwise dismissed.

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(Signature of Parent/Guardian)

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(Signature of Student)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_





## Guard Your Activities Eligibility–2019-2020



**IN ORDER TO REPRESENT A NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES COMPETITION, A STUDENT MUST ABIDE BY ELIGIBILITY RULES OF THE NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION. A SUMMARY OF THE MAJOR RULES IS GIVEN BELOW. CONTACT THE PRINCIPAL OR ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR FOR AN EXPLANATION OF THE COMPLETE RULE.**

**2.2.1** Student must be a bonafide student of their member school and have not graduated from any high school.

**2.2.2** After a student's initial enrollment in grade nine, he/she shall be ineligible after eight semesters of school membership beginning with his/her enrollment in grade nine.

**2.3** Student is ineligible if nineteen years of age before August 1 of current school year. (Student in grades 7 or 8 may participate on a high school team if he/she was 15 years of age prior to August 1 of current school year.)

**2.4.1** Student must be enrolled in some high school on or before the eleventh school day of the current semester.

**2.5.1** Student must be continually enrolled in at least twenty credit hours per semester and regular in attendance, in accordance with the school's attendance policy at the school he/she wishes to represent in interscholastic competition.

**2.5.2** Student must have been enrolled and received twenty hours in school the immediate preceding semester.

**2.6.2.1 Guardianship does not fulfill the definition of a legal parent.** If a guardian has been appointed for a student, the student is eligible in the school district where his/her legal parent(s) have their domicile. Individual situations involving guardianship may be submitted to the Executive Director for review and a ruling.

**2.6.3** A student entering grade nine for the first time after being promoted from grade eight of a two-year junior high, or a three-year middle school, or entering a high school for the first time after being promoted to grade ten from a three-year junior high school is eligible. After a student makes an initial choice of high schools, any subsequent transfer, unless there has been a change of domicile by his/her parents, shall render the student ineligible for ninety school days. If a student has participated on a high school team at any level as a seventh, eighth, or ninth grade student, he/she has established his/her eligibility at the high school

where he/she participated. If the student elects to attend another high school upon entering ninth or tenth grade, he/she shall be ineligible for ninety school days.

**Student eligibility related to domicile can be attained in the following manners:**

**2.6.9.1** If the change in domicile by the parents occurs during a school year, the student may remain at the school he/she is attending and be eligible until the end of the school year or transfer to a high school located in the school district where the parents established their domicile and be eligible.

**2.6.9.2** If the domicile is changed during the summer months and the student is in grade twelve and the student has attended the high school for two or more years, the student may remain at the high school he/she has been attending and retain eligibility.

**2.6.9.3** If a student elects to remain at the high school where he/she initially enrolled after being promoted from grade eight of a middle or junior high school, or grade nine of a junior high school, he/she is eligible at that school, or is eligible at a high school located within the school district in which the parents established their domicile.

**2.6.10** If the legal parents of a student change their domicile from one school district that has a high school to another school district that has a high school, the student shall be eligible immediately in the school district where the parents established their domicile.

**2.7.7** Nebraska transfer students whose name appears on the NSAA transfer list prior to May 1 shall be eligible immediately in the fall. Those students whose name does NOT appear on the NSAA transfer list prior to May 1 shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.

**2.7.8** Nebraska transfer students must have signed and delivered all forms necessary to make such transfer to the school in which he/she intends to enroll for the 2018-2019 school year prior to May 1, 2019; for the student to be eligible. The school to which the transfer is being made must have notified the NSAA office via an NSAA online transfer form, no later than May 1, 2019. The student would become ineligible for ninety school days the next fall if the student were to change his/her mind and decide not to transfer. If such student were to transfer to the new school, but later decides to return to his/her former district before 90 school days have elapsed, such student will be ineligible in the former district for 90 school days, with the ineligibility period commencing at the start of the fall semester. Those students, who did not have their enrollment forms signed, delivered and accepted prior to May 1, 2018, shall be ineligible for ninety school days, with such transfers being subject to hardship waiver guidelines.

**3.5 / 3.1** Once the season of a sport begins, a student shall participate in practices and compete only in athletic contests/meets in that sport, which are scheduled by his/her school. Any other competition will render the student ineligible for a portion of, or all of, the season in that sport. The season of a sport begins with the first date of practice as permitted by NSAA rules.

**3.5.1** During the season of a particular sport, athletes participating in that sport for a high school may attend, but may not physically take part, either as an individual or as a member of a team, in the sport activity in which instruction is being offered in the clinic, camp or school. \*(Refer to 3.5.1.1 for exception in Swimming & Diving.)

**3.6** A student shall not participate on an all-star team while a high school undergraduate.

**3.7** A student must maintain his/her amateur status.

# PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION HISTORY FORM

(Note: This form is to be filled out by the patient and parent prior to seeing the physician. The physician should keep this form in the chart.)

Date of Exam \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Sport(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Medicines and Allergies:** Please list all of the prescription and over-the-counter medicines and supplements (herbal and nutritional) that you are currently taking

Do you have any allergies?  Yes  No If yes, please identify specific allergy below.

Medicines  Pollens  Food  Stinging Insects

Explain "Yes" answers below. Circle questions you don't know the answers to.

GENERAL QUESTIONS	Yes	No	MEDICAL QUESTIONS	Yes	No
1. Has a doctor ever denied or restricted your participation in sports for any reason?			26. Do you cough, wheeze, or have difficulty breathing during or after exercise?		
2. Do you have any ongoing medical conditions? If so, please identify below: <input type="checkbox"/> Asthma <input type="checkbox"/> Anemia <input type="checkbox"/> Diabetes <input type="checkbox"/> Infections Other: _____			27. Have you ever used an inhaler or taken asthma medicine?		
3. Have you ever spent the night in the hospital?			28. Is there anyone in your family who has asthma?		
4. Have you ever had surgery?			29. Were you born without or are you missing a kidney, an eye, a testicle (males), your spleen, or any other organ?		
<b>HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	30. Do you have groin pain or a painful bulge or hernia in the groin area?		
5. Have you ever passed out or nearly passed out DURING or AFTER exercise?			31. Have you had infectious mononucleosis (mono) within the last month?		
6. Have you ever had discomfort, pain, tightness, or pressure in your chest during exercise?			32. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or other skin problems?		
7. Does your heart ever race or skip beats (irregular beats) during exercise?			33. Have you had a herpes or MRSA skin infection?		
8. Has a doctor ever told you that you have any heart problems? If so, check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> High blood pressure <input type="checkbox"/> A heart murmur <input type="checkbox"/> High cholesterol <input type="checkbox"/> A heart infection <input type="checkbox"/> Kawasaki disease Other: _____			34. Have you ever had a head injury or concussion?		
9. Has a doctor ever ordered a test for your heart? (For example, ECG/EKG, echocardiogram)			35. Have you ever had a hit or blow to the head that caused confusion, prolonged headache, or memory problems?		
10. Do you get lightheaded or feel more short of breath than expected during exercise?			36. Do you have a history of seizure disorder?		
11. Have you ever had an unexplained seizure?			37. Do you have headaches with exercise?		
12. Do you get more tired or short of breath more quickly than your friends during exercise?			38. Have you ever had numbness, tingling, or weakness in your arms or legs after being hit or falling?		
<b>HEART HEALTH QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR FAMILY</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	39. Have you ever been unable to move your arms or legs after being hit or falling?		
13. Has any family member or relative died of heart problems or had an unexpected or unexplained sudden death before age 50 (including drowning, unexplained car accident, or sudden infant death syndrome)?			40. Have you ever become ill while exercising in the heat?		
14. Does anyone in your family have hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, Marfan syndrome, arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy, long QT syndrome, short QT syndrome, Brugada syndrome, or catecholaminergic polymorphic ventricular tachycardia?			41. Do you get frequent muscle cramps when exercising?		
15. Does anyone in your family have a heart problem, pacemaker, or implanted defibrillator?			42. Do you or someone in your family have sickle cell trait or disease?		
16. Has anyone in your family had unexplained fainting, unexplained seizures, or near drowning?			43. Have you had any problems with your eyes or vision?		
<b>BONE AND JOINT QUESTIONS</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	44. Have you had any eye injuries?		
17. Have you ever had an injury to a bone, muscle, ligament, or tendon that caused you to miss a practice or a game?			45. Do you wear glasses or contact lenses?		
18. Have you ever had any broken or fractured bones or dislocated joints?			46. Do you wear protective eyewear, such as goggles or a face shield?		
19. Have you ever had an injury that required x-rays, MRI, CT scan, injections, therapy, a brace, a cast, or crutches?			47. Do you worry about your weight?		
20. Have you ever had a stress fracture?			48. Are you trying to or has anyone recommended that you gain or lose weight?		
21. Have you ever been told that you have or have you had an x-ray for neck instability or atlantoaxial instability? (Down syndrome or dwarfism)			49. Are you on a special diet or do you avoid certain types of foods?		
22. Do you regularly use a brace, orthotics, or other assistive device?			50. Have you ever had an eating disorder?		
23. Do you have a bone, muscle, or joint injury that bothers you?			51. Do you have any concerns that you would like to discuss with a doctor?		
24. Do any of your joints become painful, swollen, feel warm, or look red?			<b>FEMALES ONLY</b>		
25. Do you have any history of juvenile arthritis or connective tissue disease?			52. Have you ever had a menstrual period?		
			53. How old were you when you had your first menstrual period?		
			54. How many periods have you had in the last 12 months?		

Explain "yes" answers here

I hereby state that, to the best of my knowledge, my answers to the above questions are complete and correct.

Signature of athlete \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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I hereby give permission for the release of the attached student medical history and the results of the actual physical examination to the school for the purposes of participation in athletics and activities.  
 Parent or Legal Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION**  
**THE ATHLETE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS:**  
**SUPPLEMENTAL HISTORY FORM**

Date of Exam \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ School \_\_\_\_\_ Sport(s) \_\_\_\_\_

1. Type of disability		
2. Date of disability		
3. Classification (if available)		
4. Cause of disability (birth, disease, accident/trauma, other)		
5. List the sports you are interested in playing		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
6. Do you regularly use a brace, assistive device, or prosthetic?		
7. Do you use any special brace or assistive device for sports?		
8. Do you have any rashes, pressure sores, or any other skin problems?		
9. Do you have a hearing loss? Do you use a hearing aid?		
10. Do you have a visual impairment?		
11. Do you use any special devices for bowel or bladder function?		
12. Do you have burning or discomfort when urinating?		
13. Have you had autonomic dysreflexia?		
14. Have you ever been diagnosed with a heat-related (hyperthermia) or cold-related (hypothermia) illness?		
15. Do you have muscle spasticity?		
16. Do you have frequent seizures that cannot be controlled by medication?		

Explain "yes" answers here

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Please indicate if you have ever had any of the following.

	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Atlantoaxial instability		
X-ray evaluation for atlantoaxial instability		
Dislocated joints (more than one)		
Easy bleeding		
Enlarged spleen		
Hepatitis		
Osteopenia or osteoporosis		
Difficulty controlling bowel		
Difficulty controlling bladder		
Numbness or tingling in arms or hands		
Numbness or tingling in legs or feet		
Weakness in arms or hands		
Weakness in legs or feet		
Recent change in coordination		
Recent change in ability to walk		
Spina bifida		
Latex allergy		

Explain "yes" answers here

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I hereby state that, to the best of my knowledge, my answers to the above questions are complete and correct.

Signature of athlete \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of parent/guardian \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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# PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION PHYSICAL EXAMINATION FORM

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

## PHYSICIAN REMINDERS

- Consider additional questions on more sensitive issues
  - Do you feel stressed out or under a lot of pressure?
  - Do you ever feel sad, hopeless, depressed, or anxious?
  - Do you feel safe at your home or residence?
  - Have you ever tried cigarettes, chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
  - During the past 30 days, did you use chewing tobacco, snuff, or dip?
  - Do you drink alcohol or use any other drugs?
  - Have you ever taken anabolic steroids or used any other performance supplement?
  - Have you ever taken any supplements to help you gain or lose weight or improve your performance?
  - Do you wear a seat belt, use a helmet, and use condoms?
- Consider reviewing questions on cardiovascular symptoms (questions 5–14).

EXAMINATION			
Height	Weight	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female	
BP	/ ( / )	Pulse	Vision R 20/ L 20/ Corrected <input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N
MEDICAL	NORMAL	ABNORMAL FINDINGS	
Appearance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marfan stigmata (kyphoscoliosis, high-arched palate, pectus excavatum, arachnodactyly, arm span &gt; height, hyperlaxity, myopia, MVP, aortic insufficiency)</li> </ul>			
Eyes/ears/nose/throat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pupils equal</li> <li>Hearing</li> </ul>			
Lymph nodes			
Heart* <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Murmurs (auscultation standing, supine, +/- Valsalva)</li> <li>Location of point of maximal impulse (PMI)</li> </ul>			
Pulses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Simultaneous femoral and radial pulses</li> </ul>			
Lungs			
Abdomen			
Genitourinary (males only)*			
Skin <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HSV, lesions suggestive of MRSA, tinea corporis</li> </ul>			
Neurologic*			
MUSCULOSKELETAL			
Neck			
Back			
Shoulder/arm			
Elbow/forearm			
Wrist/hand/fingers			
Hip/thigh			
Knee			
Leg/ankle			
Foot/toes			
Functional <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Duck-walk, single leg hop</li> </ul>			

\*Consider ECG, echocardiogram, and referral to cardiology for abnormal cardiac history or exam.  
 \*Consider GU exam if in private setting. Having third party present is recommended.  
 \*Consider cognitive evaluation or baseline neuropsychiatric testing if a history of significant concussion.

Cleared for all sports without restriction

Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for \_\_\_\_\_

Not cleared

Pending further evaluation

For any sports

For certain sports \_\_\_\_\_

Reason \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_

I have examined the above-named student and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. A copy of the physical exam is on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).

Name of physician (print/type) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of physician \_\_\_\_\_, MD or DO

**■ PREPARTICIPATION PHYSICAL EVALUATION  
CLEARANCE FORM**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex  M  F Age \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Cleared for all sports without restriction  
 Cleared for all sports without restriction with recommendations for further evaluation or treatment for \_\_\_\_\_

Not cleared  
 Pending further evaluation  
 For any sports  
 For certain sports \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendations \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**I have examined the above-named student and completed the preparticipation physical evaluation. The athlete does not present apparent clinical contraindications to practice and participate in the sport(s) as outlined above. A copy of the physical exam is on record in my office and can be made available to the school at the request of the parents. If conditions arise after the athlete has been cleared for participation, the physician may rescind the clearance until the problem is resolved and the potential consequences are completely explained to the athlete (and parents/guardians).**

Name of physician (print/type) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of physician \_\_\_\_\_, MD or DO

**EMERGENCY INFORMATION**

Allergies \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other information \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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# Seward Middle School

## 2019-2020

2401 Karol Kay Blvd.  
Seward, NE 68434  
(402) 643-2986

Kirk J. Gottschalk  
Principal

Rick Weatherholt  
Counselor & Activities Director

### NOTICE CONCERNING DIRECTORY INFORMATION

The school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information (policy 5017) pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Name and grade
- Address
- Telephone number
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- The image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium
- Major field of study
- Participation in activities and sports
- Degrees and awards received
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Most recent previous school attended
- Certain class work which may be published onto the Internet
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the district designate any or all of those types of information about the student as directory information. **A parent or eligible student has to notify the building principal in writing that he or she does not want any or all of those types of information about the student designated as directory information two weeks from the first day of school or two weeks from enrollment date.** The district may disclose information about former students without meeting the conditions of this section.

### ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS/INFORMATION

Seward Middle School provides a program that is designed to serve the needs of the middle school student. Our primary goal is to meet the educational needs of our students while recognizing the unique social and emotional development at this stage of early adolescence. SMS provides a gradual transition from the more sheltered world of elementary school to the broad choices of high school.

#### HOMEWORK POLICY

- Teachers are responsible for numerous students during the day. Each child and parent has different needs and expectations. Because of this we encourage parents to assume the initiative in keeping track of their own child's progress.
- Seward Middle School has established a homework policy. The general formula for homework assigned is 10 minutes per grade level a day. Therefore 5<sup>th</sup> grade students should have no more than 50 minutes of homework a day, while 8<sup>th</sup> graders will have no more than 80 minutes. The exception to this rule is projects that are assigned in advance and take longer than one night to complete. Please help your son or daughter complete assignments by providing regular study periods at home and asking to see assignments.
- Homework is started in classrooms and assigned at the end of class. This allows the teacher to monitor and interview students for comprehension and understanding. Students should know how to complete the assigned work before they leave the classroom.
- Homework will have a value. Generally, homework should be about 15% of the student's total grade **but grade level teams and individual teachers may adjust that value accordingly.** If an assignment is given, it will be given credit.
- Students have been given a daily planner. They are expected to list their assignments in this planner. Parents should ask to see the planner frequently. If your child is failing to complete the planner, speak with a teacher or the counselor.
- If you feel your child is falling behind, ask your child's teachers for progress reports and/or individual plans.
- Student progress may be monitored through PowerSchool-our student information management system. Contact Craig Williams or your child's counselor for more information.

#### ACADEMIC DETENTIONS

Academic detentions are designed to help student's complete important missing work that will assist their educational development. Students who fail to complete assignments, fail to hand in papers, have incompletes, hand in late assignments or need special attention will need to stay after school with an assigned teacher. Detention times will run from 3:30 - 4:00 p.m. Staff members will make sure the student has contacted a parent/guardian to make appropriate after school arrangements.

## PROGRESS REPORTS

To communicate performance in your child's classes, progress reports are given each quarter to students who are not meeting expectations or who are encountering some trouble. These reports will be a phone call or an email from one of your child's teachers. Letters home or personal conferences might also be used. Parents are encouraged to contact the teachers any time there is a question or concern regarding student progress.

## REPORT CARDS

Grades will be based on the assessment of student performance in classes, which may include participation, daily work, presentations, projects and tests.

A+	100	A	94-99	A-	93
B+	92	B	87-91	B-	86
C+	85	C	79-84	C-	78
D+	77	D	71-76	D-	70
F	0-69				

## RESOURCE PROGRAM (Board Policy 6010)

Special services are available to the handicapped students of this district as provided by State Law LB403. The guidelines for the resource program are available in all administrative offices or directly from Connie Biaggio, Director of Special Services (643-4499).

## RETENTION

Students who do not perform to their capabilities may be retained. The following retention rules will be utilized: The issue of retention at Seward Middle School is primarily an issue of accountability. Teachers will inform parents and students of chronic missing/incomplete work and poor quiz or test scores. Parent conferences will be held and the teachers may assign academic detentions. If a student does not improve and fails several classes, he/she may be retained at the current grade level or students may be promoted to the next grade level but could repeat a class or classes the next school year. Regular attendance in school is necessary to be successful and could be a determining factor in retention or repeating a class or classes. Retention of identified students in Special Education program will be determined by the Individual Educational Plan.

## SCHEDULE

Schedules will be sent home with the students the first week of school.

## SCHOOL CLOSING

If there is a late start, school will start 2 hours late and buses will run 2 hours late. School closing or late start information will be announced using our District Alert System.

## STUDENT DATA AND INFORMATION FOR NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Information for the Nebraska Student and Staff records system is collected by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) for the purpose of doing state and federal reporting. This data includes information from NSCAS, NWEA, AQuest, state aid and special education. Student data are protected by state and federal laws and must be maintained in a confidential matter at all times. Parents may review the kinds of data that are collected about our students and the methods that the Nebraska Department of Education uses to manage this data at the Department of Education website: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/>

## TESTING PROGRAM

The counselor is in charge of the testing program at the Middle School. Certain students will be given individual ability tests upon referral for appropriate placement in various school programs. Such tests are only given with prior parent approval.

The following types of tests will be given to students during the school year: NWEA (Northwest Evaluation Association) and the state mandated assessments (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade).

## T.O.P. (Think Only Positive) TIME

A homeroom/advisement program involves students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. This program provides a home base for students during their Middle School years. Through homeroom advisement, students will be offered instruction that will provide opportunities to acquire skills in managing themselves, interacting with others and in making decisions thoughtfully and intelligently.

## ATTENDANCE POLICIES AND PROCEDURES (Board Policy 5001)

Regular attendance at school is the primary responsibility of students and parents. There is no substitute for regular attendance and many classroom experiences cannot be made up.

### IF YOUR CHILD IS ABSENT FROM SCHOOL:

- You are asked to call the school before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the absence.
- The school may attempt to reach the parent/guardian if a phone call has not been received.
- If a phone call is not possible and/or if the school is not successful in reaching the parent/guardian, a note is needed the day the student returns to school.
- If a note or phone call is not received, the student will be required to make up the school time missed.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES** are those that are family or school initiated:

- Illness, appointments, family emergencies, field trips, etc...

**UNEXCUSED ABSENCES** are those for which:

- There is no prior permission from a parent/guardian, teacher or an administrator to miss school.
- No note from the parent, doctor, etc. is received upon return.
- Credit may not be given for missed work or tests.
- The student may be assigned detention time and/or Saturday School.

**PREARRANGED ABSENCES** are those that have been prearranged by a parent/guardian at least two days in advance, either by phone or by sending a written note to school with the student. These generally occur due to planned trips and medical or dental appointments.

### **ABSENCES DURING THE DAY**

Students leaving during the school day are required to sign out in the office. Students arriving late are required to sign in at the office. Late arriving students must have a note or the parent/guardian must call the school to inform us of the reason for the late arrival.

### **MAKE UP WORK**

Students who are absent for any reason will be required to make up work missed in each class. Students will be given one day for each day absent. A day's absence does not excuse a student from responsibility for all work missed on the day of their return.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain all make-up work from his or her teachers immediately upon return to school. Failure to obtain make up work is no excuse for not doing work missed. Only by special permission of the principal can make up work extend past the grading period.

Homework Policy for Suspended Students - Students suspended from school will be given an opportunity to make up all missed work and will be given full credit according to the following criteria:

1. It is the student's responsibility to ask the teacher for missed assignments.
2. Students will be given one day for each day suspended from school (up to a maximum of five days) to return completed assignments and take make up tests.
3. Daily work, if made up, will be considered in the grading process. Tests may be made up with credit after the suspension if completed in the time allowed in statement #2.

To the extent possible, students placed in in-school suspension will work on class assignments while in the in-school suspension room. Any work not completed will be governed by the policy on make up work for suspended students.

### **TRUANCY**

The School District of Seward complies with Nebraska law when dealing with trancies. A copy of School Board Policy and State Statue 79-209 is on file at the District Office.

### **TARDIES**

Students are expected to be on time to all classes. If tardiness becomes a pattern (4 per quarter), students will be subject to lunch and after school detentions or suspensions.

### **CLOSED CAMPUS**

Students may not leave the school grounds during the school day without permission of parents or guardians and the school office. If a student leaves the campus for any reason, the student must sign out in the office. Once students are on school grounds in the morning, they must remain on school grounds. This includes bus students and students being dropped off by parents.

### **SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ATTENDANCE FOR PARTICIPATION OR PRACTICE**

Students must attend school all day in order to take part in practice or a contest with the following exceptions:

1. Arrangements have been made ahead of time with principal's office for a doctor, dental, or orthodontist appointment.
2. Arrangements have been made ahead of time with principal's office in order to attend a funeral.
3. The student has missed school because of a class activity and/or field trip.

### **HALL PASSES**

Students must have a hall pass when they are away from their assigned class area. They are expected to take care of all personal needs during break times and to take all necessary books and supplies to class. Students are required to sign in or have a pass to be in the hallways before the bell rings in the morning.

### **STUDENT GUESTS**

Student guests are only allowed with prior notice and permission from the office and the teachers involved with the student and guest.

### **STUDY TRIPS**

While on study trips, students are expected to exhibit a high standard of cooperation and behavior. School rules apply to any activity that is sponsored by the school or district. Permission forms must be completed and signed by a parent/guardian prior to student participation in any off campus event. Study trips are a privilege and not a right. Students will not be allowed to participate if behavior issues impede on the learning value of the trip.

## **ENROLLMENT INFORMATION (Board Policy 5002)**

### **ENROLLMENT OF NEW STUDENTS**

All new enrolling students are required by state law to provide a certified copy of the student's birth certificate or other reliable proof of the student's identity and age accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate. There is a thirty-day period in which this may occur. Failure to comply shall cause the school district to notify the parents or guardians in writing. If after ten days, compliance has not occurred, the school is required to report the matter to the local law enforcement agency.

All new enrolling students are also required to have up to date immunization records. Students whose immunizations are not current will not be allowed to enroll.

### **PHYSICALS**

All 7th grade students and students from out of state, must have a physical prior to entering the 7th grade. However, a parent may choose to sign a waiver on the requirement of having a physical. A student participating in sports cannot waive a physical.

### **PARENTAL CUSTODY INFORMATION**

It is the responsibility of the parent with whom a student resides to keep the office informed about parent custody of the child and about any visitation restrictions of the non-custodial parent. The school will make every effort to ensure that such visitation restrictions are carried out. However, the school cannot accept responsibility once the student leaves school premises. School reports of student progress will be given to both parents when requested.

## STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Every Seward Middle School student should become a responsible, self-disciplined individual. Our staff has high expectations for every student, both academically and behaviorally. Seward Middle School teaches and expects the Eight Keys of Excellence to be visible and practiced in school. The Eight Keys of Excellence is a set of principles which we incorporate into our students life to develop character in order to provide the framework for a supportive, trusting environment. These principles include:

**Integrity** – Conduct yourself with authenticity, sincerity and wholeness. Your values and behavior are aligned.

**Failure Leads to Success** – Understand that failures simply provide you with the information you need to succeed. There are no failures, only outcomes and feedback. Everything can be useful if you know how to find the gift.

**Speak with Good Purpose** – Speak in a positive sense, and be responsible for honest and direct communication. Avoid gossip and harmful communication.

**This Is It** – Focus your attention on the present moment, and make the most of it. Give each task your best effort.

**Commitment** – Follow through on your promises and obligations; live your vision. Do whatever it takes to get the job done.

**Ownership** – Take responsibility and be accountable for your actions.

**Flexibility** – Be open to change or a new approach when it helps you get the outcome you desire.

**Balance** – Keep your mind, body and spirit in alignment. Spend time developing and maintaining these three areas.

The purpose of the school-wide behavior expectations is to provide a safe, positive and orderly environment conducive to academic, social and character development for our students. To accomplish this goal, Seward Middle School students are expected to:

- Know and follow all school/teacher expectations and rules.
- Show respect for themselves, others and all property.
- Be responsible for their behavior.
- Put forth their best effort.
- Bring all needed materials to class each day.
- Be in the classroom on time and ready to learn.
- Use class time wisely, be on task and listen attentively.
- Use appropriate language.
- Solve conflicts and problems in a constructive manner.
- Refrain from displaying any signs of affection.

The school has established a set of expectations and standards for behavior. It is expected that each student will learn these expectations and abide by them. If a student lacks the ability to follow these standards of conduct, appropriate corrective measures will be taken. A student who exhibits behavior problems is entitled to all the help that can be provided by teachers, counselors, administrators and outside agencies to enable him/her to function productively in the classroom.

Seward Middle School will use many types of consequences for behavior concerns. Some of these include, but are not limited to, the following: conferences, detentions, service to school, restriction of school privileges, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension and expulsions.

### PROFESSIONAL DISCRETION

This agreement provides academic/disciplinary expectations and guidelines that help to prevent arbitrary decisions. This agreement does not attempt to cover all possible circumstances or appropriate solutions. The Seward Administration reserves the right to apply professional discretion in dealing with students and families concerning academics or disciplinary situations. Extenuating circumstances and the willingness of a student and family to reach an acceptable resolution to a problem will be considered.

### APPEARANCE

Students often think it is very important to wear the latest styles to “fit in,” but school is also a work place. So...Seward Middle School has a dress code. This code has been established to:

- Minimize disruptions to the educational environment.
- Ensure student safety.
- Encourage students to wear clothing that fully allows participation in learning activities.

With that in mind, please remember the following rules:

- Coats and hats are not to be worn in the school building. Bandanas and other headgear (boys and girls) are not to be worn in the building. During cold weather, sweatshirts and sweaters are encouraged.
- Pants should fit securely at the waist (no sagging) and should not drag on the floor. Belts must be of an appropriate length and not hang down.
- Shorts need to be as long as the student's fingers when the student's arms are at the student's side.
- No pajamas or pajama type clothing.
- Shirts and tops should cover the midriff. Halter-tops are not acceptable.
- Hair coloring is restricted to natural hair colors and hair should be properly groomed.
- Spaghetti strap tops are not allowed. Lasagna size strap tops are preferred.
- Clothing items with inappropriate statements or expressions will not be allowed. This includes any clothing item that is disruptive to the learning environment. Examples – any drug or alcohol messages, sexual messages, put-downs or any other items that is contrary to the development of good character.
- Shoes must be worn at all times. Avoid high platform type shoes for safety reasons.
- Backpacks/bags will need to be kept in your locker and not taken from class to class.
- Wallet or watch chains are not permitted.
- Students should keep jewelry to a minimum.
- Writing on hands, arms, face and clothing is not allowed.
- Earrings are fine. Other body piercing is not acceptable. This includes nose, tongue, lip and eyebrow piercing. Besides being distracting, there are health concerns involved.

**DISCIPLINE** (Board Policies 5035 and 6024)

Seward Middle School’s discipline measures are designed to help students become more responsible learners and community members. It is the responsibility of students, parents and staff to develop a sense of social responsibility that creates a safe community and enriched learning environment.

- Student behavior that threatens the health and safety of students or staff, results in property loss or damage, or disrupts the educational process is not allowed and will result in disciplinary action.
- Seward Middle School has a zero tolerance policy for violence.
- Consequences for misbehavior will be age-appropriate and without bias.
- Disciplinary files are confidential.

Possession of cell phones in schools is discouraged. If it is necessary for a student to have a cell phone in school, the following rules apply:

- The cell phone will be turned off during the school day.
- The cell phone is out of sight during the school day (preferably in a book bag).
- The only time the cell phone can be used is outside of the school day and the student must be outside the school buildings.
- Students are responsible for their own phone at all times, even if it is taken from someone to whom they have loaned it.
- By bringing their cell phones and other electronic communication devices to school, students consent to the search of said devices by school staff when the staff determines that such a search is reasonable and necessary.

If any of these rules are violated, the cell phone will be taken from the student by a school employee and turned in to the principal’s office. A parent must pick the phone up at the school office.

First offense: The cell phone will be confiscated and held in the principal’s office. A second offense by the student is insubordination.

Second offense: The cell phone will be confiscated and held in the principal’s office. Depending on the circumstances, the principal will determine whether the student receives an in-school or out-of-school suspension for insubordination.

Continued offenses: Additional disciplinary action may be taken to the consequences mentioned above.

Possession of any of the following items in the classroom may result in these being confiscated and held in the office for parents to pick up:

- CD players, iPods/MP3 players, radios/walkmans, portable video games, trading cards, etc...

Possession of any of the following items in the school will result in these being confiscated and held in the office for parents to pick up:

- Skateboards, roller blades, scooters, hover board, etc...

Possession and or use of these items will result in consequences ranging from detention/clean-up duty to suspension:

- Water balloons, paint balls, water gun, etc.

Possession, use of or distribution of these items will result in consequences ranging from detentions to suspension/expulsion:

- Lighters, knives (including pocket knives, or other sharp items), matches, firecrackers, fireworks

Possession, use of or distribution of any of the following items will lead to expulsion:

- Explosives/explosive devises
- Knives, blades, guns of any type
- Hit lists or lists of violent actions
- Please note that any other items used as weapons and/or that appear to be dangerous items (metal pipes, chains, toy weapons, and pencils) can also result in severe consequences.

Students who bring, use, possess, sell, share, or distribute any of the items listed below face detention, suspension and/or possible expulsion:

- Cigarette, E-Cigarette, or other tobacco products **as well as electronic nicotine delivery systems or products.**
- Alcohol
- Prescription medication (must be kept in office)
- Illegal drugs, substances used to simulate drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Over the counter medications except for personal use in office with parent approval.

Engaging in any of the following activities will result in consequences ranging from detention, suspension to expulsion:

- |   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| • Arson, burning or igniting any object             | • Misconduct on the bus  |
| • Inappropriate physical contact                    | • Gang activity          |
| • Extortion   | • Vandalism              |
| • Defiance  | • Misuse of technology   |
| • Fighting  | • Verbal abuse           |
| • Intimidation                                      | • Gambling               |
| • Harassment of any type including racial or sexual | • Theft                  |
| • Unauthorized sales of food and other items        | • Inappropriate language |
| • Aggressiveness                                    | • Unsafe action          |
| • Lewdness  | • Threats                |

**TEACHING EXPECTED BEHAVIORS**

The faculty and staff of Seward Middle School will retrain students in the necessary expected behaviors to be successful. Retraining sessions are called “practice.” The goal is to correct the behavior and not punish the student.

Students may be assigned practice sessions by the office or any member of the staff. Practices are for those students with undesirable patterns of attendance, tardiness or conduct as well as other disciplinary problems. Practice sessions will be on the students' valued time (the lunch period, before or after school) and take only the necessary amount of time to correct the behavior.

In the event that a student is suspended out-of-school, the student will report to the principal's office when they return to school to discuss ways in preventing those inappropriate behaviors from reoccurring. Some retraining and practice may take place. In certain situations parents may be required to attend this meeting.

#### **ATHLETICS/CLUBS GUIDELINES AND EXPECTATIONS**

Listed below is a summary of the eligibility requirements for Seward Middle School.

If a student in grade 7 or 8 reaches age 15 prior to **August 1**, the student shall be ineligible for interschool competition in grades 7 or 8. The student may participate on a high school team.

All athletes must have a physical sheet signed by their doctor before they can actively participate in athletic practice. All athletes will be given a copy of the middle school athletic training rules. If after reading them you do not understand them, please contact Mr. Weatherholt or your coach.

Students must attend school all day in order to take part in practice or a contest with the following exceptions:

1. Arrangements have been made ahead of time with principal's office to miss for a doctor, dental, or orthodontist appointment.
2. Arrangements have been made ahead of time with principal's office in order to attend a funeral.
3. The student has missed school because of a class activity and/or field trip.

Any student found guilty by school authorities or law enforcement agencies of drinking or possessing any form of alcoholic beverages, using or possessing tobacco or illegal forms of drugs while participating in an athletic program (during an athletic year - start of fall practice through end of school term) shall be subject to suspension under current School Board Policy.

### **STUDENT SUPPORT**

#### **4R ROOM**

The 4R's in the title represent Rights, Responsibilities, Respect, and Redirection. A student may be referred to the 4R room for academic or behavior reasons. The goal of the 4R room is to create a learning experience from poor choices, as we feel this is essential to learning and an inevitable part of living. It is our philosophy to teach students not to hide mistakes, to make excuses, or blame others.

In the 4R room, students are taught various steps to problem solving. They are responsible for identifying the problem, as well as, possible solutions to solving it. Students examine advantages and disadvantages of each solution and choose one they feel would best solve the problem. Students are expected to follow through with their chosen solution, and finally, create ways of monitoring their success.

#### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS/SPORTS**

Students involved in after school programs are expected to abide by school expectations. After school activities are an extension of the school day. Sponsors and coaches will have expectations for each activity and these will be shared with the students and parents. Students are expected to maintain academics during their participation in after school activities. If low grades become a problem, the sponsor, student, parents **or (changed from 'and' to 'or')** the principal will meet to set up expectations and a plan for the student to be successful in both areas.

#### **SPORTS PARTICIPATION FEES** (Board Policy 5045)

All students participating in activities will be required to purchase a full year activity pass. This activity pass admits the student to all home activities during the school year. The exception would be the musical, conference, district or state tournaments that are hosted by the Seward Public Schools. The cost of this pass to participants is \$20.00.

Students will be charged a \$20.00 flat fee for all activities/athletics. As an example: \$20.00 for the activity pass; \$20.00 for football/volleyball, basketball/wrestling, and track for a total of \$40.00 for the year. If the student also participates in band, choir, or the musical there would not be an additional charge. No student will be denied access to an activity because of the fees, but it is the family's responsibility to contact the teacher, sponsor or office regarding any special circumstances.

#### **STUDENT COUNCIL**

The Student Council is an organization through which the students may express their opinions and plan activities for the students. The council tries to promote leadership, cooperation, responsibility, respect, caring, fairness, citizenship and trustworthiness among its members.

#### **STUDENT PLANNERS**

Student Planners are provided to assist students and parents in preparation for classes each day. Please check and/or review these nightly with your student.

#### **COUNSELING**

The Seward Middle School counselor is available to help you with your child's academic, personal and social concerns. The counselor is also available for educational planning, interpretation of test scores, occupational information, career information and study help.

#### **MEDIA CENTER**

The Media Center is an extension of all middle school classrooms. The library/media collection closely parallels the curriculum and greatly expands the classroom resources available to students. The M.C. houses several thousand print resources that are supplemented with an extensive video collection, electronic resources, and online databases to which the M.C. subscribes. In the course of the school year, students will often be assigned classroom research projects that are M.C. based. Students also are always encouraged to use the M.C. for recreational reading materials.

The special rules regarding circulation of print materials and access to electronic resources will be explained to each grade level during their M.C. orientation early in the school year. Fines are charged for overdue materials at an established rate and must be paid before report cards are issued and/or credit is given.

## **FINES AND FEES**

Some activities, classes or events may require a fee. No student will be denied access to an activity because of the fees, but it is the family's responsibility to contact the teacher or office regarding any special circumstances.

At the end of each year or when your student leaves Seward Middle School, all books and materials must be returned in good condition, or a fine will be assessed. Fines must be paid before grades or an official transcript will become available.

## **FOOD SERVICE/CAFETERIA**

The school cafeteria is maintained as a vital part of the health program of the school. To encourage good nutrition, a well balanced lunch and breakfast is offered at a reasonable price. Those students wishing to participate in the free and reduced lunch/breakfast program must turn in their application to the district office.

2019-2020 Food Service Prices: • Lunch: \$2.85 • Breakfast \$1.80

Lunch/breakfast guidelines are as follows:

1. Lunch money can be deposited before school in the cafeteria or in the office. If your lunch balance falls below the price of two full priced lunches, parents may be contacted. If the balance is below zero and money is not deposited in the child's account after one day, students will be served an alternative meal. However, students are reminded daily when they come through the lunch line if their balance is below \$5.
2. Students that exhibit unacceptable behavior in the lunchroom such as throwing food, etc. will not be allowed to eat in the cafeteria. These students will be assigned to eat their lunches in an area separate from the other students.
3. A breakfast program is available to all middle school students. The serving time is from 7:40 to 7:55. There is time for bus students to eat breakfast. Students may only purchase a full breakfast. Other types of food are not permissible in the cafeteria during the morning serving time.
4. Food may not leave the cafeteria at any time.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, officers, 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 the 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 the 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](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: US Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442 or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## **HEALTH AND MEDICAL INFORMATION**

The middle school health program is administered by the school nurse, Michele Cooksey, who is responsible for assuming that the school provides for the individual health needs of all students. School health services are intended to support, not substitute for, health care that should be provided by the parents. Communications between parent and school regarding a student's health is very important and beneficial. Please notify the school nurse or office of any health related problems or concerns of which the school should be aware.

If a student is sick or hurt and can't make it through the day, permission from the teacher must be obtained to go to the nurse's office. The student must have a pass to go to the nurse's office and cannot go during passing periods. A student must consult with the nurse before he/she leaves to go home because of illness or injury and the nurse has contacted and obtained parent/guardian permission. The student must sign out in the school office.

A sick child should be kept at home to protect other children. If a child has a fever, the child should remain at home for at least twenty-four hours after the fever breaks.

Among the health services provided for students by the Seward School District are screening tests for vision, dental, and hearing. Hearing tests are given to students in kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and tenth grades, and to new students and those who have had previous hearing losses. Vision screening (distance) is done each year in all elementary grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh, and tenth grade. Vision (near) is done in grades first and third grade. Dental screenings are completed each year kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and tenth grade except for those students who have evidence of having been seen by a dentist within the preceding six (6) months. Weight/height status along with a body mass index percentile is done in grades kindergarten through fourth grade, seventh grade, and tenth grade.

These screenings are for the purpose of detecting major dental, vision, and hearing problems, which are apparent and are not intended to substitute for a thorough doctor examination.

Parents/guardians are notified if the screenings indicate the potential for any type of problem. School personnel do not diagnose health problems. If health problems are detected, parents/guardians are then encouraged to consult their family medical specialist, but the

schools cannot assume the cost of the medical specialist's.

**MEDICATION** - The school nurse is responsible for coordinating student medication. The following regulations apply to all students who must take prescription or non-prescription medications during school hours.

1. Prior to administration of any medication, parents must sign a written consent and have it filed with the school nurse. Consent forms may be obtained in the nurse's office or school office.
2. In case of prescribed medication, given for more than two weeks (long term prescriptions), the parent's consent and a doctor's written orders must be filed with the school nurse.
3. Medication must be sent to the office in the original container and the medication card must be signed. Both over the counter and prescription medications are treated the same way. Pharmacists will provide two labeled containers, one for home and one for school.
4. The school district will not purchase, prescribe or provide any form of internal medicine to a student.
5. No more than one week's supply of a medication should be brought to school.
6. The student may bring the medicine to school. No prescription medication will be sent home at any time with the student. Parents may pick it up at the nurse's office or school office. Medication that has not been picked up at the end of the school year will be destroyed.
7. Notify the school nurse if you need to carry an inhaler due to asthma.
8. Written directions must accompany emergency medications, such as a bee sting kit, from your doctor.

**IMMUNIZATION** - All children must be immunized by the first day they enroll in school except as follows:

1. A statement which is signed by the physician, stating that in the physician's opinion, the immunization required would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's family or household; or
2. An affidavit signed by the student or, if he/she is a minor, by a legally authorized representative of the student, stating that the immunization conflicts with the tenets and practice of a recognized religious denomination of which the student is an adherent or a member, or that immunization conflicts with the personal religious belief of the student. A notary public must sign this affidavit.

**INSURANCE** - The school board affords students the opportunity to participate in-group accident insurance at the start of each school year with Mutual of Omaha. One of the following is a requisite to registration in classes having a potential of personal injury or participation in athletics:

1. Participation in the student accident insurance program.
2. The family maintains a statement signed by parent certifying insurance covering personal injury of the student.
3. A statement signed by the parent acknowledging receipt of information concerning student accident insurance and declining participation.
4. The filing of claims is the responsibility of the students and their parents.
5. Students will be responsible for providing their own band instrument insurance.

**LICE (Pediculosis)** - Children may be examined periodically by the school nurse to determine if lice are present. If the examination indicates the presence of lice or nits, the child will be sent home immediately or as soon as safe and proper conveyance can be found. In the event that arrangements cannot be made for the child to go home, the child will be isolated from the other students. Parents will be required to bring the child to the nurse or nurse aide at the time of reentry. The child must be nit-free before readmission will be granted.

#### **LOST AND FOUND**

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office where the owner can claim them. A lost and found container will be kept by the office and will periodically be cleaned out with articles being donated to a local charity. Students and parents are encouraged to check the office for lost items.

#### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

All students must participate in physical education. In view of this, it is strongly urged that each student visit his/her family doctor for a complete physical examination before entering school. If any limitation is to be placed on participation in physical education, a written statement should be presented which clearly sets forth the limitation and is signed by the family doctor. The statement will be made a part of the student's record. Appropriate athletic shorts, t-shirts and gym shoes are required for students in grades 6-8. Students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will need to have proper shoes but will not dress out for class. All middle school students (grades 5-8) will need a separate pair of shoes to be used only for PE when classes are held in the gymnasium. They can be inexpensive or even a used pair as long as they are used ONLY for physical education classes in the gymnasium.

#### **YOUTH ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (YAP)**

The Youth Assistance Program (YAP) operates in the Middle School. The purpose of YAP is threefold: 1) to identify students with high-risk behaviors, 2) to connect students and families with sources of assistance, 3) to support students in the school environment. If you have questions, please contact the middle school office or Mr. Weatherholt.

#### **SCHOOL SECURITY**

The Seward School District uses electronic surveillance equipment to monitor the premises for the purposes of: employee and student safety and security; prevention and detection of crime; and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

#### **STUDENT LOCKERS**

Lockers are assigned to students. Students are encouraged to leave all valuable items at home. The school is not responsible for missing items. A student may bring a lock from home but must provide the office with the combination or key. Lockers and locks are also provided for PE and athletics. The lockers and locks are school property. Damage to a locker will result in a fine and/or suspension. School officials reserve the right to search lockers.

#### **BLUEJAY ALERTS**

To receive important information about Seward Public Schools sent as a text message or voice message directly to cell, home or office phones, wireless PDA or pagers, sign up for Blue Jay Alerts. It's an automated calling system used to contact parents for things such as emergency information, school closings, early dismissals and school event reminders. Please contact Craig Williams, District Technology Coordinator at 643-2988 or [craig.williams@sewardschools.org](mailto:craig.williams@sewardschools.org).

## TELEPHONE AND PHONE MESSAGES

- Students will not be excused from class to accept phone calls, but messages concerning family emergencies will be given to students promptly.
- Students will only be allowed to use the phone for emergency situations or if they need to make arrangements to stay after school.
- beepers, cellular phones and other communication devices are not allowed. Faculty and staff will confiscate these items and the parents will need to pick these up from the office.
- After school arrangements (going to a friend's house) should be made in advance of school hours.

## TRANSPORTATION AND ARRIVAL AT SCHOOL

- Students should not arrive at school before 7:45 a.m. unless they are eating breakfast. Students are to wait in assigned areas. Transportation is provided between school and home only via school district established bus routes. If students wish to go to any other destination, they will need to provide their own transportation. Any exceptions to this policy will require advance written parental notice and school approval.
- School expectations and guidelines are to be followed on all buses. A student may be suspended from riding any buses because of inappropriate behavior.
- Scooters, roller blades and skateboards are not to be ridden on school grounds. These items will be confiscated if they are being ridden during school hours. Bikes may be ridden to school and parked in the bike racks. The school is not responsible for these items during the school day.
- **Students walking to and from school are required to use the crosswalks where provided.**
- All students are required to remain on school grounds once they arrive. Students leaving school grounds without permission will be subject to disciplinary action.
- Insist that your child obey traffic signals. Parents who pick up or drop off Seward children before and after school can come to the east or west entrance (preferably the east entrance) and are asked to obey signs for everyone's safety. Buses load and unload children on the west side of the building.

## HIGH ABILITY LEARNER (HAL) PROGRAM

Educational enrichment is provided for all students throughout the school year by way of special classroom activities and school-wide events. Additional services are provided for identified students in grades 5-8 and consist of further skill development in the areas of written and oral communication, critical thinking, research, etc. Questions about identification or program offerings should be addressed to the HAL coordinator, Connie Biaggio.

## GRIEVANCE

Grievance procedure for students and employees of the School District of Seward is in compliance with Title IX, the Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act, Section 504 or Title VI. It is the policy of the School District of Seward Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, creed, age, marital status, sex or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment policies as required by Titles VI and VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Nebraska Equal Education Opportunity Act.

Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against, denied a benefit, or has been excluded from participation in any district education program or activity on the basis of sex, race or handicap in violation of this policy may grieve such matters using the adopted grievance procedures of this district. Definition of Terms:

1. Grievant - An individual student, parent or employee.
2. Grievance - The grievant feels that there has been discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, creed, age, marital status, sex or handicap.
3. Days - Shall refer to Monday through Friday, excepting legal holidays.
4. Time Limits.
  - a. No grievance shall be recognized unless it is filed at the appropriate level within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of grievance.
  - b. In circumstances where the grievant does not pursue the next step of the procedure within the time limit specified, unless there is a mutually agreed upon extension of time, the grievance shall be deemed to have been settled and no further action shall be required.
  - c. In the absence of a written reply to a grievance by the appropriate administrator within the required time period, the grievance shall be considered to have been denied and the grievant may submit the grievance in writing to the next level.

### Procedures

**Level One:** A grievant shall, within ten (10) days after the occurrence of the event that is the subject of the grievance, make an appointment with and discuss the matter with his or her principal or immediate supervisor. Every effort will be made to resolve the grievance informally at this level. The principal or immediate supervisor shall give an oral response to the grievant within five (5) days after the initial discussion.

**Level Two:** In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level One, the grievant shall reduce the grievance to writing, sign it, and submit it to the principal or immediate supervisor within five (5) days after the oral response at Level One. A written grievance shall contain a detailed description of the factual circumstances upon which the principal or immediate supervisor must submit a written answer within five (5) days after receipt of the written grievance.

**Level Three:** In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Two, the grievant may submit the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter to the Superintendent of Schools. The Superintendent of Schools will respond in writing to the written grievance within five (5) days thereafter.

**Level Four:** In the event the grievant is not satisfied with the disposition of the grievance at Level Three, the grievant may submit the written grievance to the Seward Board of Education which will convene a grievance committee for the purpose of examining evidence of discrimination in the case submitted. The grievance committee will consider all relevant evidence presented in connection with the grievance and may request individuals to testify before the committee. Within twenty (20) days after receipt of the written grievance the grievance committee shall determine what action, if any, should be taken to resolve the grievance. A copy of the decision shall be delivered to the grievant.

Inquiries regarding compliance with Title IX, the Nebraska Equal Opportunity in Education Act, Section 504 or Title VI may be directed to Scott Axt, Seward High School, Kirk J. Gottschalk, Seward Middle School, or Jessica Dominy, Seward Elementary.

**NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

The School District of Seward does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of employment or educational programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning The School District of Seward's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Superintendent **Josh Fields**, in writing at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska or by telephone at (402) 643-2941. Any person may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, in writing at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri 64114-3302 or by telephone at (816) 268-0550, regarding compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.

**Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations 2019-2020**

<p>Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider</p>	<p>4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine,          3 doses of Polio vaccine,          3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age, *Hib not required after child reaches 5 yrs of age          3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine,          1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age,          1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted.          4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age. *Pneumococcal not required after child reaches 5 yrs of age</p>
<p>Students from Kindergarten through 12th Grade, including all transfer students from outside the State of Nebraska and any foreign students</p>	<p>3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4th birthday,          3 doses of Polio vaccine,          3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age.          2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month,          2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.</p>
<p><b>Additionally, for 7th Grade Only</b></p>	<p>1 dose of Tdap (must contain Pertussis booster)</p>

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, 2011. For additional information, call 402-471- 6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm> (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)  
**Updated 1/2014**

# **Seward Elementary Student Handbook**



**2019-2020**

## **Principal's Message**

Welcome to Seward Elementary and the 2019/2020 school year! We have prepared this handbook so that you may know a little more about our school and its policies and procedures.(Board Policy 5034) It will help us establish positive lines of communication and work together effectively. Throughout the year, additional information will be made available to you through newsletters, Bluejay Alerts, and the school website ([www.sewardpublicschools.org](http://www.sewardpublicschools.org)). If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or visit the school. Our goal at Seward Elementary is to provide the best educational opportunities possible for each child. By partnering with you, this goal can be accomplished!

Jessica Dominy, Principal

## **Arrival Time for Students**

School begins each day at 8:15. No adult supervision is provided before 7:45 a.m. Please do not drop off students before 7:45 a.m. For the safety of the children, please follow the procedures for student drop off and parking of vehicles. Building entry time is at the discretion of the supervising adults. Children will proceed to the commons area for breakfast or to the gym for the walk-a-thon.

## **Absence and Tardiness**

Parents are asked to call the office if their child is going to be absent on a particular day. This call will let the school know that the absence is not a truancy or that the student might have experienced difficulties on the way to school. Once the call is made, a written note will not be needed when the student returns to school. If the office does not receive a call by 9:00 a.m., the office personnel will call to check on the absence.

Children not present in school are counted absent regardless of the reason for the absence. If they are in attendance for 4 hours, they will be counted as present for the day. Two hours of attendance will be recorded as a 1/2 day. Children late for school are counted tardy, even if the reason is a doctor or dentist appointment. Tardiness and absence for these reasons are perfectly legitimate and often necessary, but they must be counted. Students will be counted tardy after 8:15 a.m. (Board Policy 5001)

## **Closed Campus**

Children must remain on the school premises during the noon hour and at all other times during the day except with prior written parental permission.

## **Birth Certificates**

All new enrolling students are required by state law to provide a certified copy of the student's birth certificate or other reliable proof of the student's identity and age accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate. There is a thirty day period in which this may occur. Failure to comply shall cause the school district to notify the parents or guardian in writing. If after ten days, compliance has not occurred, the school is required to report the matter to the local law enforcement agency.

## **Parental Custody Information**

It is the responsibility of the parent with whom a student resides to keep the Elementary Principal informed about which parent has custody of the child and about any visitation restrictions of the noncustodial parent. If the noncustodial parent is restricted from contact with a student, a court order to this effect must be on file at the school. The school will make every effort to ensure that such visitation restrictions are carried out. However, the school cannot accept the responsibility for the child once he/she leaves the school premises. Reports of student progress and other informational documents will be given to both parents when requested. (Board Policy 5020)

## **Dismissal**

Children who are not waiting for a ride are to leave the school grounds immediately after dismissal. Children will not be excused from school before dismissal time without a note or phone call from their parents. Please instruct your child never to leave school with a stranger.

Parent permission is needed if your child is to leave the school with someone who does not routinely pick up the child. Grade levels dismiss at the following times:

Kindergarten: 3:10 p.m.

1st & 2nd grades: 3:12 p.m.

3rd & 4th grades: 3:17 p.m.

Parents should make every attempt to pick up their students in a timely and reasonable manner. Teachers and/or other adults will supervise students until parents arrive. However, teachers do have other responsibilities after school such as curriculum work, team meetings, staff meetings, etc. Therefore, if an emergency occurs or if for another reason children will be picked up late, the school needs to be notified.

## **After-School Safety**

Insist that your child obey traffic signals. Parents who pick students up after school should park single file on the north side of the circle drive or in the visitor's parking. Parents who park in the diagonal spaces are asked to walk to the holding area to get their child. Students will not be permitted to walk between parked cars. Buses pick up children on the west side of the building and all other traffic should avoid that area. Student pick up on the north side of the building is discouraged as supervision is not provided. This area is designated for special education transportation only.

## **Change of Address**

Parents should notify the teacher or office immediately of any changes in address, phone number, or family doctor. All unlisted numbers will be kept confidential.

## **Health**

A physical inventory is made of every student during the school year by the School Nurse, and the findings recorded on the permanent record. (Board Policy 5010, 5011 and 5059) Parents will be mailed a written notice of any concerns or 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 is provided for sudden illness or injury.
2. The school's obligation continues until the emergency has been placed in the care of the family or physician of their choice.
3. Treatment of injuries occurring outside school jurisdiction are not the responsibilities of school employees.
4. Exclusion of children: having a fever with a suspicion contagion, symptoms of vomiting, headaches, head lice, etc. Students need to be fever free, without the use of medication for 24 hours before coming back to school.
5. Any pupil with a rash must be excluded until the disappearance of the rash and any other symptoms. If the parent has consulted the family physician and he/she recommended readmission with a written notice to this effect, then admittance is acceptable.

Sending medications with your child is discouraged. Generally, if children are sick enough to be taking medicine they should stay home. At the suggestion of the Nebraska School Health Policies, our school system has implemented the use of a "medication permission" sheet. This is simply signed permission from the parent or guardian requesting the school district to comply with a physician's order for a student required to take medication during the regular school day. If your child needs to have medicine at school, please stop in the

nurse's office to complete and sign this form. This would be used to administer prescription and nonprescription medication. (Board policy 5023 and 5024)

Please note the 2019-2020 immunization information included in this packet.

### **Communicable Diseases**

Any student who has contracted a contagious disease may be restricted from attendance at school until the student is no longer contagious. The school district uses the Title 173- Nebraska Health and Human Services/Control of Communicable Disease, Chapter 3 of the Nebraska Administrative Code as a "best practice" guideline for contagious and infectious diseases. If there are questions regarding the communicability of your child's health condition or if you know your child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease or condition, please call (402) 643-2968.

### **Lice (Pediculosis)**

Children may be examined periodically by the school nurse to determine if lice are present. If the examination indicates the presence of lice or nits, the child will be sent home immediately or as soon as safe and proper conveyance can be found. In the event that arrangements cannot be made for the child to go home, the child will be isolated from the other students. Parents will be required to bring the child to the nurse or nurse aide at the time of reentry. The child must be nit-free before readmission will be granted. (Board Policy 5061)

### **Lunches**

A supervised lunch room is maintained for children who eat hot or cold lunch at school. However, those students who are unable to conduct themselves properly during the lunch period will be required to eat lunch elsewhere. Lunch money must be brought to the office by 8:20 a.m. and the lunch count taken by teachers so that the food service will know how many lunches to prepare. Please call in the lunch order if you know your child will be late for lunch count.

**2019-2020 Food Service Prices: • Lunch: Students K-4: \$2.70 • Breakfast: Students K-4: \$1.80**

Students are not allowed to bring soda (pop) as a part of their cold lunch. The soda will be removed by one of the adult supervisors. Suitable alternatives are: fruit juice box, bottled water, purchase of milk, or drinks from the school's water fountain. Parents and/or other visitors are welcome to join their children for lunch. However, Seward Elementary requests that the school hot lunch be purchased or a sack lunch be brought in. Lunches from fast food restaurants and soda are not permitted. Sharing the child's hot lunch is discouraged.

At the end of the school year, all lunch and/or milk charges must be paid. Report cards will be held until the charges are paid. A remaining lunch balance will transfer to the next school year and/or building.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, officers, 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 the USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, 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 the 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](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: US Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442 or
- (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

### **Meal Program Charges**

The school district will make a school meal program available to students. The cost of the program will be determined by the board of education so as to make the program as nearly self-supporting as possible. With board approval, the district may contract with a private company or corporation for the management and/or provision of the program. The district will notify the families with children attending school of the current guidelines for free or reduced-price school meals. A copy of the complete regulations and procedures regarding reduced-price and free meals shall be available in the office of the superintendent. Meal Charge Policy. The district will notify students and their families of the policy for Charged Meals, meaning meals received by a student when the student does not have money in hand or in his or her food account. This policy applies to students who receive meals at the free, reduced, or full rates. Notice of this policy must be provided in writing to all households at the start of each school year and to households that transfer to the school during the school year. Notice may be provided through the student handbook, student registration materials, online portal used to access student accounts, direct mailing or e-mail, newsletter, the district website, and/or any other appropriate means. Notice of this policy will also be provided all school staff responsible for the enforcement of it, including food service professionals responsible for collecting payment for meals at the point of service, staff involved in notifying families of low or negative balances, and other staff involved in enforcing any aspect of this policy. The district's policy on charged meals is: If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be permitted to charge up to \$20.00. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be provided and charged for a limited "courtesy meal" option, such as a plain sandwich. Students will not be allowed to purchase a la carte items if they have 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. 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.

## **Playground**

Children need to play outside. Parents' cooperation in seeing that children dress according to the weather is requested. In most cases if children are not well enough to play outside, they are not well enough to be in school. A child who must remain indoors due to a cold or other illness should bring a note daily to that effect. Otherwise, the teacher's judgment will be used.

## **Physical Education**

All students must participate in physical education. If any limitation is to be placed on participation in physical education, a written statement from the parent will be honored for two successive physical education classes. If the student is to be excused further, a doctor's statement must be received stating the reason for and duration of the excused absence. The statements will be made a part of the student's record. Ordinarily students who have any limitation placed on their physical education activity will be excused for the entire period.

## **Tennis Shoes**

For safety reasons and to prevent injury, each child needs to wear tennis shoes during physical education classes. If athletic-type shoes are not worn to school, a pair of tennis shoes needs to be brought along for P.E. and kept at school. Children without tennis shoes or shoes not approved by the physical education teacher will not participate in P.E. class. Socks need to be worn as well.

## **Staying after School**

On occasion a student may be required to stay after school to make up work or for discipline reasons. Parents will be notified in advance.

## **Homework**

Homework is a learning activity related to the experience within the school. Its purposes are to supplement and to enrich work done in the classrooms. Homework should be assigned following the building homework guidelines. (Board Policy 6017)

## **Bicycles, Skateboards, Scooters & Heelys**

Students are to park their bikes in the appropriate racks. Under no circumstances are students to borrow or tamper with bicycles that are not their own. Bicycles are not to be ridden on the playground or on the sidewalks on the school grounds (this includes before and after school). Skateboards, roller blades, scooters and Heelys are not to be brought to school.

## **Building Discipline**

(Board Policy 6024)-Student Discipline-available upon request or can be accessed online at <https://www.sewardpublicschools.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Our%20District%7CSchool%20Board%3E%3EPolicies>

Possession of cell phones in schools is discouraged. If it is necessary for a student to have a cell phone in school, the following rules apply:

- The cell phone will be turned off during the school day.
- The cell phone is out of sight during the school day (preferably in a book bag).
- The only time the cell phone can be used is outside of the school day and the student must be outside the school buildings.
- Students are responsible for their own phone at all times, even if it is taken from someone to whom they have loaned it.

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

If any of these rules are violated, the cell phone will be taken from the student by a school employee and turned in to the principal's office. A parent must pick the phone up at the school office.

Students who bring, use, possess, sell, share, or distribute any of the items listed below face consequences, suspension and/or possible expulsion:

- Electronic nicotine delivery systems or products, Cigarette, or other tobacco products
- Alcohol
- Prescription medication (must be kept in office)
- Illegal drugs, substances used to simulate drugs or drug paraphernalia
- Over the counter medications except for personal use in office with parent approval.

### **Sexual Harassment**

Sexual harassment will not be tolerated and will be dealt with as outlined in the District policy. Sexual harassment is defined as any unwanted or unwelcome visual, verbal or physical sexual behavior that is offensive to another person. (Board Policy 4014 and 5027)

### **Anti-Bullying Policy**

One of the missions of the School District of Seward is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for all students and staff. The administration and staff are to implement strategies and practices to reinforce and encourage positive behaviors by students. Positive behaviors include non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance of others. The administration and staff are to implement strategies and practices to identify and prevent inappropriate behaviors by all students, including anti-bullying education for all students. Inappropriate behaviors include bullying, intimidation, and harassment. Bullying means any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse. The school district shall review the anti-bullying policy annually. (Board Policy 5054)

### **Youth Assistance Program (YAP)**

The Youth Assistance Program (YAP) operates in the Elementary School. The purpose of YAP is as follows: 1) to identify students with high-risk behaviors, 2) to connect students and their families with sources of assistance, and 3) to support students in the school environment. If parents/guardians have any questions, they should contact the elementary office to speak with the principal or the guidance counselor.

### **Alcohol and Illicit Drug Use Prohibited**

The Board of Education expressly prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by school employees, volunteers, and students on school property or at any school sponsored event or activity; further, any employee, volunteer, or student found to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs, while on school property or at a school sponsored event or activity will be subject to disciplinary measures. Moreover, the board authorizes and directs school administrators or their representatives to discipline employees, volunteers or students, consistent with pertinent state and federal law, for any violations of this policy.

Discipline for employees may extend to a recommendation for dismissal. While the board does not sponsor directly rehabilitative services, it reserves the right to require that any disciplined employee undergo rehabilitation as a condition to continued employment. Discipline for any adult volunteers may include removal

from the volunteer position. Discipline for students may include suspension, expulsion, and/or a referral to a rehabilitative agency. Information on area agency rehabilitative services may be obtained from any of the school counselors.

The board will implement and support curricular materials and activities that teach about the harmful effects of alcohol and illegal drugs and serve as prevention and intervention programs.

(Board Policy 4002)

### **District Responsibilities for 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. 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.

### **Care of School Property**

The School District provides needed textbooks, workbooks, library books and athletic equipment without charge. This necessitates that all students assume full responsibility for those items issued to them. Fines will be made for the replacement cost of the books and equipment if lost or damaged.

### **Library Books**

Books will be checked out for two weeks. Pupils will be charged for damaged or lost library books. Additional books will not be checked out until the previous overdue books are returned. Books will be considered lost if they are not returned after 4 weeks. At the end of the school year, report cards will be held until restitution is made.

### **Use of District Technology**

All students will have the opportunity to make use of the District's access to Internet. The Internet is provided for students to conduct research and communicate with others. A "*Student Agreement*" and parent permission will be required for all students to have access to the Internet.

(Board Policy 5037)

### **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.

### **Student Fees Policy**

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guideline or policies for specific categories of student fees. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes specific student fees and/or materials required. **Elementary students might be required participants of this policy in one area: field trip admittance fees. Deleted line about recorder fees because we no longer do recorder.**

(Board Policy 5045)

### **Conferences and Reports to Parents**

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences at the end of the first quarter and during the third quarter. 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.

### **Classroom Assignments**

Students will be assigned to a particular teacher at the discretion of the building administrator. The administrator will seek input from previous teachers and specialists to ensure the most appropriate placement.

### **Retention**

Students who do not perform to their capabilities may be retained. The following procedures will be utilized:

1. At the end of the first semester, the parent will be notified in writing of possible retention, and a parent conference will be scheduled.
2. Student progress will be reported to the parents at conferences at the end of the third quarter and five weeks before the close of school.
3. A committee made up of the classroom teacher, a principal, and a special area teacher, if appropriate, will be formed. Following their input, a decision will be made by the parents regarding the retention or advancement of the student. Principal input will be seriously considered.

### **Lost and Found**

All lost and found articles are to be taken to the commons area. 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.

### **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 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.

### **Video Surveillance**

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. Unless otherwise authorized by board policy or law, students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event, unless the recording is made in a manner permitted by the school for members of the public. For example, students making recordings of an athletic event for their personal use similar to a parent or other patron are permitted, but students are still subject to the district's appropriate use and student discipline policies. An exception will be made to this policy if photographs 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.

### **Field Trips**

A well planned field trip is considered a worthwhile educational experience that contributes much to the overall school program. A permission form will need to be signed at the beginning of the school year. Teachers and other adults will accompany the students. The number of adults needed to accompany the students on field trips will be determined by the classroom teacher. In most circumstances, students must ride the bus with their classmates and teachers to their field trip destination and back to school at the conclusion of the field trip.

Parents will be notified in advance when field trips and activities requiring a bus ride will take place. However, on occasion the class may go on a tour within walking distance of the school. Parents will not necessarily be advised in advance of such excursions. (Board Policy 6027)

### **Classroom Parties**

Classroom parties will be limited to three per year and will be no longer than one hour in duration. Supervision will be provided for those students whose parents request that they not participate.

### **Birthday Treats/Snacks**

If children bring treats for the room on their birthday, they will be distributed and consumed before dismissal time. Delivered balloon and/or flower bouquets sent to students will remain in the office until the end of the school day. Suckers are discouraged because of safety concerns. Please make sure birthday treats do not include nuts of any kind, and treats cannot be refrigerated at school due to limited space.

### **Party Invitations**

Although birthday parties, etc., are an "out of school" activity, it is permissible for your child to distribute invitations at school provided all children in the class receive one.

### **Gifts**

The exchanging of gifts between pupil and teacher is discouraged. Gift exchanges among students are prohibited.

### **Toys**

Toy guns, knives, bats, trading cards (baseball, cartoon, etc.), balls, skateboards, roller blades and other toys are not to be brought to school. Key chains and toys hanging from book bags are discouraged as they are a distraction and/or safety concern. Toys confiscated by school personnel will not be returned to the children until the end of the school year.

### **Pets**

Please see that dogs and other pets are kept home and not allowed to follow pupils to school. A call will be made to the parents to come get the pet. If unavailable, the local law enforcement will be contacted. Pets may be brought to school for instructional purposes only. To do so, arrangements must be made with the classroom teachers and building administrator in advance.

### **School Dress Code**

The school dress of elementary students is the responsibility of the parent. Students are expected to be appropriately dressed and acceptably groomed for school. Appropriate clothing shall be that which does not

pose a health or safety hazard, does not disrupt classroom learning and behavior, and complies with reasonable standards for cleanliness. Students must wear shoes at all times. Heelys are not permitted at school. Clothing items with inappropriate statements, pictures, or expressions will not be allowed. Examples-drug or alcohol messages, obscenities, violence, and disrespectful/negative messages. Unacceptable clothing items include the following: very short shorts or skirts; visible sports bras; spaghetti strap tops; oversized "sagging" pants and shorts; oversized tank tops worn alone; halter tops; and chains attached to billfolds or pants. For safety reasons during recess times, 'flip-flops' are discouraged. If a student wears a piece of clothing that promotes or advertises the above mentioned items, they will be asked to do one of the following:

- 1) Call home and request that a parent bring another piece of clothing.
- 2) If possible, turn and wear the garment inside out.
- 3) Proceed to the nurse's office to select and wear a piece of clothing from the school's supply. That piece of clothing should then be washed and returned to school the next day.

Makeup and colored lip gloss are not to be brought or worn to school. Writing on hands, arms, face and clothing is not allowed. Temporary tattoos are not allowed. Hair color is restricted to natural colors and should be kept clean and properly groomed. (Board Policy 5031) For playing outdoors in wet and snowy weather, your children need to be equipped with overshoes or rubber boots. Be sure both boots are marked as well as mittens, caps, scarves, etc. Except for extreme weather conditions, children will be outside every day.

### **Visitors**

Parents are encouraged to visit school anytime after the first month. That first month is important to let children make the adjustment to school life. Children who visit school must be accompanied by an adult. We request that visitors call ahead to inform the office staff and classroom teacher. Upon arrival, please check in at the office. In order to maintain an effective learning environment with limited disruption, classroom visits should not exceed one hour.

Requests exceeding one hour must have approval of the principal. (Board Policy 5018)

### **Bus Information**

Students are expected to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth in the Seward Public School Bus Information Pamphlet. Please read and review these rules with your children. Safety is our first consideration, when transporting children to school. If the bus driver is distracted, danger exists. This is why standards of discipline have been established and must be maintained for our children's safety.

Parents are reminded that school buses are operated for the purpose of providing transportation for children to and from school. Once the bus arrives at the school, the students must enter the school and are subject to the discipline and rules. If for some reason you have not received a School Bus Information pamphlet, notify the Elementary Principal's office. Parents are asked to call the bus driver at his home or the neighbor if their child or children will not be riding the bus on a given day. Parents are asked to contact the bus driver and Bus Barn (643-6069) for approval if their child(ren) are to be delivered to a different stop on the established route. (Board Policy 5044)

### **After School Plans**

If a child is planning to go home with a friend, those arrangements must be made between the parents ahead of time. The child must then bring a written note to the classroom teacher informing them about the arrangements. Students will not be allowed to call their parents about plans they made during the school day. The children will be sent home in the usual manner.

## **District Cell Phone Policy**

Possession of cell phones in school is discouraged. If it is necessary for a student to have a cell phone in school, the following rules apply:

1. The cell phone will be turned off during the school day.
2. The cell phone is out of sight during the school day (preferably in a book bag).
3. The only time the cell phone can be used is outside of the school day and the student must be outside the school buildings.
4. Students are responsible for their own phone at all times, even if it is taken from someone to whom they have loaned it.

If any of these rules are violated, the cell phone will be taken from the student by a school official and turned in to the principal's office.

First offense: The cell phone will be confiscated and held in the principal's office. A phone call will be made for the parents to pick up the cell phone. The principal will inform the parent that a second offense by the students is insubordination.

Second Offense: The cell phone will be confiscated and held in the principal's office. A phone call will be made for the parents to pick up the cell phone. Depending on the circumstances, the principal will determine whether the student receives an in-school or out-of-school suspension for insubordination. (Board Policy 6025)

## **Child Abuse**

School employees shall report to the Principal when they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been subjected to abuse or neglect, or circumstances, which reasonably would result in abuse or neglect. The Principal or an individual designated by the principal will report the matter to the proper law enforcement agency or other agency as required by law. (Board Policy 5021)

## **Complaint Procedure**

In the event of complaints or concerns, parents are advised to initially attempt to resolve the situation with the teacher or school employee involved. If the problem cannot be resolved, please contact the school principal, who will schedule a meeting with all the people involved. The superintendent and school board members are to be involved after the above steps are exhausted.

(Board Policy 2006)

## **Bluejay Alerts**

To receive important information about Seward Public Schools sent as a text message or voice message directly to mobile, home or office phones, wireless PDA or pager, sign up for Bluejay Alerts. Information consists of emergency information, school closings, early dismissals and school event reminders. Please contact Craig Williams, District Technology Coordinator at 643-2988 or [craig.williams@connectseward.org](mailto:craig.williams@connectseward.org)

## **Special Education Identification and Placement Procedure**

The Board of Education affirms that all eligible children in the School District of Seward are entitled to a Free Appropriate Public Education and an equal opportunity for education according to the needs of the individual student. All procedural safeguards, policies, and programs implemented in the District are administered in conformity with statutory requirements of NDE Rule 51, NDE Rule 55, Public Law 93-380, Public Law 94-142, and all other applicable state and federal regulations. (Board Policy 6010)

## **Substitute Teachers**

If a long-term substitute is needed for four weeks or more, the school district will do its best to find a substitute that is highly qualified for the position. If this is not possible, parents will be notified in writing.

## **Student Data and Information for NDE**

Information for the Nebraska Student and Staff records system is collected by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) for the purpose of doing state and federal reporting. This data includes information for the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA), state aid, special education, and the federal *No Child Left Behind Act*. Student data are protected by state and federal laws and must be maintained in a confidential matter at all times. Parents may review the kinds of data that are collected about our students and the methods that the Nebraska Department of Education uses to manage this data at the Department of Education website: <http://www.nde.state.ne.us/>

## **Notice of Nondiscrimination**

The School District of Seward does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age in admission or access to, or treatment of employment or educational programs and activities. Any person having inquiries concerning The School District of Seward's compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504 is directed to contact Superintendent Josh Fields, in writing at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska or by telephone at (402) 643-2941. Any person may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, in writing at 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, Missouri, 64114-3302 or by telephone at (816) 268-0550, regarding compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, or Section 504.

## **Additional Information:**

In addition to the foregoing information, a copy of the following policies are enclosed:

1. Elementary Discipline Plan and Behavior Process/Procedures
2. 2019-2020 Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations
3. 2019-2020 School Calendar
4. Seward Elementary Homework Guidelines

## **Elementary Administration & Teaching Staff**

If at any time, a parent/guardian would like to contact the administration or a teacher, please consider the following options:

Telephone: School number is 643-2968

E-mail : [firstname.lastname@sewardschools.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@sewardschools.org)

**Example:** [jessica.dominy@sewardschools.org](mailto:jessica.dominy@sewardschools.org)

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD



## STAFF HANDBOOK

2019-2020

## THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD TEACHER HANDBOOK

This handbook is intended to provide information to staff related to the duties as a teacher in the Seward Public School District. Please familiarize yourself with the information in it and refer to this handbook to answer any questions before contacting any office or administrative personnel. However, the information in the handbook is not intended to cover every possible condition, but is a guide to many of the district procedures and expectations for certificated staff. References in the handbook to “teachers” are intended to apply to all certificated staff. This includes administrators to the extent the handbook deals with professional expectations and conduct.

The guidelines in this book are in effect for the year on the cover of this document. However, these are administrative guidelines, and may therefore be changed at will by the administration if deemed appropriate and necessary for the benefit of staff, students, or the school district, with the change being in effect immediately. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook and shall have the right to make decisions. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decisions based upon available district policies, state and federal statutes and regulations, and the best interests of the district. Also, teachers may be asked to insert additional information as the year progresses.

Each certificated staff member is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Although the information in the handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise. This handbook is intended to supplement other documents that deal with your employment, including your employment contract. Staff should also be familiar with district-wide board policies not included in this manual, as well as the negotiated agreement between the School District of Seward and the Seward Education Association. In reading this handbook, please understand that where a direct conflict exists, state or federal law, the negotiated agreement, and Board policies and regulations will control.

This Teacher Handbook and forms are on the district website for access. Teachers will also receive a School Improvement Notebook, which will be turned in at the end of each school year to the building principal so that updates may be made over the summer.

### **School District of Seward**

Dr. Josh Fields, Superintendent  
410 South St.  
Seward, Nebraska 68434  
402-643-2941  
Fax: 402-643-4986

### **Seward High School**

Mr. Scott Axt, Principal  
Ms. Jill Johnson, Assistant Principal  
Mr. John Moody, Activities Director  
532 Northern Heights  
402-643-2988  
Fax: 402-643-2599

### **Seward Middle School**

Mr. Kirk Gottschalk, Principal  
2401 Karol Kay Blvd  
402-643-2986  
Fax: 402-643-6686

### **Seward Elementary School**

Mrs. Jessica Dominy, Principal  
200 East Pinewood  
402-643-2968  
Fax: 402-643-4906

## **NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION**

Seward Public School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age or in admission or access to, or treatment of employment or educational programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the School District's non-discrimination policies: Superintendent, Josh Fields, who may be contacted in writing at 410 South St., Seward, Nebraska, at [josh.fields@sewardschools.org](mailto:josh.fields@sewardschools.org) by e-mail or by telephone at (402) 643-2941. Any person may also contact the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education, by email at [OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov](mailto:OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov); by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599, regarding compliance with the regulations implementing Title VI, Title IX, Section 504, or any other applicable laws.

### **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

**MR. RYNE SEAMAN, PRESIDENT**  
**MR. JERRY RUMERY, VICE PRESIDENT**  
**MR. PAUL DUER, SECRETARY**  
**MRS. JILL HOCHSTEIN**  
**MRS. JANA HUGHES**  
**MRS. DANIELLE SHIPLEY**

### **ADMINISTRATION**

**Dr. Josh Fields, Superintendent**  
**Mrs. Connie Biaggio, Special Services Director**  
**Dr. Matt Dominy, Curriculum and Staff Development Director**  
**Mrs. Jessica Dominy, Elementary Principal**  
**Mr. Kirk Gottschalk, Middle School Principal**  
**Mr. Scott Axt, High School Principal**  
**Ms. Jill Johnson, High School Assistant Principal**

### **OTHER DISTRICT STAFF**

**Mrs. Heidi Covert, Business Manager**  
**Ms. Christine Towle, Central Office Secretary**  
**Mr. Marty Telecky, Transportation Coordinator**  
**Mr. Tom Vajgrt, Maintenance Director**  
**Mr. Craig Williams, Technology Coordinator**  
**Mr. Tom Widler, NSSRS**

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## **A. GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **A1. School District of Seward**

Welcome to the Seward Public School District. We hope your teaching experience in our district is an enjoyable and professional one. We appreciate your efforts to help in the education and growth of our students -- and on behalf of the children, district patrons, administration, and school board, we thank you.

Should a question or a complaint regarding work arise, please present them to the administration. We want to work with our staff to best meet the needs of our students and school. All complaints and concerns should be addressed with the appropriate administrator, as this is the only place where any change can be made. Please do not practice sharing complaints or concerns with other faculty members, students, parents, or citizens of the community.

### **A2. Motto and Mission Statement of the District**

Our Motto: "Every Student, Every Day, a Success."

Our Mission:

The school district of Seward--where every student, every day is a success--affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. In cooperation with family and community members, the district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

### **A3. Weapons**

The District prohibits any person from being in possession of a weapon at a school attendance facility, on school property, at a school-supervised activity, or at a school sponsored function. Any teacher found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination. State law makes it a crime to carry a handgun in schools and a staff member who violates this will be reported to law enforcement.

A teacher may possess an item which may be considered a weapon where such item is used for instructional purposes and the teacher has received the approval of the administration, provided it is used in the manner approved and is maintained in such a manner as the administration has directed. The phrase "possession of a weapon" includes, without limitation, a weapon in a teacher's personal possession, as well as in a teacher's motor vehicle, desk, locker, briefcase, backpack, or purse.

### **A4. Smoking**

Smoking and the use of tobacco products, including the use of vapor products, alternative nicotine products, or any other such look-alike product are prohibited in Seward Public School District buildings, grounds and property, and in school transportation. There shall be no designated smoking areas within any of the Seward Public School District buildings. Smoking and the use of tobacco products shall also be prohibited in the stands and bleachers at the football field and near the entry of school buildings. All staff members in the school building share the responsibility of adhering to and enforcing the non-smoking policy.

### **A5. Activity Calendar**

The school master calendar is located in the high school assistant principal's office. All faculty in any building and activity sponsors must schedule events on this calendar. Schedule any and all activities through his/her office far enough in advance that adequate planning can be done. Please check with your building principal about the event and the principal will approve and direct that the event be placed on the calendar. No faculty members are to directly place, or request that a secretary place, any events on the master calendar. All activity requests involving students must be made through the assistant principal.

#### A6. Mail & Bulletins

Each teacher will have a mailbox. Please check your mail on arrival and departure from school. Mailboxes should be cleared daily. Mail is picked up at approximately 1:00 p.m. each day and delivered at approximately 2:30 p.m. to the other buildings. The common practice in school procedure of informing teachers of school routine and information will be done through memos via email, bulletins from the principal's office, or via the intercom. Please make it a daily practice to check your email. 'Checking' e-mail messages should be done at appropriate times of the day so as not to take away from valuable instructional time.

#### A7. Newspaper Coverage/Media Contact

Teachers in charge of organizations and activities will be responsible for getting the news to the editor of the Seward Independent. The school district administration shall provide information or contact the news media in cases of crisis, emergency, or other issues of interest other than activities, social, and special programs or events. All news media should be directed to the Superintendent's Office. The superintendent or his/her designee shall issue press releases and arrange interviews. All staff members are expected to be helpful and courteous at all times to the news media, but must refer all questions to the superintendent or his/her designee.

#### A8. Daily Record Books/PowerSchool

Grade reports are to be turned in at the close of the school year. Each teacher must keep daily attendance, tardiness, grades, and achievement of every student in a grade book/PowerSchool as directed by their building administrator. Teachers are expected to maintain the information required for Power School in a timely manner. These records must be kept current and include the minimum information in a readily understandable format:

- Names and assigned student numbers for all students enrolled in class at the beginning of the semester. The name and date of entry for each student who enrolls after the semester opens. The date of withdrawal for each student who withdraws prior to the close of the semester.
- A complete record of the attendance of each student enrolled showing: days on which the student was tardy, days on which the student was absent, with a differentiation between excused and unexcused absences.
- A complete report of all grades for each student.

Information relating to students should not be allowed to be seen by other students, parents, or others not authorized to have access.

#### A9. Reporting of Child Abuse

Refer to Board Policy 4050--Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

Because of their daily contact with school-age children, educators and other school employees are in a unique position to identify abused and/or neglected children. Nebraska law defines child abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child 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; or (6) sexually exploited by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to solicit for or engage in prostitution, debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions.

Reporting Procedure. 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.
2. The principal and the school nurse and/or the school guidance counselor shall, whenever possible, investigate the concern within 24 hours of receiving the initial report. The school staff shall endeavor to conduct this investigation in a manner that does not interfere with any current or future investigation by law enforcement. When the principal determines that a report should be made through the district, he or she shall make a report to the office of social services or law enforcement. The principal shall inform the employee(s) who made the initial report whether he or she has made a report to the office of social services or law enforcement. If no such report has been made, the employee(s) shall file such a report if he, she or they have reasonable cause to believe that a child has been abused or neglected.
3. 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.

**Contents of the Report.** The report to authorities shall contain the following information to the extent it is available: (1) name and position of reporting person; (2) name, address, and age of abused or neglected person; (3) address of the person or persons having custody of the abused or neglected person; (4) the nature and extent of the abuse or neglect, or the conditions and circumstances which would reasonably result in such abuse or neglect; and (5) any other information that may be useful in establishing the identity of the persons involved and cause of the abuse or neglect.

**Legal Immunity.** Nebraska statutes give legal immunity from any civil or criminal liability to any person who makes a good faith report of child abuse or neglect or participates in a judicial proceeding resulting from such a report.

#### A10. Activity Passes and ID Badges

ID badges will be provided. Faculty are required to have their ID badges visible around their neck on a lanyard or clipped to their shirts and employees are to show their card at all events they attend.

Teachers' spouses may earn an activity pass if they sign up, and take tickets (admission) at one home athletic event. This ID badge admits the bearer only to admission for home athletic events – not other family members. As per conference rule, this ID badge serves as the conference pass but will admit the bearer only. This pass is non-transferable.

#### A11. Lesson Plans

Teachers are expected to prepare lesson plans, which cover at least three days of advance instruction. Each building principal will explain the expected process at their first faculty meeting of the year. Appropriate lesson plans and substitute materials (class rosters, etc.) should always be in place in case of leave absence from work or illness. These lesson plans should enable the substitute teacher to implement the instructional objectives and continue with classroom activities and progress.

#### A12. Fund Raising

Many school and school-related groups and organizations desire to raise funds to support their organizations. There can be an overwhelming amount of requests for a community to support. The administration tries to balance the requests and be as fair as possible to the various associations. Before any class, school organization, or outside school-related group may conduct a fund-raising project, they must receive approval from the administration. All fund raising requests will be made in writing to the building principal and superintendent for approval, approval of which will also be given in writing. At the completion of the fund-raiser, a financial summary must be submitted to the building principal (See Appendix for forms).

#### A13. Inclement Weather/Emergency Conditions

The first concern of the administration during bad weather is the safety of the students and staff. If school is cancelled or delayed, the announcement will be made via Bluejay Alerts, radio and TV stations. When a delay is announced, please continue to listen for any changes that may occur if the weather worsens. All teachers shall register with the Bluejay Alerts notification system to receive weather related announcements.

On days when school is cancelled due to bad weather, teachers are not expected to be in school unless they choose to be; although when a duty day is cancelled due to weather conditions, such days will not be credited as a contract day. Make up days have been built into the yearly calendar that will allow all certificated staff to perform the total contract days. However, when school has been delayed one or two hours, teachers should plan to keep regular school hours if safe travel allows them to do so. If school is closed during the day, teachers will be responsible for remaining with students until all students have safely left school or the administration has made arrangements for remaining students.

If school is being held and parents/guardians feel strongly that they do not want their child/children to attend school, they are asked to keep them home. These students will be counted absent, but will be allowed to make up any school work without penalty within a reasonable time frame allowed for any legitimate absence.

Emergency Conditions: Seward school buildings have signals which, when activated, include the necessity to either evacuate the school building or move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** In the event of a tornado warning, implement the school's established safety procedures.

#### A14. Library and Computer Lab Use

Teachers are encouraged to access the library and computer labs with their students. However, teachers are to be present and are to monitor students for appropriate use of these areas. When library assignments are made by teachers, make sure the media specialist knows in advance what students are expected to do. Teachers are not to send a group of students or a whole class to the media center without first clearing it with the media specialist. Teachers who make arrangements for classes to go to the media center are to accompany those classes and remain in the media center to supervise them while they are there.

#### A15. Room Appearance & Care of Room

Nails or tacks are not to be driven into walls or woodwork for hanging pictures, etc., and use of materials that will remove paint or damage walls is prohibited. Use only bulletin boards on which to fasten items. If an item needs to be fastened on the wall, please file a maintenance request. Before leaving each day, and especially at night or on weekends:

- 1) Close any windows in your room.
- 2) Turn out the lights.
- 3) Lock your doors.
- 4) Teachers leaving the building after evening custodial hours will observe to see that entrance doors are closed and locked. The teacher is responsible for turning of lights and checking any entrance doors that students may have used. Report any discrepancies to the office, or night custodian.

All orders from teachers in regard to maintenance or cleaning shall be made through the building principals. Teachers are responsible for school-owned equipment that they use, or keep in their rooms. Maintenance or repair needs of audio-visual equipment should be reported to the library. Other needs should be reported to the principal.

\*\*\*\*Note: Burning of candles is not allowed in school buildings, per order of the fire marshal.

#### A16. School Assemblies

All teachers are expected to attend assemblies when classes have been dismissed for such a purpose, and to sit with and supervise the class or students they accompany to the assembly.

#### A17. Visitors & Salespersons in the Buildings

All visitors are to report to the office when entering the building and obtain a visitor badge. Teachers are directed to request any individuals noted in the building without a pass to report to the office, including students who are not currently enrolled in that building. Please confront them and refer them to the office, escort them out of the building, or alert an administrator for assistance.

Salespersons will not be permitted to solicit students or teachers during their instructional time during school hours. All such people are to report to the office and receive a visitor pass. Athletic and fund-raising salespersons may contact teachers during a teacher's planning time.

#### A18. Church Night & Sunday

It is board policy that every Wednesday, during the school year, will be left free for church activities. School activities will be scheduled only in cases beyond our control (such as NSAA scheduled activities), and this will be cleared through the office. There will be no meetings, activities, practices, etc., scheduled on Sunday, including summer activities, unless the superintendent gives approval. (See Appendix for forms).

#### A19. Textbooks

Teachers will document checkout and condition of textbooks to students, documenting an assigned number. This should be compared with the condition of the text when students turn in books at the end of the year. Teachers should inform students that they will be assessed fines for lost or damaged textbooks, and teachers are responsible for turning in that information to the office.

#### A20. Testing

The guidance department maintains a regular testing schedule for all students in the school district. These tests sometimes require interruption of classes. When this is necessary, the counselor will provide adequate notice to the teaching staff. He/she may also request assistance from the teachers in administering the tests.

#### A21. Health Services/Injuries

Teachers are not allowed to give medication to students unless they have been trained per statute regarding the Medication Aid Act. Students who are taking medication during the school day will need to have a signed parental/guardian release form in the office. Teachers will be made aware as needed of students who may have medical self-management plans.

Long-term prescriptions: Prior to the administration of any medicine which is to be taken by child for a period longer than two weeks, written permission of both the parent/guardian and the child's physician must be on file in the office.

Short-term prescriptions: Prior to the administration of any medicine which is to be taken by a child for a period of time less than two weeks, the written permission of the parent/guardian must be obtained. Short-term medication will usually include medicine such as antibiotics, eye drops, etc.

Safeguards for storage:

1. Medicines, which are administered under the supervision of the school, will be stored in the school office.
2. Except for emergency situations, only the school principal or his designate (office personnel) will administer or supervise the administration of medicine.
3. The medicine will be brought to school in a container with a pharmaceutical label, which must state the student's name, prescription, dosage and manner of administration.

4. Medical procedures are not to be administered in the classroom, except in accordance with the District's Emergency Protocol Plans.

The activities of the health program are implemented by school district nursing staff who are part of the education team in the identification, evaluation, and the provision for the individual health needs of all students. School health services are intended to support, not substitute for, the health care, which should be provided by the parents/guardians. Communications between parents/guardians and the school regarding a student's health is very important and beneficial. Please inform the office of any new health related problems that occur during the school year.

#### REPORTING INJURIES/ACCIDENTS

Every accident that results in a personal injury must be reported to the principal immediately. The nurse or principal has a form that may be used to report accidents, and the teacher must file a written report. This information is needed in completing insurance forms and in case of a lawsuit.

In the course of the school year, it is very possible that one of our students will require the rescue squad. Please use discretion when referring students to this service. If such an emergency arises, these are the procedures:

1. Notify the office immediately, (By intercom if one is available or by messenger if you are outside.) In order for the school nurse to respond, the name of the student and nature of the injury must be received with your call.
2. The teacher should render what aid possible, commensurate with the situation, i.e., severe bleeding, seizures, etc. DO NOT move student.
3. The rescue squad number is 911. Be sure to give the location of the student.

#### STUDENT INJURIES

The primary responsibility for medical treatment of the student rests with his/her parent or guardian. Emergency treatment of the student may be required while in attendance at school or school functions.

Except for such emergency situations, no student shall be referred by a member of the professional staff to a specific physician, para-medic, physician's assistant, therapist, athletic trainer, or other medical personnel outside the school system. In those situations where physical or emotional dysfunctions appear to exist, the professional staff member may suggest to the parent or guardian that medical attention be considered. The ultimate decision to seek medical attention, and choice of physician or medical personnel, is the responsibility of the parent or guardian.

When a student's physical or emotional condition appears to interfere with the student's ability to participate in athletic or other school activities, a professional staff member may refuse such participation until the matter is brought to the attention of the student's parent/guardian. Prior to participating in school functions suitable assurance shall be provided by the parent/guardian or the student's doctor that the student is medically capable.

The parent/guardian shall have the final approval on a student's ability to return to school activities and athletic events following an illness or injuries. The student shall not be encouraged to participate in school activities following an injury or illness over the objection of parent/guardian.

#### A22. Paraprofessionals

Paraprofessionals provide valuable assistance in the educational process and allow teachers to carry out their responsibilities in a more efficient and effective manner. A paraprofessional, however, must not assume teaching responsibilities. Paras may assist the teacher by assisting with instructional activities under the direction of the teacher. Teaching responsibilities must be met by a teacher and cannot be delegated to a para. The teacher must function in a leadership role and the para in a supportive role.

In academic situations a para must operate under the continuous supervision of a teacher. The teacher must control the classroom environment. A para may not operate an instructional station alone, except

for brief periods of time. In nonacademic situations, paras may be assigned to supervise non-teaching activities. Nonacademic activities would include supervision of playgrounds, bus loading stations, cafeterias and study halls.

Paraprofessionals whose assistance is needed to help supervise students will attend assemblies. This generally is limited to helping supervise preschool, kindergarten and certain special education students. The teacher in charge of these students will make the decision regarding whether or not a paraprofessional's assistance is needed. All other assignments to attend an assembly will be made by the principal. In the event a paraprofessional wishes to attend an assembly on her own time, she may do so with prior administrative approval. Paras are to work only on their assigned workdays and within their assigned workday -- they will work only on days when students attend school unless special permission is granted. Teachers are directly responsible for formal evaluation of paraprofessional staff.

#### A23. Student Aides

Student aides are to be directly supervised by the teacher 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 teacher 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 aides or not. A student aide should not be present and assisting a teacher without another adult present after the end of regular teacher duty hours.

#### A24. Managing Student Conduct

Discipline is everyone's responsibility. It begins with the student being responsible for his/her own behavior and understanding the consequences it may cause. The teacher is responsible for articulating classroom expectations at the beginning of the school year, implementing the classroom expectations consistently, posting the expectations, teaching the expected behaviors, and being familiar with the student handbook and the behavioral expectations and plan for the building(s) in which they teach.

All staff are responsible for all students in the hallways, in the restrooms, at assemblies, pep rallies, and during lunch and on the school grounds.

#### A25. Copyright

It is the school's policy to follow federal copyright law. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship.

#### A26. Safety & Crisis Plans

The District has established a Safety and Security Management Plan that includes safety and security plans and procedures to address emergency and crisis situations. Teachers are expected to be familiar with and to comply with the Safety and Security Plan and place their copies in the classroom as directed. A Crisis Response Team has been organized for the Seward Public Schools. A crisis will be defined as: a) the death of a student and/or staff member, and b) catastrophic event involving students or staff. The objective of the crisis response team will be as follows:

1. To provide an organized procedure to use, should such an event occur involving a student or member of the staff.
2. To maintain a safe environment for students and staff.
3. To provide support for those directly involved.
4. To meet the special needs of individual students by working with parents/guardians, school staff, and specialists.
5. To identify students at risk, and in case of suicide, attempt to prevent imitation of suicide by others.
6. To communicate with staff, students, parents/guardians, and the public through the most effective

practical methods.

7. To prevent escalation of rumors.
8. To continue effective instruction and to carry out established routines, rules, and regulations within school buildings.

#### A27. School Transportation/Use of Personal Vehicles

Staff who need school transportation should complete a transportation request and give it to the principal for approval. The principal will then contact the district office. The principal must sign the request form before it is sent to the district office. Fuel for the vehicles is to be obtained at the bus barn.

None of these vehicles may be used for any purpose other than school business, and all must be reserved ahead of time through the principal. Staff cannot be reimbursed for mileage on their own car if a school vehicle was available for use. If a vehicle is not available, teachers will be reimbursed at a rate of \$ .33 per mile.

Teachers who drive school vehicles are responsible for following safe driving practices, including the use of seat belts by all occupants, and are responsible for any injury or accident. Teachers should refrain from using cell phones while driving a school vehicle or transporting students.

#### A28. Lines of Communication

Staff should follow the “lines of communication” or “chain of command,” particularly in regard to concerns, complaints, and grievances. Please be aware that in filing a grievance, one must proceed through proper channels. In the case of faculty members, any grievance is presented first to your building principal. It is imperative that the above procedure be followed. See the negotiated agreement for a detailed explanation of the formal grievance process. A chart delineating the lines of communication is available at the end of this handbook.

#### A 29. Faculty Meetings

Faculty meetings will be held periodically throughout the year. Agendas may be distributed prior to the faculty meetings. Some of the meetings will be used for curriculum and school improvement discussions. Please visit with the principal if there is something that needs to be discussed. Attendance is required.

#### A30. Field Trips

Teachers are asked to complete a field trip request form each time students are taken from classes to visit in-district or out-of-district situations. No field trips should be scheduled the first two weeks of school or the last two weeks of school. This does not include NSAA trips.

#### A31. Selling at Games

Teachers and volunteers will be selling tickets at games with signup sheets made available at the beginning of the year. If it should occur that someone is needed to sell tickets at games, a teacher may be assigned to sell. Tickets will be sold until after half-time (or the equivalent) of varsity contests. Gate receipts are then turned over to the high school or middle school principal for deposit. Clock Operators, Ticket Sellers, Monitors and Scorekeepers will be paid .0009 of the base salary, per activity. The rate will be rounded down to the nearest \$5.00 increment.

#### A32. Seward Foundation

Teachers and administrators are encouraged to submit applications to the Seward Foundation. The Foundation has application deadlines each year – April 1 and October 1.

To avoid unnecessary grant proposal paperwork on the part of those wishing to make application for funds, the Board of Education along with the school administrators, will screen potential proposals prior to April 1 and October 1.

All potential proposals should be submitted to the respective building administrator by December 1 or July 1. This first proposal should be in written form. It should briefly outline the nature of the proposed activity and its total cost. It will be reviewed by the Board of Education at their February or August meeting. At that time the Board of Education will give their approval to the grant(s) that they would like to see proposed to the Foundation Committee. Following the Board meeting the Foundation application forms will be given to the person wishing to make application for funds.

#### A33. Teacher Requests to Civic Groups

Teachers wishing to approach a civic group to request materials or equipment needed for their classrooms should first clear this request with the principal. This not only makes the principal aware of the request, but provides the opportunity for questions concerning the nature of the request. You are encouraged to give presentations about your programs to civic clubs using student presenters.

#### A34. Grants

Teachers are encouraged to write grants to help finance their curriculum and program needs (with approval from their building principal and the district office). Teachers are asked to request and complete a Grant Application form whenever they do apply for grant dollars from the business manager. This helps the Business Manager organize the different funds.

#### A35. Student Teachers/Student Assistants

If teachers are interested in having a student teacher, please see the building principal. Any student assigned must be approved by the teacher and the building principal. The teacher is to have only one student teacher during the year.

If the teacher desires a student assistant (mostly from Concordia University), there will be forms available to request such an assistant. If a teacher is asked to take an assistant and does not desire to do so, this is the teacher's own decision. However, should the teacher accept an assistant, he/she must be sure that he/she defines clearly and distinctly the expectations of the assistant.

Assistant request forms may be picked up in the office. Return the form to the office to be forwarded to Concordia University.

#### A36. Board Meeting Agenda

A teacher may request that an item be placed on a school board meeting agenda. The teacher will need to complete the form and obtain the principal's signature and send it to the superintendent's office by the Wednesday prior to the Monday board meeting. Forms are located in the Appendices Section.

#### A37. School Security

The Seward School District uses electronic surveillance equipment to monitor the premises for the purposes of: employee and student safety and security; prevention and detection of crime; and the apprehension and prosecution of offenders.

#### A38. Videos

Movies/Videos shown in class should be related to the class curriculum. Any teacher showing a movie with a motion picture rating other than "G" should have prior approval from the building principal.

#### A39. Covering Class During Prep Time

Teachers who are asked to cover another teacher's class during his or her prep time, may submit a time card requesting pay for time at substitute teacher pay rates (time cards shall not be submitted unless the amount of prep time spent covering class exceeds 30 minutes).

#### A40. Classroom Displays

Teachers should only use good discretion when displaying items on their classroom walls, hallways, etc. Displays with inappropriate language or pictures of partially clothed people should not be displayed. As a general rule, if students are not allowed to wear something due to language or because it is too distracting, then teachers should not display anything similar in their classrooms or hallways.

At no time should displays or decorations be hung from, or placed on, the hallway or classroom ceilings as they block the flow of the fire suppression sprinklers if there is a fire.

### **TEACHER GUIDELINES**

#### B1. Professionalism

Seward Public School District employees are expected to adhere to the professional ethics standards established by the Nebraska Department of Education.

We consider our teaching staff to be true “professionals” who have dedicated their careers to helping young people. Though it may be human nature to dwell on the negative things that occur in life and to complain about work, please try to be positive and keep a positive attitude about work and school.

It is important for teachers to maintain an effective working relationship with the administration and all co-workers, including other teachers and support staff. Teachers are also to maintain appropriate relationships with students. Appropriate relationships are established by extending social courtesies, following through on commitments and promises, complying with administrative directives and Board policies, being honest and consistent, and not intruding on personal matters outside the scope of duties or gossiping and spreading rumors about others.

We should be mindful of not making critical comments concerning students, parents/guardians, patrons, or other employees as it reflects poorly on all of us, and typically finds its way back to those in question and can create hurt and/or hard feelings. If a concern or conflict does arise, let’s try to address them in a professional manner.

Teachers are expected to maintain a high degree of professionalism, as their actions and conduct reflect upon the district and the public views them as role models. It is important for teachers to project a professional image to students, parents/guardian, district patrons, and co-workers. There is a strong feeling that there is a relationship between respect for educators from students and the public and being dressed and groomed in a professional manner. Blue jeans, tennis shoes, t-shirts, flip flops and other casual attire are not generally appropriate for school. The building principal may designate some “dress down” or “Bluejay” days within their building.

No Surprises – If our staff anticipates a problem that could involve any of the administrators, or one that may make it to their office, inform them. It is easier to provide support when administrators are aware of the situation. Administrators will do their best to make that a two-way street.

#### B2. Public Relations

As an educator, you are a representative of the school at all times. The public forms its opinion of the school system through you. All educators should strive to conduct themselves as to cast a favorable reflection upon the school and our staff and students. The school is extremely important to our community. The administration will work to keep its employees as informed on all school matters as possible. However, topics that are solely of school business should be kept this way and not discussed with others outside of the school. Remember, your comments about the school system also reflect upon you.

Teachers are reminded to make visitors and substitutes feel welcome. Do all that is possible to give help and directions in a friendly manner. Using community resource people from our district is a very positive public relations tool. Teachers are encouraged to bring people into their classrooms as much as possible. Teachers are a very important element in our public relation efforts in our school district. Positive and professional relationships with all elements in our district help build a trusting and important image for Seward Public Schools.

### B3. Responsibilities of School Employees

Nebraska State Laws do not allow school districts to accept responsibility for damage to property or injuries to individuals. Responsibility therefore, falls on the teacher or employees of the school district. This makes it absolutely essential that any school sponsored activity or use of school property is properly supervised.

These responsibilities include following the educational plans and guidelines of the district, including implementing IEP's and 504 plans. Students should be treated consistently and fairly, regardless of race, religion, gender, national or ethnic origin, or disability.

Important laws regarding your obligation to maintain confidentiality of student information and student records should be followed. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires the District to protect the privacy of students. Information about students should be shared only with other school staff when they need that information to perform their duties in relation to that student. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age rights of access and confidentiality with respect to education records.

All teachers are to respect the privacy of students, certified staff, and non-certified staff. Staff members will be held responsible for releasing information deemed a property right to unauthorized people. It is inappropriate to discuss student problems or situations out in the general public with anyone other than the appropriate parent or legal guardian.

**You may not share information with anyone other than the student, parent/legal guardian, certain government officials like counselors, police officers, county attorney, etc. Non-Custodial Parents do have rights unless we have a court order taking those rights away.**

**When in doubt about FERPA issues, gather information and tell those requesting the information that you need to get clearance from your principal.**

**P/T Conferences – Be careful what you show and who you talk to. If the legal guardian or parent is at the P/T Conference and they have a grandma or grandpa with them, that would indicate permission by the parent (since they are in attendance); however, if a relative would show up on their own for P/T Conferences you should direct them to the building principal as FERPA prevents you from sharing information about students with them.**

### IDENTIFYING INFORMATION - WARDS OF COURT

4-009.28D19 Release of Photographs and Identifying Information Regarding Wards:

No photographs or slides of a Department ward or other identifying information regarding a Department ward may be released for use on posters, in presentations, press releases, newsletters, etc., without the written consent of the youth's worker and supervisory approval. In deciding whether consent will be given, the worker shall consider:

1. Legal status (if parental rights are intact, written parental consent must be obtained.);
2. the ward's opinion and wishes; and
3. use of material (for example, if child is identifiable, will it be detrimental to the child or his/her family.) If a situation is questionable, the worker shall not give consent.

#### B4. Use of School Property and Equipment

The personal use of school district property is not to be considered a benefit of employment. During the school year, teachers may access the facilities outside of the school day, providing such access is for work-related reasons. School facilities should not be accessed by employees for personal use. School equipment, materials, and supplies should not be used or taken from the school buildings for personal use. Employees shall use the school phones, postage, and fax machines for business use only, and each employee will be issued a personal code number that must be used to access long distance service. All long distance calls must pertain to school business. Employees should be as economical as possible when using the phone. Personal calls should be made with an employee's own calling card or phone credit card. Phone service to the school is taxpayer supported and is provided tax-free to tax exempt organizations such as the school district, and as such is intended for school business.

School equipment and materials will not be used for commercial purposes of individual employees. No employee shall use his position to solicit business from students or parents nor should any employee conduct personal business during school time. Teachers shall not perform duties unrelated to their employment with the district during school time, nor engage in outside employment which conflicts with school responsibilities.

The district would like to allow access for employees to Internet use and email, as personal use does not place any additional cost on the district and can be a "fringe" benefit to employees. Please follow the district guidelines for use of the Internet. However, employees should take care to use common sense and limit the use of personal email or Internet access during business hours. Remember, anything that you forward will have your address and name on it and there are statutes on the improper use of state government property. You can create a problem for yourself if inappropriate material or use is being forwarded through the use of school property (computers & service). Again, employees are not allowed to use school email or Internet access for commercial purposes or gain. Use of school technology equipment will be allowed only with approval of the building principal and must be for school related activities.

Teachers must not lose their keys and are not to loan their school keys to students or anyone else to retrieve articles or run errands, or access the building or classrooms at any time. It is the duty of all teachers to see that the furniture and equipment belonging to the district is given the best of care. Anyone abusing school property in any way should be dealt with immediately and also reported to the building administrator.

The District reserves the right to access or search school property and places where items are stored that are used by employees. Teachers should keep personal items separate. The District is not responsible for personal property that teachers bring to school and it is recommended that teachers do not bring sizeable amounts of money or valuables to school.

Property and facilities of the Seward Public Schools may be used by the public for educational purposes provided that administrative approval has been granted.

#### B5. Supervision of Students

Teachers are responsible for all students under their direction and should at all times be with them. All students must be under the direct supervision (i.e. within sight and sound) of the teacher or sponsor during class time, at recess, study hall, in the locker rooms, weight rooms, gyms, or any after school activity. Students in classrooms should not be left unattended, nor should students at practice or during any other activity be left unattended. If a necessity arises, call the office or find a replacement to cover for you while you are gone. Students are not to be sent by teachers on school directed errands away from the buildings. Any exception to this must be approved by the building principal or his/her designee.

Appropriate supervision includes supervising students while they are being transported to an activity on school transportation. Teachers are expected to enforce the bus regulations, maintain order, and are responsible for student behavior. Ensure that athletes treat opponent facilities and locker rooms

appropriately. Class sponsors are responsible for their group any time they have meetings. When classes hold meetings, teachers are to meet with the class they sponsor.

#### SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES ON ACTIVITY AND FIELD TRIPS

1. The sponsor of Activity trips/Field trips should submit a bus request at least three working days before the trip. If at all possible bus requests for activity trips may be submitted to the Transportation Supervisor for the entire season at the beginning of the activity.
2. The sponsor shall enforce the established bus trip rules while his assigned group is riding the bus.
  - (a) Stay seated while bus is in motion
  - (b) Keep bus clean
  - (c) Observe same conduct as in the classroom
  - (d) Do not block aisle of the bus
  - (e) Cooperate with the driver
  - (f) Be courteous, use no profane language
3. When necessary, the sponsor should sit in the back or the middle of the bus to control unruly passengers.
4. The sponsor should alert his group when stopping at railroad crossings by calling out TRACKS and insist upon silence.
5. After the passengers leave the vehicle on returning to school, a coach or sponsor should check the vehicle for remaining equipment and possible damage. The vehicle should be cleaned.
6. Transportation of Unsafe Items: School transportation vehicles shall not transport any items, materials or equipment which in any way would endanger the lives, health, or safety of the passengers and driver. In addition, any item or items which would break or could produce injury if tossed about the inside of the school transportation vehicle should be properly secured. (State Law) Items should be carefully stored out of the aisle and in the overhead luggage rack.
7. Students may not eat or drink on activity trips or field trips unless the driver gives permission. Bottles will not be tolerated because of glass breakage. All trash must be picked up and brought to the front of the bus and deposited in the trash container. Sponsors should see that this is done.
8. Any damage received to a vehicle will be assessed to either an individual or to the organization.
9. In the event of bad weather, the sponsor, bus driver, and/or coaches should determine whether or not to continue to an activity or to return.
10. After reaching the destination vehicles will be locked. If students need to come back to the vehicle for any reason after the vehicle has reached its destination, contact must be made with the driver. The driver will stay in the area of the activity. If the driver needs to leave the area, he/she will inform the coaches and/or sponsor where he/she can be reached.
11. The activity trip/field trip should be made using the shortest and safest route. The bus driver shall always be notified of any deviation from the requested trip.
12. Communication is the key word for an efficient activity trip/field trip. The sponsor should communicate a departure time and approximate return time.
13. If a bus or van becomes unsafe because of faulty equipment, the safety of the passengers is of utmost importance. Other schools will always cooperate in times of emergencies and vehicles should not be driven if the situation is unsafe.
14. Capacity for all vans is 10, plus the driver. (Effective August 1998)

Students should be provided with proper instruction when undertaking activities that could result in an injury. Note in lesson plans when safety issues are addressed with students and bring students who are absent during that phase of instruction up-to-date upon their return. If you are supervising when an accident occurs, be certain that you notify the principal of the accident and fill out an accident report.

Alert the office if any safety hazards come to your attention. Contact the office for assistance if a situation warrants it, especially if there is a chance of injury or danger to students; such as a health emergency, fighting, or the presence of weapons or other illegal items.

If school is dismissed early due to inclement weather, teachers are expected to remain with students until arrangements have been made for all students to safely leave or be transported from school.

Corporal punishment is prohibited by State Law and by the Seward Public School District.

#### B6. Teaching Certificates

All teachers must have their teaching certificate registered with the Superintendent of Schools. All new teachers and first year teachers must have their certificate on file before they may begin work or receive a paycheck.

#### B7. Payroll

All paychecks will be direct deposited on the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, with the first check of the contract year issued on the 15<sup>th</sup> of September. If the 15<sup>th</sup> falls on a holiday or weekend, the deposit will be made on the business day before.

Salary and benefits are paid according to the employee's contract and the negotiated agreement. Payroll deductions will be made as per the negotiated agreement and in accordance with the law.

According to Nebraska law, all teachers between the ages of 21 and 65 must participate in the state retirement program. Please submit your retirement number to the business manager of the district. Teachers must also participate in the social security program. Please notify the business manager of your social security number and number of exemptions.

#### B8. Assignment & Transfer

Each employee of the district shall be assigned to a specific position at the direction of the Superintendent of Schools and may be transferred to any other position as the superintendent may direct. This applies to extra duty assignments, as well. The extra-curricular program of the school district is an integral part of the overall educational program of the school district. As such, a teacher shall not reasonably refuse to accept such extra-duty assignments. Performance in an extra duty appointment is part of the performance evaluation in the District.

Transfers may be made at the initiative of the superintendent or at the request of the employee and for the purpose that, in the judgment of the superintendent, is for the welfare of the employee or the school.

#### B9. Communications

Communication between members of our staff is essential. It is important that we support and encourage each other on a daily basis. It is also important that we keep each other informed about upcoming events, student issues, etc. In all matters of communication between members of the staff, short emails with the dates, times, and topics are advisable. Never assume that a verbal message was delivered accurately; and, never assume that another individual will remember a message that was briefly shared while passing in the hallway. Verbal transfers are often inaccurate, misinterpreted, and/or forgotten. "Don't say it...write it!"

When a concern with another staff member arises, it is important to remember the proper steps for solution. Go directly to the other staff member to discuss the concern and possible solutions. Inappropriate discussions or negative topics should not be discussed in the lounge as this can only make things worse. It is important to remember the need to maintain effective and appropriate working relationships with other staff and administrators. We are here to provide a solid educational foundation for all of our students. We are here to support each other professionally and personally.

#### B10. Committee Appointments

Faculty committees will be appointed as the need arises by the building principal or superintendent.

## B11. Duty Hours

Regular, dependable attendance at work is an essential function of a teacher's employment position. The Board of Education recognizes that teachers' responsibilities to their students and their profession generally involve the commitment of time beyond the normal working day, but also recognizes that teachers and other educational professionals are entitled to regular time and work schedules on which they can rely in the ordinary course of events and which will be fairly and evenly maintained to the extent possible throughout the school system. A typical workday is from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Teachers may be able to leave earlier on Friday. Supervision of activities typically requires hours outside of the scheduled workday. Each certificated staff member shall be expected to be on duty before and after regular school hours to plan and carry out his/her individual professional responsibilities, including meeting with parents/guardians, students, administrators, and faculty as needed.

The school day of the Seward Public School District shall be arranged, scheduled and maintained by the administration within the limitations of state statute. Teachers are to be in their classrooms or at assigned hallway supervision by 8:00 a.m. and whenever students are present in their classroom. This supervision schedule may vary slightly (a few minutes either way) by building, to meet the particular needs of that building. Variations to these procedures are at the discretion of the building principal.

## B12. Absence from Work

Teacher availability to students is a high priority in our school district, therefore teachers may not be absent from the building during contract hours, except by permission of a building administrator. If an occasion arises when a teacher must leave the building, he/she must sign out/in on the form in the school office and sign in upon return. The purpose of this is that it will not be necessary to call or search the building for you if you have a visitor or phone call during the time you are out. Any time a teacher is gone more than 15 minutes, a leave request form must be filled out and given to the assistant principal. Coaches and sponsors should let the office know when you are leaving early for a scheduled event. Any staff members wishing to attend a school related activity may do so after the regular student dismissal time, by first receiving permission from their building principal. Professional development days and other school related meetings take precedence over this procedure. Any variation to this procedure is at the discretion of the building principal.

Teachers are provided with leave per the negotiated agreement. Leave requests shall be submitted using the online Google Forms and timelines should be followed for leave requests. Leave provided by the District should be used for the purpose intended. Abuse of leave affects students, other staff, and the entire District and will not be allowed. In an emergency, if you need to arrive late or leave early, please notify the principal; or, if the principal is not available, please inform the office staff.

For medical situations that provide time for notice of leave, the teacher should submit those requests as soon as possible.

In case of illness, a teacher is to follow the guidelines for when and who to notify that are established by each building principal. Teachers may be asked to cover a class for another teacher that needs to be absent. A substitute is expected to assume all responsibilities and duties of the teacher. When the teacher returns, a summary report of what has been done by the substitute should be in the sub packet. Substitute packets are to be assembled by the second week of school and should contain the following:

1. A list of all students enrolled in each class
2. Seating charts
3. Title of textbooks used in each class and where located
4. Where lesson plan book is located
5. Class procedure sheet
6. Where attendance sheets are located
7. Home phone number
8. List of rules and regulations of each class
9. Additional items as specified by building principals

Unless the teacher has indicated that he/she will be absent for a specific length of time, keep the office advised from day to day. Teachers who are called to jury duty will notify their building administrator immediately.

#### B13. Payroll Deductions for Absence in Excess of Paid Leave

Refer to the negotiated agreement.

#### B14. Family and Medical Leave Act

The Family and Medical Leave Act Policy (FMLA) provides for 12 weeks of job-protected unpaid leave in a 12-month period to eligible employees in specified circumstances. Specifics are available on the school website under the school board link and Board Policy 4011

#### B15. Requisitions, Purchases & Central Supply

Every purchase will need a purchase order from the office. Only items that are necessary for the everyday function of a classroom will be ordered during the school year. All requisitions must be filled out on a purchase order forms from the office and approved by the building principal with their signature, and then forwarded to the superintendent's office. Any other items purchased without this authorization will be the responsibility of the employee placing the order and not the school district. Telephone orders and "charging" are not allowed and orders for preview material should follow the same procedure as that of a regular purchase. This is required in order for us to keep an accurate accounting of spending and it will be strictly enforced.

In February, staff will receive direction from the building principals to make requisitions for the following school year. Requests for new textbooks should be discussed with the building principal before being placed in the requisition folder.

Orders for supplies stored in the district office are to be processed on the supply request form available in the building offices. These should be submitted to the principal for approval before being sent to the district office.

#### B16. Inventory

All personnel will maintain current inventories and condition analysis for classroom materials and extra-curricular activities equipment used in an electronic folder. An up-to-date hard copy will be provided to the building principal within three weeks from the end of the activity, and (for classrooms) at the end of the school year upon checkout. This will include a key inventory.

#### B17. Parent/Guardian Communications

Most parents/guardians are concerned about how their children are doing in school, both academically and socially. In some cases, parent/guardian-teacher conferences may be too late to inform parents/guardians of a concern. Please make an effort to contact parents about a concern as soon as possible and whenever appropriate throughout the school year. The first time a parent/guardian hears from the teacher regarding student progress should never be when the child is already failing. Parents/guardians should be notified either by phone or with a progress report any time a student is failing or doing near failing work. Inform your building principal about these contacts so that they may be prepared if contacted by the parent or guardian.

#### B18. Accidents (On The Job)

Employees who are injured during the course of their workday must complete the prescribed accident form. If the injury is such that immediate medical attention is required, the employee or designee should notify the office at once. Worker's Compensation: Teachers are required to immediately report any work-

related injury and/or work-related medical condition to their supervisor and the teacher is required to complete all appropriate paperwork.

#### B19. Personnel File

Access to an employee's personal file will be in accordance with all state and federal regulations. The request to review an employee's file should be in writing and given to an employee's supervisor. Examination of the file shall be made at a specific time, in the central office, and in the presence of the building administrator or superintendent. Contents of the file may not be removed from the premises, destroyed, or defaced except as by law. However, a written response to any item in such file may be attached and become a part of the file record.

#### B20. Professional Growth

Employees shall give evidence of professional growth every six years.

Evidence of professional growth may be demonstrated by the attendance at Professional Development Programs developed by the School District of Seward Staff Development Committee.

#### B21. Outside Employment

Employment by the Seward School District is considered the primary and predominant occupation for certified teachers, administrators, and full-time classified employees. Certified staff shall not perform duties unrelated to District employment during duty hours. In addition, teachers shall not engage in employment which conflicts with their school duties.

This does not mean, however, that employees may not engage in other occupational, business, political, community, or social activities, provided: that such activities do not interfere with the complete and successful discharge of the duties of school district employment, according to the terms of the employee's contract and as determined by the superintendent.

#### B22. Salary Schedule Advancement

Complete official transcripts of all graduate hours earned which are pertinent to the teaching placement on the salary schedule should be on file in the superintendent's office. Teachers should document their intentions of summer school hours in May prior to the beginning of classes. Failure to document hours may result in the non-approval of such hours. Copies of transcripts demonstrating completion of hours for movement must be in the superintendent's office by September 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in order to be paid for movement on the schedule.

A single form is used to both request approval of classes for advancement and for approval of movement on the salary schedule. Use the top part of the form to receive approval for classes – if approved the signed form will be sent back to you. When classes are completed, submit the same form with the bottom part filled out requesting schedule movement. Forms are located in the Appendices on this website.

#### B23. Employment

A teacher is employed by the Seward Public School District when the teacher signs the Teacher Contract and the Board of Education approves such contract of employment. The teacher's employment continues absent action by the administration and the Board of Education to non-renew, terminate, amend, or cancel the teacher's employment contract with the school district, or action by the Board of Education to accept a resignation of employment.

If by April 15 of each school year, a teacher has not received written notice of non-renewal, termination, amendment, or cancellation of a contract, then he/she is considered contracted for the following school year according to continuing contract provisions in state law.

Should a teacher wish to resign from employment, the teacher should give written notice of resignation to the Superintendent. The request to resign will be acted upon by the Board of Education. Mid-year resignations and resignations given late in the spring for the following school year can present significant planning problems for the District. If a mid-year resignation is submitted, or a resignation for the following school year is submitted after April 15 or after the teacher has signified acceptance of employment for the next school year, the Board of Education may act to not accept the resignation unless a suitable replacement can be found. The District will enforce the continuing contract of teachers accepting employment for the next school year under the provisions of Nebraska Revised Statute 79-820

#### B24. Jury Duty

A teacher who is summoned for jury service shall promptly notify the principal of such summons. The teacher's salary will continue during the time spent in jury service, and no deduction of leave time shall occur, except that the District may reduce the pay by an amount equal to any compensation, other than expenses, paid by the court for jury duty. Teachers are to notify the business manager of the amount received for such jury duty. If a teacher, upon reporting for jury duty in the morning is dismissed from jury duty for the remainder of the day, the teacher is to report for duty and resume duties for the balance of the day. When a teacher is entirely dismissed from jury duty, the teacher is directed to report for duty and the substitute will be dismissed.

Teachers are expected to promptly notify the principal of any other form of legal summons which may require an absence from duty. In the event the summons involves a school-related matter, the matter shall be treated similar to a jury duty absence. In the event the summons involves a personal matter, the teacher will be required to use available leave days.

#### B25. Contract Days

Teachers are contracted for 186 days, otherwise known as the "contract year." With the exception of unforeseen circumstances, the contract year will typically include:

- a. Each school building will have a specified number of student contact days.
- b. The remaining contract days will be used for professional development, planning, and parent teacher conferences.
- c. Only in rare instances will teachers be allowed to take personal leave during schedule professional development activities, elementary planning days and/or parent teacher conferences.

#### B26. Activity Accounts/Fund Raising

Guidelines for activity accounts, coaching clinics and camps, and fund raising are found in the Appendices.

#### B27. Professional Development

Guidelines for Staff Development Funding procedures and request for funds found in the Appendices.

#### B28. Safety Plans

All teachers must review the Seward Public Schools Safety Plan regularly and be prepared to implement and follow procedures within that plan at all times.

## **C. SIGNIFICANT POLICY & OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION**

**4012**

### **Staff Internet and Computer Use**

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. The following procedures and guidelines are intended to ensure appropriate use of the Internet at the school by the district's faculty and staff. Staff should also refer to the district's policy on Staff and District Social Media Use.

#### **I. Staff Expectations in Use of the Internet**

##### **A. Acceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property**

- 1. Staff shall be restricted to use the Internet to conduct research for instructional purposes.**
- 2. Staff may use the Internet for school-related e-mail communication with fellow educators, students, parents, and patrons.**
- 3. Staff may use the Internet in any other way which serves a legitimate educational purpose and that is consistent with district policy and good professional judgment.**
- 4. Teachers should integrate the use of electronic resources into the classroom. As the quality and integrity of content on the Internet is not guaranteed, teachers must examine the source of the information and provide guidance to students on evaluating the quality of information they may encounter on the Internet.**

##### **B. Unacceptable Use While on Duty or on School Property**

- 1. Staff shall not access obscene or pornographic material.**
- 2. Staff shall not engage in any illegal activities on school computers, including the downloading and reproduction of copyrighted materials.**
- 3. Staff shall not use school computers or district internet access to use peer-to-peer sharing systems such as BitTorrent, or participate in any activity which interferes with the staff member's ability to perform their assigned duties.**
- 4. The only political advocacy allowed by staff on school computers or district internet access is that which is permitted by the Political Accountability and Disclosure Act and complies with district policy.**
- 5. Staff shall not share their passwords with anyone, including students, volunteers or fellow employees.**

#### **II. School Affiliated Websites**

Staff must obtain the permission of the administration prior to creating or publishing any school-affiliated web page which represents itself to be school-related, or which could be reasonably understood to be school-related. This includes any website which identifies the school district by name or which uses the school's mascot name or image.

Staff must provide administrators with the username and password for all school-affiliated web pages and must only publish content appropriate for the school setting. Staff must also comply

with all board policies in their school-affiliated websites and must comply with the board's policy on professional boundaries between staff and students at all times and in all contexts.

Publication of student work or personality-identifiable student information on the Internet may violate the Federal Education Records Privacy Act. Staff must obtain the consent of their building principal or the superintendent prior to posting any student-related information on the Internet.

### **III.Enforcement**

#### **A.Methods of Enforcement**

The district owns the computer system and monitors e-mail and Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Staff members have no right of privacy in any electronic communications or files, which are stored or accessed on or using school property and these are subject to search and inspection at any time.

1.The district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some sites that are not in accordance with the district's policy. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.

2.Due to the nature of technology, the filter may sometimes block pages that are appropriate for staff research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measures that blocks or filters Internet access for staff access to a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.

3.The district will monitor staff use of the Internet by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of this policy.

**B.Any violation of school policy and rules may result in that staff member facing:**

1.Discharge from employment or such other discipline as the administration and/or the board deem appropriate;

2.The filing of a complaint with the Commissioner of Education alleging unprofessional conduct by a certified staff member;

3.When appropriate, the involvement of law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting wrongdoing.

### **IV. Off-Duty Personal Use**

School employees may use the internet, school computers, and other school technology while not on duty for personal use as long as such use is (1) consistent with other district policies, (2) consistent with the provisions of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 27 (Nebraska Department of Education "Rule 27"), and (3) is reported as compensation in accordance with the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, and taxes, if any, are paid. All of the provisions of Rule 27 will apply to non-certificated staff for the purposes of this policy. In addition, employees may not use the school's internet, computers, or other technology to access obscene or pornographic material, sext, or engage in any illegal activities.

### **ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY AND STAFF AGREEMENT**

In order to make sure that all members of the School District of Seward community understand and agree to these rules of conduct for use of the e-mail and Internet systems of the school district, the School District of Seward asks that you, as an administrator, faculty member, or staff member user, sign the following statement:

I have access to, and have read, the "Terms and Conditions for e-mail and Internet Access" adopted by the School District of Seward, and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of the School District of Seward and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the School District of Seward nor any of its employees nor any of the institutions for networks providing access to the School District of Seward responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Employee's Name \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_

Employee's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_, NE

Home Phone No. (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

This form will be retained on file by authorized  
faculty designee for duration of applicable  
computer/network/Internet use.

## **C2. SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY (Board Policy 4014)**

It is the policy of the school district to provide an environment free of unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other verbal or physical conduct or communication constituting sexual harassment. Sexual harassment by and of employees and students is unequivocally prohibited. Sexual harassment is misconduct that interferes with work productivity and wrongfully deprives employees of the opportunity to work and students of the opportunity to study and be in an environment free from unsolicited and unwelcome sexual overtones. Sexual harassment includes all unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors and other such verbal or physical misconduct. Sexual harassment is a prohibited practice and is a violation of the law.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has issued guidelines interpreting Section 703 of Title VII as prohibiting sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is defined in those guidelines as follows:

Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical misconduct of a sexual nature constitutes sexual harassment when:

- (1) Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment,
- (2) Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or
- (3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working environment.

A person who feels harassed is encouraged to inform the person engaging in sexually harassing conduct or communication directly that the conduct or communication is offensive and must stop. If the person who feels harassed does not wish to communicate directly with the person whose conduct or communication is offensive, or if direct communication with the offending person has been ineffective, the person who feels harassed should report the conduct or communication to a supervisor, principal, the superintendent of schools, or a board of education member with whom he or she feels comfortable in reporting the issue.

Regardless of the means selected for resolving the problem, the good faith initiation of a complaint of sexual harassment will not affect the complainant's employment, compensation or work assignments as an employee, or status as a student.

Sexual harassment of one student by another student or students is addressed in a separate policy.

### **C3. Drug-Free Workplace (Board Policy 4002)**

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.

Within five days after a conviction, an employee must notify the head of the department in which he or she is assigned of any conviction of a criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the workplace. The failure to report such a conviction will result in 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.

An employee who is convicted of violating any criminal drug statute for conduct that occurred in the workplace will be subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension or discharge. The district may, in its sole discretion, require the employee to participate in and satisfactorily complete a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program.

I acknowledge that I have received a copy of the School District's Drug-Free Workplace policy. I understand that I am required to abide by the terms of the policy as a condition of my employment.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

#### **C4. EFFECTIVE PARENT/GUARDIAN TEACHER CONFERENCES & COMMUNICATION**

It is very important to keep parents/guardians informed on a student's progress. When a problem arises, arrange a conference with the parent or guardian. If the problem is not discussed with the parent/guardian, the parent or guardian will most likely be discussing the problem with others, which only magnifies the problem.

The first indication that a child is having difficulty should not be the arrival of the report card or progress report. Keep the parents/guardians informed of your concerns.

##### **Parent/Guardian Conferences**

Conferences are a critical opportunity for teachers to dialogue with parents (or guardians) of students regarding student achievement and learning. Teacher attendance at these scheduled conferences is mandatory.

Checklist For A Good Conference:

1. Make careful preparation – inform students about what papers and comments will be shared.
2. Have an informal setting – but insure privacy.
3. Set a time limit.
4. Establish rapport. Listen attentively.
5. Begin on a positive note and present more strengths than areas on which to work.
6. Encourage the other person to talk and encourage suggestions from the other person
7. Develop an attitude of mutual cooperation (what can we do to solve??).
8. Delay making numerous definite suggestions yourself (three is plenty).
9. Use their practical suggestions as a springboard for action.
10. Summarize points covered.
11. Make plans together for future progress.
12. End on a note of continuing cooperation.
13. Make notes after they leave\_(include date and time).

Note:

- Do not preach about why students may not be doing well. Do not make excuses by blaming parents/guardians, the environment, the number of students in class, the time of day, the building and facilities, or the materials provided.
- Do not waste conference time by telling jokes or talking with the parents/guardians about other issues not pertaining to the conference.
- Do not give parents/guardians the impression that you are not competent by stating that you are inexperienced or otherwise unprepared.
- Do show a genuine interest in the student and the parent/guardian.
- Do try to indicate that there is unity within the school – that policies and curriculum are for the benefit of all.
- Do encourage the parents/guardians to bring the teacher any problem that they may think is hindering the child's progress.
- Do be patient when listening to a problem and give concrete suggestions as to what steps the parents/guardians and school can take together to help solve the problem.
- Do give encouragement and appreciation for the efforts of the parents,/guardians even the ones who are not being successful.
- Do not do or say anything that puts the parent/guardian on the defensive. No one likes to be put on the defensive, parent/guardian or teacher.
- Realize that it takes a great deal of courage for parents/guardians to come to school and discuss a problem concerning their child.
- Explain that grades are a report of progress, NOT a reward or punishment.

## Conference Checklist:

### A. Pre-Conference

1. Notify:
  - a. purpose, place, time, length of time allotted
2. Prepare:
  - a. review child's folder
  - b. gather examples of work
  - c. prepare materials
3. Plan Agenda
4. Arrange environment:
  - a. comfortable seating
  - b. eliminate distractions

### B. Conference

1. Welcome
  - a. establish rapport
2. State
  - a. purpose
  - b. time limitations
  - c. note taking
  - d. options for follow-up
3. Encourage
  - a. information sharing
  - b. comments
  - c. questions
4. Listen
  - a. pause once in awhile!
  - b. look for verbal and nonverbal cues
  - c. to questions
5. Summarize
  - a. end on a positive note

### C. Post-Conference

1. Review conference with child, if appropriate
2. Share information with other school personnel, if appropriate
3. Mark calendar for planned follow-up

**C5. Investigations and Arrests by Police or Other Law Enforcement Officers  
(Board Policy 5022)**

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 not allow law enforcement officers access to students to conduct an investigation during school hours unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Contact between the school and law enforcement authorities on matters involving students shall be made through the office of the superintendent or principal and the law enforcement officer.

Law enforcement officers may talk to a student away from the school before or after school hours, and they should be encouraged to do so. Law enforcement officers shall be allowed to conduct an interview at the school only when the interview is conducted at the request of the school or when they can show that special circumstances exist. This determination should be made by the appropriate building principal or superintendent. Law enforcement officers should be permitted to interview students on school grounds only after providing the superintendent or appropriate building principal with a statement that the law enforcement officer has reason to believe and does believe that the student is the victim of child abuse or neglect perpetrated by the child's parent(s) or some other member of the child's immediate family, and that the law enforcement official wishes to interview the student regarding such abuse or neglect.

Throughout this process, all attempts should be made to avoid embarrassing the student before his or her teachers and peers, and to avoid disrupting the student's and school's education program.

1. Law enforcement officers should be permitted to take custody of a student if they possess an arrest warrant or if they otherwise assert a lawful basis for doing so. Whenever possible, the arrest or release of the student should be conducted in the building principal's office and out of the view of other students. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a law enforcement officer for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, he or she shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or other responsible adult regarding the release of the minor to the officer and the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse. If the law enforcement officer indicates that the child is being taken into custody because the child is the victim of suspected child abuse, the principal or other school official shall, as a condition of releasing the student to the law enforcement officer, require the officer to sign the statement appended hereto certifying that the child is being removed from school premises because he or she is believed to be the victim of child abuse and that the officer understands and will comply with the legal requirements of NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-294.
2. Law enforcement personnel shall not be allowed to roam about the school until the student is found, and shall remain in the administration office while school personnel seek the student.
3. If possible, the education program of the student should not be disrupted to allow for police questioning of the student during class time.
4. Any questioning by law enforcement officers that is permitted should be conducted in a private room or area where confidentiality can be maintained. This should be an area removed from observation by or contact with other pupils and school personnel.
5. If law enforcement officers are to be allowed to question a student, the principal or school official shall make a reasonable attempt to notify the child's parents before questioning begins, except in cases of suspected child abuse or child neglect involving the parent or other family member. The parents should be given the opportunity to come to the school prior to the questioning.
6. If the parents are notified and are able to attend, they should be allowed to be present at the interview. The principal or designee should be present at the interview, but should not take part in any questioning. The principal or designee should remain a neutral observer at all times.

**STATEMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER RELATING  
TO REMOVAL OF CHILD FROM SCHOOL PREMISES WHO  
IS BELIEVED TO BE THE VICTIM OF CHILD ABUSE**

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (printed name of law enforcement officer) certify that I am a law enforcement officer employed by \_\_\_\_\_ (printed name of law enforcement agency). I certify that I am removing \_\_\_\_\_ (printed name of child being removed from school premises) because the child is believed to be the victim of child abuse. I acknowledge that I have been provided with the address and telephone number of the child's parent or guardian by school officials. I also acknowledge that I am familiar with and will comply with the obligations imposed on me by NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-294, which is set forth below:

When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer as defined in section 49-801 for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parent or guardian. The peace officer shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor that the minor is in custody and the place where he or she is being held. If the peace officer has a reasonable belief that the minor would be endangered by a disclosure of the place where the minor is being held or that the disclosure would cause the custody of the minor to be disturbed, the peace officer may refuse to disclose the place where the minor is being held for a period not to exceed twenty-four hours. The peace officer shall, however, inform the parent, guardian, or responsible relative whether the child requires and is receiving medical or other treatment. The juvenile court shall review any decision not to disclose the place where the minor is being held at any subsequent detention hearing.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Law Enforcement Officer

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

## **C6. News Media Information**

Quick and accurate information to the community will continue to be a key element in the success of programs in the Seward Public Schools. The news media policy developed by the superintendent and news media managers and editors will be continued. The policy, which will apply to schools throughout the year, will be in the best interest of the School District of Seward, the community and the news media.

The following procedures are in effect:

1. School will be open to members of the news media for scheduled interviews, photographs, filming and taping.
2. The principal will openly and truthfully answer questions regarding situations or incidents that have or are occurring in that building. All news is not good news, but the fear of inaccurate information is worse than bad news to most citizens.
3. If principals are actively involved in a situation, they will not be called upon to answer reporters' questions at that time. Reporters may be asked to leave the immediate scene, perhaps to a room in the school or other designated areas where they may wait until information is available. All editors acknowledge their responsibility in such an instance.
4. News people often hear inaccurate stories from parents whose children might have carried home such stories. The problem of discerning what is fact and what is rumor must be distinguished in order to prevent the spread of inaccurate information. The duty of the principal will be to help, when questioned, by reporting what information is available. Both positive and negative information falls in the realm of public information. If it can be said truthfully, "Everyone is okay," the answer will be a relief to the community.
5. Most reporters use identification cards. Each newsperson must report to the principal's office and show identification.
6. News briefings will be scheduled as needed.
7. In the case of a crisis or tragedy no school person should talk to a reporter without contacting the Principal, who will in turn contact the Superintendent of Schools, so staff members are aware of the fact. This is imperative.
8. If the police department is called upon to handle a situation that gets out of hand, the news media will abide by police jurisdiction. Contact the superintendent's office immediately.
9. State law prohibits the photographing of foster children in schools without specific written consent.
10. Special Education students may only be photographed if parent/guardian written consent is provided.

## **C7. Teacher Evaluation Information**

Evaluations of teachers will be conducted in accordance with the District's evaluation policy. Supervisors reserve the right to observe, appraise, or evaluate teachers more frequently than required by policy on an as needed basis. Teachers are expected to participate constructively and positively in the evaluation process and to accept and implement constructive suggestions and improvement strategies developed by the administration

The teacher evaluation process and forms are located in the Appendices.

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## D. SEWARD HIGH SCHOOL HANDBOOK

### D1. Absence Reporting

**Attendance must be taken within the first 15 minutes of each class period, including Access Time.** Attendance may be modified at any time during class. Daily attendance records will be kept in the office. Each teacher should keep all daily absences on the computer.

### D2. Academic Excellence Policy

Any student having academic difficulty in a course shall have a counseling session with the guidance counselor or administration and the teacher. The parent/guardian will be notified of the academic difficulty and encouraged to visit with the staff involved.

Activities may be modified or restricted until progress in the course is improved. This decision shall be made in consultation with the student, teacher, guidance counselor, and building principal. Should extra study time be required it shall be made available for the student. To be eligible to participate in school activities, a student cannot be failing one (1) class.

The following procedure will be used with ineligible students:

1. Parents/guardians will be notified by mail from the principal that their son/daughter is ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities.
2. There will be counseling sessions with the student on the lack of passing academic performance.
3. Students will not be allowed to participate in inter-school or intramural competition for the first week of ineligibility. (e.g. Tuesday to Monday).
4. After the first week of ineligibility, students may not participate until satisfactory academic progress in classes is made. Satisfactory academic progress is determined by the classroom teacher and administration based on grade accumulation for the semester.
5. Incomplete grades are considered failing grades until the incompletes are replaced by passing grades. However, the student is ineligible for inter-school participation until the incompletes become passing grades.
6. At the end of each semester, a student's eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities will be based on current Nebraska School Activity Association guidelines. The current guidelines are that a student cannot participate in extra-curricular activities unless he/she has passed a minimum of 20 credit hours the previous semester.

### D3. Activities List

An activities list is a list of students who will be absent from school for school-approved activities. **Head coaches and sponsors must turn in their activity list(s) no later than 12:00 noon on the Thursday prior to the week of the activities.**

The office will make up an activities list every Thursday afternoon for **ALL** events that occur the following week. Students and teachers should check this list and make sure that the names are accurate. Teachers will be able to add or drop students the day of the event through the daily bulletin. Groups that are not on the list will not be allowed to leave school before 3:00 p.m. Students going to activities must hand in their work in advance of the activity or make special arrangements with the instructor in advance. Students who do not follow this procedure will receive a grade of "0" for the day. **Any teacher may refuse to allow a student to miss class to participate in an activity based on academic achievement in the class.**

### D4. Activities Schedule

Activities are an essential part of the total education package and many students are involved in multiple activities. To avoid conflicts in the scheduling of activities, these procedures will be followed:

1. All parties, practice sessions, and work schedules must be approved by the activities director and the sponsor of the activity.

2. The sponsor of an activity will be responsible for contacting the activities director to place any activity on the calendar.
3. No activity or practice will be scheduled after **6:00 p.m.** on Wednesday night. (School Board Policy)
4. All scheduled events during the week shall terminate at 10:00 p.m. except for Friday and Saturday. Those events will terminate by 12:00 a.m.
5. No activities or practices shall be scheduled on Sunday without superintendent approval.

When a student has more than one activity occurring at the same time, the sponsors of the activities will communicate with each other to settle the conflict. Students are not to be put in the middle of the conflict.

Activity sponsors and coaches are responsible for student behavior and supervision on school transportation. This includes following guidelines for safety, bringing food or drink on the bus, etc. Please be familiar with those expectations.

**Students must be in attendance in their regular classes the day of an activity or they may not participate in the game or event. *Prior arrangements must be made with a building principal* if a student must miss part of the school day for an appointment that cannot be made outside of the school day.**

#### D5. Class Hours

The bell schedule for Seward High School is as follows:

Period 1	8:15 - 9:45
Period 2	9:49 -11:17
Period 3	11:17 - 1:17
Period 4	1:21 - 2:49
Period 5	2:53 - 3:37

Lunch schedules are arranged so that an equal number of students are assigned each lunch period. On rare occasions, teachers may need to trade lunch assignments with other classes. **Please let the office and kitchen know in advance which lunch assignments are affected.**

#### D6. Concessions

Activity sponsors will draw for concessions with the activities director before the fall season and again before the winter season.

1. Sponsors, when your group has concessions, you are responsible for the following:
  - a. Seeing to it that students know when they report to work and what they are to do.
  - b. Request change from the secretary in the morning.
  - c. Pop is stored in the concession stand. Make sure the machine is on early enough to adequately cool the pop.
  - c. **SUPERVISE** the concession area and your workers.
  - d. **Clean up afterwards.**

#### D7. Daily Bulletin

The daily bulletin will be typed during 1<sup>st</sup> period and read at the beginning of 2<sup>nd</sup> period. Since important information is given to students through the bulletin, please **require your students to listen**. Items to be included in the bulletin must be in the office prior to the start of the school day.

#### D8. Detention/Discipline

It is expected that each teacher will handle his/her classroom problems at the time they occur in the classroom. Decisions to exclude students from class for more than one period will be made only by the

principal or assistant principal. Consult with the principal or assistant principal about discipline problems before the situation becomes critical.

During passing times, teachers should be on the look out for misbehavior by students outside the classroom. Flagrant breaches of discipline should be referred immediately to the assistant principal's office.

Again, teachers are reminded that they are to handle their classroom problems. Students who must stay after school for make-up work or for failure to do assigned work are the responsibility of the classroom teacher. A teacher assigning make-up time for misconduct in the classroom will have the student report to their room. The length of penalty time is to be determined by the teacher, although this time, if it exceeds one hour, cannot be made up by the student in one evening.

Referral of discipline problems to the assistant principal or the principal should be done by logging the occurrence on PowerSchool. Enter the date and nature of each incident.

#### D9. Fines and Course Fees

Teachers are held accountable for the textbooks used in their classrooms. It is the teacher's job to check out books, by their number, to students in their classes as well as checking them back in. Students must turn in the same book as assigned to them. Teachers are expected to collect fines for such things as misplaced or damaged books, material consumed in class, etc. At the end of the quarter, the names of students with fines outstanding should be turned into the office.

Students making projects costing more than \$20 will need to pay 50% of the material cost before he/she starts the project. The remainder of the bill will be paid before the project is taken home.

#### D10. Health Services

If a student becomes ill during class time, he/she should be sent to the office and not to the restroom. Students must consult with the office, and a parent/guardian or their designee, must be contacted before the student may leave school, and students are required to sign out when they leave. Please document any accident that occurs in your classroom on the form provided by the office and return it to the office for record keeping.

#### D11. Honor Roll

The honor roll is announced at the end of each term. Students receiving 93 percent or higher, no grade lower than a B, and a minimum of 10 credit hours that term, and with a grade of "O" or "S" in citizenship, will be included on the honor roll.

#### D12. Mid-Term Graduation (Board Policy #6006)

The School District of Seward supports the concept of early completion as a means of accelerating students toward the achievement of lifetime plans. The following guidelines have been established for students to be eligible for early completion:

1. Students must meet all completion requirements established by the Board of Education in order to be eligible for early graduation as well as the credit hour requirements in each specific subject matter area.
2. A student who decides to opt for early graduation or completion is not eligible to participate in school sponsored activities following the last day he/she attends classes. The effective date for participation will end with the last day that the student is enrolled in classes. The only school activities that the applicant is eligible for will be the regularly scheduled graduation ceremony and the jr/sr prom.
3. This policy shall be evaluated annually by the high school principal and appropriate revisions shall be recommended to the Board for its consideration.

#### D13. Office Passes

The administrators and/or guidance counselors will sometimes send an office assistant or use the intercom to get a student. Attempts will be made to provide the least class disruption possible.

#### D14. Organization Sponsorship

Teachers are assigned as sponsors of the classes and organizations. Sponsors are responsible of the proper conduct and record keeping of the organization and must attend all meetings and functions. Sponsors are to work closely with the principal and activities director in matters of policy, finances, and schedules. Monetary compensation is provided for sponsors of some organizations. School bus supervision is the responsibility of the activity sponsor – not the driver.

**Each class sponsor is required to participate in each class activity.** Sponsors are expected to **supervise** the activities of students; they do not have to do the actual work involved. **If a sponsor cannot attend an activity, it is his/her responsibility to report this to the principal and to obtain a replacement sponsor.**

Class activities include:

Freshmen	-	Homecoming Concessions
Sophomores	-	Homecoming Concessions
Juniors	-	Fund Raising as needed Homecoming Prom Concessions
Seniors	-	Homecoming Graduation ceremonies Concessions Prom

#### D15. Recruiter Visitation Procedures (Including but not limited to: College Admissions, Military Recruiters, College Coaches, etc.)

1. Visiting dates and times must be cleared through the guidance counselors.
2. Visitation dates and times may be placed in the student bulletin in advance.
3. Recruiters may set up a table and visit with students during lunch only. No students will be allowed to miss class to visit with a recruiter.
4. Recruiters who arrive without advance notification will not be allowed to visit with students during the school day.

#### D16. Schedule Changes

Students must take the classes for which they register. Students will not be able to reschedule their classes prior to the start of each term. A student's schedule will change only at the discretion of the counselor and the principal. The administration will work with the teachers when there are other reasons necessitating a need for a schedule change.

#### D17. Signing Out of School (Students)

1. Students who need to leave school for an appointment (doctor, dentist, etc.) must have a note or phone call from his/her parent/guardian before they will be allowed to sign out.
2. Students who are ill at school are to go to the office to receive permission to go home.
3. Students who leave the school building without signing out will be unexcused and will be considered truant.
4. **No teacher may sign a pass requesting that a student be excused from another teacher's class.**

#### D18. Student Passes

Students must have a written pass or classroom lanyard pass for movement out of the classroom. Students must also sign in/out on the classroom teachers' sign in/out sheet when they leave/enter the room. This includes the ACCESS period. DO NOT issue passes for students to leave your class unless it is an emergency. Do not let students write their own passes for you to sign. Teachers, pay particular attention to the number of students you write passes for.

Computer lab passes are available from computer teachers only and must be obtained by the student in advance.

#### D19. Teacher Bulletin

The teacher bulletin will be typed and posted on the door of the teachers' lounge during 2<sup>nd</sup> hour. Items to be included in the teacher bulletin should be in the office by the beginning of the school day.

#### D20. Teacher Grade Reporting

All criteria used to determine the student's grade must be recorded in the grade book or via computer with a back up disc. Final grades must be submitted to the office via Power School. If grades other than percentages are used, or if grades are weighted, an adequate explanation must be included so that others may interpret your records.

#### D21. Teacher Workroom

All copy materials, machines, etc. are located in the office. Each teacher will be assigned their own code and should use the school machines and supplies for school purposes only. Students are not allowed to use copy machines.

#### D22. Traffic Regulations

Safety and regard for the lives and property of others are of prime importance, both to insure protection for our own students as well as the elementary students who board and disembark buses on the west side of the building. Serious violations of traffic regulations observed by a faculty member will be reported to the police and the school will file a complaint. Specifically, the following are violations, which can and will be prosecuted:

1. Racing. No person shall drive any vehicle in any race, speed competition, or contest, drag race or acceleration contest, test of physical endurance, exhibition of speed or acceleration, or for the purpose of making a speed record, and no person shall in any manner participate in any such race, competition, contest, test or exhibition.
2. Negligent Driving. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle in such a manner as to cause unnecessary noise, spinning or squealing of tires, skids, slides, abrupt turns or sways or in any other manner as to indicate a want of ordinary care and caution that a person of ordinary prudence would use under like circumstances.
3. Reckless Driving. Any person who drives any motor vehicle in such a manner as to indicate an indifferent or wanton disregard of the safety of persons or property shall be deemed to be guilty of reckless driving.

All vehicles driven to school MUST be parked upon arrival at school and are to remain parked during the day. The parking lot is off limits to students during the school day unless the student has permission from the office. The parking lots will be monitored and students who park improperly may have their cars towed at the owner's expense. Even though the lots are school property, all persons using those areas are expected to obey state and local traffic regulations. The Seward Police Department routinely monitors parking lots and tickets will be issued for violations, especially violation of handicapped parking.

### D23. Substitute Teachers

If you are unable to be at school, please call Nathan Buss (641-8905) between 6:30 and 6:45 a.m. If you call after 6:45 a.m. it is difficult to find a substitute. Please give him any additional information needed for your classes that day. Lesson plans should be detailed enough so that a substitute could come in and follow your plans without the aid of too much additional information. If you are unable to reach Mr. Buss for some reason, the building principal should be called.

By 3:00 p.m. on the day missed due to illness, teachers should call the school to indicate whether or not they will be present the following day. Absences other than illness must be arranged in advance with the principal. If a problem occurs with a substitute, notify the building principal immediately so the issue can be addressed.

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## E. SEWARD MIDDLE SCHOOL HANDBOOK

### E1. Academic Detentions

Students who fail to complete assignments, fail to hand in papers, have incompletes, hand in late assignments or need special attention should stay after school with the teacher who assigned the detention. Staff members must make sure the student has contacted a parent/guardian to make appropriate after school arrangements.

### E2. Activities

The middle school has an Activities Coordinator. All contracts and hiring of officials will be handled through this person. All events should be scheduled through him or her (and his/her secretary) to avoid scheduling problems. This person will be responsible for getting items on the master calendar for the school district working with the high school activities director. All events or activities should first be approved by the building principal.

1. The sponsor of an activity will be responsible for contacting the activities coordinator to place any activity on the calendar.
2. No activity or practice will be schedule after 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday night (School Board Policy).
3. No activities or practices shall be scheduled on Sunday without the superintendent's approval.

### E3. After School Meetings

Custodians must be notified of all after school meetings. The custodians will make sure the outside doors are open before the meetings and locked when the meeting is finished. This cannot happen if they are not notified.

### E4. Availability to Students

Teachers must be available to students during their planning period and before and after school. Students needing assistance take precedence over any other meeting or activity.

### E5. Behavior Detentions

Students may be assigned a behavior detention by the office or any member of the faculty. This is for those students with undesirable patterns of attendance, tardiness, or conduct as well as other disciplinary problems.

Behavior detentions are served at lunchtime. The assigned employee monitors the detentions in the 4R Room. Behavior detentions are just that, a consequence for inappropriate behavior in school. The following procedures must be followed:

1. The student must be notified by the staff member assigning the detention. This is not a surprise discipline procedure.
2. Staff members assigning the detention must notify the office of the detention.
3. The student will serve the amount of time necessary to correct the behavior and a phone call will be made to parents.
4. The 4R Teacher will keep a record of the referral.

### E6. Discipline

All staff members should have high expectations for every student, both academically and behaviorally. These expectations need to be realistic for the students.

Classroom discipline is primarily the responsibility of the classroom teacher. You have the responsibility of supervision at all times, regardless of where you are in the building. Discipline should protect and nurture the physical, social, mental and emotional growth of students. Rules and processes are made,

first to protect all individuals and second, to protect the right to participate in every facet of the educational program. Our discipline practices should always reflect an understanding of adolescent characteristics and limit the opportunity of any individual to interrupt another student's educational growth, including their own.

Discipline is one more aspect of teaching. We know that students come to us at varying levels of well-developed self-discipline in regard to themselves and their interactions in society. In this way our behavioral guidelines in different settings are similar to our curriculum guides or frameworks. It is then our role to differentiate our methods of external discipline based on the level of self-discipline that a child displays. As teachers, what we are trying to do is to help students develop more effective self-discipline in various situations. This includes character development, which is a necessary life skill for success. Character Counts needs to be incorporated all day.

It is much more likely that middle school students will comply with a request quickly and with respect if they feel you are "working" with them. Yelling at a student is not acceptable and will be addressed with staff members. Administration or supervisors do not yell at you, why should you yell at a child?

An office referral or 4R Room referral should be the last resort. Teachers should have attempted various methods of discipline with the student prior to this. A parent/guardian contact is also important. All situations are different and professional discretion is important.

#### E7. Student Bulletins

Student and faculty bulletins will be prepared everyday. Student and faculty bulletins will be sent out around 8:00 a.m. It is essential that you have your class quiet while you are reading the announcements to the class. The announcements are for the students and are designed to help the school run more efficiently. It causes a great deal of hardship and confusion if the students do not hear the bulletin.

Teachers should use this time to teach students the importance of our student planners and teach the students how to use these for recording important announcements.

The intercom system will be used for special announcements or for emergency announcements. We will attempt not to have any more special bulletins that disrupt class than are absolutely necessary.

#### E8. Building Committees

This is a partial list of committees and purposes. Assignments will be made at the start of the year.

1. Courtesy Committee
2. SCIP Team
3. Crisis Response Team
4. Emergency Response Team
5. Scheduling Committee
6. Team Leaders

#### E9. Faculty Meetings

Faculty meetings will be held periodically throughout the year. Agendas may be given to you prior to the faculty meetings. Some of the meetings will be used for curriculum discussions. Please visit with the principal if there is something you think needs to be discussed.

#### E10. Faculty Workroom

The faculty workroom will contain supplies needed for duplication of materials. If you have difficulty with one of the machines, please see the paraprofessional assigned to operate this equipment before operating them. Copy machines are not for personal use. Personal copies are 10 cents each.

Student office helpers are the only students that should be in the workroom. These students have been shown how to use the machines. Teachers need to watch what is discussed in the presence of the students.

#### E11. Fax Machine

The FAX machine is located in the office. Only office personnel are to operate the FAX machine. No purchase orders are to be faxed.

#### E12. 4R Room

The Rights, Responsibility, Respect and Redirection Room is available for students who are unable to work in the regular classroom.

The following general rules will be followed, but may change during the school year as needed:

1. Notify the office, by intercom, when you are sending a student to the office for the purpose of being sent to the 4 R Room. An office staff member will take the student to the 4R Room. Inform the office as to the length of the stay and the reason that the student is being sent.
2. Students may be assigned for a partial period, all period, part of a day, or all day. The staff member sending the student, the 4R Room instructor and the building principal will make this decision.
3. Assignments should be sent to the 4R Room for each student. Assignments are the responsibility of the classroom teacher.
4. Teachers may also assign detentions (Academic or Behavior) to students sent to the 4R Room.
5. There will be parent/guardian notification of any student sent to the 4R Room.

#### E13. Health Services

The school nurse is responsible for coordinating student medication. Students taking prescription or non-prescription medication during school hours must be sent to the school nurse to make sure proper state regulations are being met.

If a student is sick or hurt and can't make it through the day, permission from the teacher must be obtained to go to the nurse's office. He/She **must** have a pass to go to the nurse's office. He/She **can't** go during passing periods. Before a student may leave to go home because of illness or injury, he/she must consult with the nurse. Parent /guardian permission will be obtained by the nurse, and the student must sign out in the school office.

#### E14. Homework Policy for Suspended Students

Students suspended from school will be given an opportunity to make up all work missed and will be given full credit according to the following criteria:

1. It is the student's responsibility to ask the teacher for missed assignments.
2. Students will be given one day for each day suspended from school (up to a maximum of five days) to return completed assignments and take make up tests.
3. Students will receive a failing grade for any work not made up within the time limits.

To the extent possible, students placed in in-school suspension will work on class assignments while in the in-school suspension room. Any work not completed will be governed by the policy on make up work for suspended students.

#### E15. Indoor/Outdoor Supervision

Supervision by teachers is necessary by 7:45 a.m. Teachers will be assigned morning supervision and must be in assigned area by 7:45 a.m. Students will be assigned designated areas to wait prior to school.

#### E16. Make Up Work

Students who are absent will be required to make up missed work. This work should take approximately the same time as the time missed from class. Students will be given one day for each day absent from school to return completed assignments and take make up tests. Grades will be withheld if make up work is not turned in, and may lead to failure if the situation is not remedied immediately.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain all make up work from his/her teachers upon return to school. Failure to obtain make up work is no excuse for not doing work missed. Only by special permission of the principal can make up work be turned in after the grading period.

#### E17. Passes

Any time a student is out of his/her classroom or late from a previous class (excused) he/she should have a signed pass. You must provide a student with a pass if you send them out of your room! The office will provide staff with passes for students who need to leave a class early. If a student shows you a note, send the student to the office for the proper pass.

#### E18. Progress Reports

Anytime that a teacher feels a student is doing poorly academically or is having special problems in his/her class, the teacher needs to notify that student's parents/guardians. This contact needs to be made by phone. A written report can be made if you are unable to reach the parents/guardians by phone after several attempts.

Prior to the parent/guardian contact, teachers need to inform the student why he/she is receiving a progress report. Teachers must document any contacts they have with parents/guardians and students. The school counselor will assist the student in correcting the problem, but the teachers must inform the counselor when there is a problem. No student can fail a class without receiving a written progress report or documented personal contact.

Core teams and "peelings" members need to communicate concerns about students. Please develop a plan that works for your teams. Quarterly progress reports will be made around the midpoint of the quarter.

#### E19. Report Cards

In many cases the only communication home to parents/guardians each nine weeks will be the report card. PLEASE BE NEAT AND ACCURATE! Please choose the appropriate comment from the list provided. The grading system for this year is as follows:

A+	100%	C+	85%
A	94-99%	C	79-84%
A-	93%	C-	78%
B+	92%	D+	77%
B	87-91%	D	71-76%
B-	86%	D-	70%
		F	0-69

Zeros should not be accepted. A zero does not teach a middle school child responsibility.

## E20. Retention

Students who do not perform to their capabilities may be retained. The issue of retention at Seward Middle School is primarily an issue of accountability. Teachers will inform parents/guardians and student of chronic missing/incomplete work and poor quiz or test scores. Parent/guardian conferences will be held and academic detentions will be used. Communication is the key for retention. The school cannot decide during the last few weeks of school that a student is going to be retained. We need a yearlong communication trail.

## E21. Student Absences

BE ACCURATE IN RECORDING STUDENT ATTENDANCE. Students who are reported absent by their parents/guardians will be placed on the daily absence list. Each morning the office will post on Power School which students we know are absent. Each period during the day, you will need to indicate only any additional student(s) who is absent. You will not need to indicate students who are on the daily absence list. Most should be marked "OK". Be sure that for any student who arrives late to class you change, you change the marking on the computer so that it is accurate. If this occurs, you may need to change the student from absent to tardy on Power School. If a student is marked absent on Power School by the office and is present in your room, send the student to the office.

## E22. Student Cumulative Folders

Student cumulative folders are kept in the school counselor's office. The School Counselor is available to discuss the information contained in any student's file. Teachers are encouraged to review the files of all pupils in his/her class/team and to make use of materials in these files to better serve the needs of the students. Teachers may check out these folders at any time.

Because of the Right-to-Privacy Act, all files must be signed out and in. Parents/guardians may look at their student's file upon written request.

## E23. Students Signing Out of School

1. Students who need to leave school for an appointment (doctor, dentist, etc.) must bring a note or have their parent/guardian call the office before they will be allowed to sign out.
2. Students who become ill at school are to go to the school nurse to receive permission to go home.
3. Students who leave the school building without signing out will be unexcused and detention time will be assigned.

## E24. Substitute Teachers

If you are unable to be at school, please call Nathan Buss (641-8905) between 6:30 and 6:45 a.m. If you call after 6:45 a.m. it is difficult to find a substitute. Please give him any additional information needed for your classes that day. Lesson plans should be detailed enough so that a substitute could come in and follow your plans without the aid of too much additional information. If you are unable to reach Mr. Buss for some reason, the building principal should be called.

By 3:00 p.m. on the day missed due to illness, teachers should call the school to indicate whether or not they will be present the following day. Absences other than illness must be arranged in advance with the principal. If a problem occurs with a substitute, notify the building principal immediately so the issue can be addressed.

## E25. Tardiness to Class

If a student arrives late to school, 5<sup>th</sup> graders report to their regular classroom, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students report to their Toptime. Students are to go to the office if 1<sup>st</sup> period has started. The time

between classes is three minutes. During the school day if a student is detained by the office or a teacher and is late to class he/she will need a pink pass from the person who detained him/her before going to the next class. The office will keep a record of all unexcused tardies. After four (4) unexcused tardies in a semester, each student will be informed and a letter will be sent home making the parents/guardians aware of the problem. All other unexcused tardies per semester will result in noon detentions.

It is essential that all staff members adhere to a consistent policy. The whole system “breaks down” unless the entire staff follows the same policy.

#### E26. Use of Building Forms

A Building Use Form must be completed for any activity scheduled for the building. This form, available in the office, must be returned to the office at least one week in advance of the activity or no custodial services will be provided.

For regularly scheduled events such as basketball games, a list of things to be ready and cleaned up after the event should be given to the maintenance director at the beginning of the season. It will not be necessary for a Building Use Form to be used for each individual game. However, if you have an event that is not normally scheduled, a Building Use Form should be filled out and the above procedure followed.

#### E27. Weekly Calendar of Events

Events included on the calendar of events will take precedence over other events. The office secretary is in charge of the master calendar.

**SEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
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## F. SEWARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HANDBOOK

### F1. Total School Responsibility

Teachers are responsible for informing their students of rules pertinent to the classroom, halls, playground and lunchroom. Students will need to be taught what are appropriate and inappropriate behaviors and the consequences accompanying misbehavior. Teaching classroom and building rules clearly communicates the expectations we have of students while at school. In addition, it is imperative that teachers and paras be consistent in their expectation of conformity to the rules. It is assumed that teachers will not ask paras to deviate from these rules. If you feel that certain rules are inappropriate, report this to the principal for further study.

At 8:05 a.m. the students will proceed to their classrooms. Therefore, all classroom teachers need to be near their classrooms at that time. This will allow for supervision of the hall area and coatroom near their room. Please develop and maintain a 'beginning of the day' routine for your students.

Teachers are to accompany their children to and from all specials (P.E., music, library, guidance), the lunchroom and to the playground. Make arrangements with your neighbor teacher so that one of you will be able to accompany bus children out of the building and the other remains in the classroom or hall and then accompanies town children to the school entrance door for dismissal. If you ask students to stay in at noon or recess be sure you or another teacher is there to supervise. Teachers not on duty should supervise students needing to stay inside. Students should not be sent to the office.

The first week or so, teachers should accompany their own classes to the playground at recess and noon until the children have learned the playground rules and use of equipment. After that teachers may alternate playground duty as long as there is sufficient supervision for the group (at least one teacher for every two classrooms).

All classroom teachers should have some activities planned for the days that children have to remain in the classroom during noontime. On inclement weather days teachers may need to help with some supervision. Students should not be left in the classroom, halls or other areas unsupervised.

Special area teachers will assist with supervision as assigned by the principal.

### F2. Seward Elementary Discipline Plan

Seward Elementary utilizes the BIST (Behavior Intervention Support Team) behavior program. BIST is a school-wide program that builds an environment where students, staff members, and parents work together to improve student behavior. A BIST Action Team, consisting of faculty members and the principal, meets monthly to discuss our school's Common Expectations and BIST program.

### F3. Laminating

All materials laminated with school district film become the property of the school district. Teachers desiring to laminate personal materials need to indicate this on the pink request form and they will be charged accordingly. Other items to be laminated can be done by each teacher's para or the teacher himself/herself.

### F4. School Equipment/Furniture

School equipment and/or furniture are assigned to classrooms by the principal. In the event a teacher no longer has use for certain pieces of equipment and/or furniture, the principal should be notified. Requests for furniture must be directed to the principal.

#### F5. Maintenance of Student Cumulative Folders

Permanent record folders are maintained for each child enrolled in school. These folders are kept on file in the office. Teachers may check the folders out as needed, but they are not to be removed from the school premises. The information in these files is open to parents/guardians upon request. Parental or guardian permission is necessary for any non-school personnel to have access to the information in the student permanent folders.

At the end of each semester, classroom teachers should record grades and attendance information on the cumulative folder. The grades recorded must be recorded as they appear on the report card. Special education teachers are responsible for filing current IEP information in the student folders. At the end of each school year, achievement test labels should be affixed to the cumulative folder. Forms such as field trip permission forms, should not be kept in the permanent folder. In no event, should child abuse/neglect forms be filed in a student's cumulative folder.

#### F6. Responsibility of Teachers Regarding Cumulative File Information

At the beginning of each school year, classroom and special area teachers shall review the cumulative folders of their students. Teachers need to be aware of the following types of information: parental/guardian custody, health or physical limitations of the student, special education, gifted or 504 educational plans, testing information, etc.

Cumulative folder information that is received from transferring school districts will be checked out to and placed in the classroom teacher's mailbox. After review, it will be the responsibility of the classroom teacher to sign in and file this information in the student's cumulative folder in the office.

#### F7. Student Transfers

If it is known in advance that a student will be moving, the teacher should fill out a Transfer Sheet and send it with the student on the final day of attendance. The Transfer Sheets are available in the office. Immediately after the student has left, the cumulative file should be updated with grades and attendance information.

#### F8. Programs for Parents/Guardians

Teachers are asked to notify the office and principal of special events in their classrooms. If possible, the principal will be in attendance for the programs. Please inform the custodial workers well in advance if chairs or other changes are needed for a special meeting or performance.

#### F9. Daily Schedule

Each teacher's daily schedule should be on the wall outside the classroom door. A daily schedule should be sent to the office by the middle of September (4 copies). The schedule should include the entire day.

Grades K-4 should ordinarily not schedule a recess on the same half-day as P.E. class is taught. Deviation from this policy should be discussed with the principal. A written request for an extra recess must be submitted to the principal by the end of the first full week of school.

#### F10. Retention

In cases where consideration is being given to retaining a student at a particular grade level, refer to the procedure in the Student/Parent Handbook. Forms are available in the office that need to be signed by the parent/guardian once a decision is made to recommend retention.

#### F11. Class Parties

Class parties should be limited to one hour in duration. It is suggested that parties be held at the end of the day. These parties should be included in your lesson plans. School parties are limited to three per year. (The end of the year picnic is considered one of the three parties per year.)

#### F12. Classroom Treats (\*Please discourage lollipops being given as a birthday treat.)

If children bring treats for their birthday, they should be distributed at the following appropriate times:

- 1) before lunch to be an added item (homemade items or packaged items such as Twinkies, Rice Krispie treats, etc.) or 2) at the end of the school day. The student bringing the items should be asked or advised for appropriate distribution.

#### F13. Teacher Absence

If you are unable to be at school, please call Mr. Nathan Buss (641-8905) at home before 7:00 a.m. If you call after 7:00 a.m. it is difficult to find a substitute. Please share any additional information needed for your classroom that day. Lesson plans should be detailed enough so that a substitute could come in and follow your plans without the aid of additional information. If you are unable to reach Mr. Buss, please call Mrs. Dominy at (928) 660-1623, or Sharon Aldrich (643-3477).

By 3:00 p.m. on the day missed due to illness, teachers should call the school to indicate whether or not they will be present the following day. Absences other than illness must be arranged in advance with the principal.

If a problem occurs with a substitute teacher, Mrs. Dominy should be notified immediately so that the issue can be addressed.

#### F14. Head Lice

Please note the following procedures to be used when a child is suspected of having head lice:

- Send the child to the nurse. He/she will determine if the child should be sent home.
- If head lice are found to be present, the nurse will initiate a check of siblings for possible infestation.
- The nurse will call the parent/guardian or designated contact person to pick up the child.
- The child will remain with the nurse until the parent/guardian arrives.
- In the event a parent/guardian/contact person can't be reached, the child will remain in a designated area for the remainder of the day.
- Parents/guardians are required to accompany students to the nurse at the time of reentry to verify treatment.
- Students must be nit-free before readmission will be granted.
- In the event a student is found to have lice, the school nurse will send notes to parents/guardians of students in that classroom that a case of head lice exists.

#### F15. Release of Students **CHILDREN MUST NEVER BE RELEASED WITHOUT A PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S SPECIFIC REQUEST AND THEIR KNOWLEDGE.**

Never excuse children before dismissal time without request from parent or guardian. In the event a police officer or social service worker wishes to speak with a student, refer to Board Policy for proper guidance.

#### F16. Student Attendance

Students in attendance for more than four hours are counted present all day. Less than four hours but more than two, is counted as 1/2 day present. If the attendance changes during the day, notify the office as soon as possible. At the end of each quarter, the office will prepare an attendance report with data for the report cards.

#### F17. Parent/Guardian Newsletter

The monthly newsletter will be sent home with the oldest or only child of each family. Articles of information from each grade level or special area about their classrooms will be included. This is a request of the building principal.

#### F18. Elementary Library/Media Center Procedures

##### Library Classes/Material Checkout

Each second through fourth grade classroom has a scheduled forty-five minute library class on the six-day-rotating specialist block schedule. The media specialist and kindergarten and first grade teachers will cooperatively develop a schedule for their library class times. The various class levels will have instruction from the Library/Media Curriculum with emphasis on author/illustrator appreciation, media resources, research techniques; time will be allowed for browsing and material checkout. Students may checkout two materials and they must be returned before others may be borrowed. (Children may have more materials for special classroom projects.) The checkout period is two weeks. Students are welcome to checkout materials at any time during the school day.

Overdue notices are given to students at each library class and an overdue list is sent to the classroom teacher. Elementary students are not charged overdue fines; material replacement fines are assessed and parents/guardians are notified of the amount due.

##### Staff Library/Media Center Information

Materials may be held by staff for four weeks; quarterly lists will be sent showing all materials out. A one-week notice is needed for video and laser disc requests through the ESU and other media sources. Media material purchase requests are encouraged and welcomed along with the ordering information.

##### Computer Hardware/A-V Equipment

The LMC handles the repair of hardware and a-v equipment. Include your name, room number, and description of the problem on a note with the equipment. Each staff member should have listed on their annual classroom inventory all hardware and equipment with district number.

#### F19. Insurance

School insurance is offered for the students. Completed applications should be turned into the office by the 10th day of school.

#### F20. Faculty Meetings

Faculty meetings will be scheduled as needed. Attendance is mandatory.

#### F21. Field Trips

All field trips must be completed prior to the last two weeks of school. Parent/guardian transportation for field trips in lieu of school bus transportation shall be prohibited.

Keep the students' signed "RELEASE FORM" for the year in your desk. Parents/guardians and the office

must be notified in advance of all field trips that make use of bus transportation. A "Field Trip Request" and "Bus Request" need to be completed and sent to the principal's office at least two weeks in advance of the field trip. These forms are available in the elementary office.

In order to economize on district transportation costs, out-of-district field trips will be limited to Grade 4, unless the superintendent approves a trip due to special circumstances. In-district field trips are open to all grade levels but require principal approval. School district transportation will be provided for supervisors using the following adult to student ratios (excluding special education supervisors who may be assigned to one student):

Kindergarten - 1:3  
Grades One and Two - 1:4  
Grades Three and Four - 1:5

Classrooms will be combined as follows:

Kindergarten - Two classrooms per field trip or 1 per classroom.  
Grade One - Two classrooms per field trip  
Grade Two - Two classrooms per field trip  
Grade Three - Two classrooms per field trip  
Grade Four - Two classrooms per field trip

#### F22. Homework

A District wide Homework Policy has been developed. Grades 2-4 teachers should share with parents/guardians information regarding homework expectations during the grade level parent/guardian meetings. Grades K-1 teachers should share homework information with parents/guardians during the fall parent-teacher conferences.

#### F23. Room Parents/Guardians and Volunteers

Teachers are encouraged to use room mothers (fathers) with class parties, field trips, etc. Volunteers as classroom paras are another excellent way to involve parents/guardians. If interested, contact the principal for help and information.

#### F24. Student Referrals

If you have a student that you feel should have an individual educational evaluation, contact the principal for forms requesting this service. Once the referral has been filed with the principal, the SAT/RTI process will begin. This, of course, includes the classroom teacher. Meetings are an essential element to the SAT/RTI process. Occasionally, these meetings will extend beyond the 4:00 duty time. The SAT/RTI team will do its very best to keep the length of meetings reasonable. However, as the classroom teacher, the importance of the SAT/RTI process must never be questioned. As professional educators, it is our responsibility to fulfill all necessary steps for the educational interests of our students. Teachers should refer students in need of counseling to the Elementary Guidance Counselor.

#### F25. Report Cards

##### General Information:

A grade should be assigned for every area on the Report Card as well as the cumulative folder. The teacher in the form of a Power School grade book, portfolio contents, rubrics, etc should keep documentation relative to assigned grades. Semester grades are to be recorded on the cumulative folder for all areas at the end of each semester.

Explanation of Grading for Kindergarten:

**(S)** Satisfactory: Meets grade level expectations.

**(N)** Needs Improvement:

Explanation of Grading for Grades 1 and 2:

**(P)** Proficient: Meets grade level expectations.

**(D)** Developing: Developing/Progressing toward grade level expectations.

**(B)** Beginning: Shows limited understanding of skills and concepts; also needs assistance to complete tasks.

Explanation of Grading for Grades 3 and 4:

**(A)** Advanced: Consistently and accurately applies skills and concepts independently at a level above grade level expectations.

**(P)** Proficient: Meets grade level expectations.

**(D)** Developing: Developing/Progressing toward grade level expectations.

**(B)** Beginning: Shows limited understanding of skills and concepts; also needs assistance to complete tasks.

**(X)** Standard studied this quarter.

Explanation of Grading for Music/Physical Education/Character and Work Habits

**(S+)** Satisfactory Plus

**(S)** Satisfactory

**(U)** Unsatisfactory

**(I)** Incomplete

**(+)** Demonstrates this Characteristic

**(-)** Needs Improvement

**(\*)** Not assessed at this time

F26. Health Services

The school nurse is responsible for coordinating student medication. Students taking prescription or non-prescription medication during school hours must be sent to the school nurse to make sure proper state regulations are being met. When sending a student to the nurse's office, it is helpful to jot a note to the nurse explaining the health concern of the student. The nurse will determine whether or not the student needs to go home based on her 'health checks' and observation.

F27. Winter Weather Guideline

Teachers are expected to follow the safety guidelines regarding having students go outdoors during cold weather, located in the Appendices.

**2002  
Organization of the Board**

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1. Membership, Term and Election

- a. The Board of Education shall be comprised of six members who will be elected at large.
- b. Those who wish to serve on the board shall file, be elected, and serve terms of office on the board according to law.

2. Internal Organization and Officers

a. President

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
- ii. The president shall preside at all board meetings, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law or by action of the board.

b. Vice President

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect from among its members a vice president who shall serve in that capacity for one year.
- ii. The vice president shall preside in the absence of the president, and shall perform such other duties as are assigned by the board.

c. Secretary

- i. At the regular January meeting, the board shall elect a secretary who need not be a member of the board. The secretary shall serve in that capacity for one year. If the secretary is a member of the board, an assistant secretary may be named and his or her duties and compensation set by the board.
- ii. The secretary shall see that an accurate record of the proceedings of the board is kept, that a copy of

the proceedings is provided to each board member and to the superintendent, and that a concise summary of each month's meeting is published along with a list of all approved claims. The secretary shall perform such other duties as are prescribed by law and assigned by the board.

d. Treasurer

- i. A treasurer from the board will be designated on a year-to-year basis.
- ii. The treasurer will sign checks and certain other documents. The treasurer is the custodian of the monies of the district.
- iii. The treasurer shall give bond or equivalent insurance coverage payable to the district as prescribed by law with the cost of the bond being paid by the district.
- iv. The treasurer shall issue no warrant of payment of claim against the district until such claim has been duly authorized by the board and has been duly countersigned by the president.
- v. The vice president or secretary may sign any warrant in the absence of either the president or the treasurer.

3. Board Officer Voting and Tie Breakers

- a. The vote to elect board officers may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.
- b. In the event any officer cannot be elected by a majority after 10 votes; no votes occur after ten motions fail for lack of a "second,"; or no member volunteers to serve as an officer for a particular position, the tie will be broken by the applicable method:
  - i. [Option 1]: If the board is split between two members, they will each serve as the officer for six

months of the year. The initial six-month term will be determined by coin flip.

**[Option 2]**: If the board is split between two members, the officer will be determined by coin flip. The winning member will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.

- ii. If the board is split between more than two members who wish to serve as the officer, any member wanting to serve as the officer will put his or her name into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.
- iii. If no member is willing to serve as an officer for a position which is required to be a member of the board, all non-officers' names will be put into a drawing. The name drawn out will be the officer for the upcoming year unless the position changes by action of the board.

#### 4. Committees

a. The board shall authorize such special committees as it deems necessary. The board president shall appoint members to the committee, and designate its function, tasks it is to perform, and a completion date for its work.

b. On or before the beginning of each calendar year, the board shall appoint three members to form a Committee on American Civics. The committee's duties shall be those prescribed by Nebraska statutes, which include:

- i. Hold no fewer than two public meetings annually, at least one when public testimony is accepted;
- ii. Keep minutes of each meeting showing the time and place of the meeting, which members were present or absent, and the substance and details of all matters discussed;
- iii. Examine and ensure that the social studies curriculum used in the district is aligned with the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01 and teaches foundational knowledge in

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- civics, history, economics, financial literacy, and geography;
- iv. Review and approve the social studies curriculum to ensure that it stresses the services of the men and women who played a crucial role in the achievement of national independence, establishment of our constitutional government, and preservation of the union and includes the incorporation of multicultural education as set forth in sections 79-719 to 79-723 in order to instill a pride and respect for the nation's institutions and not be merely a recital of events and dates;
  - v. Ensure that any curriculum recommended or approved by the committee on American civics is made readily accessible to the public and contains a reference to this section;
  - vi. Ensure that the district develops and utilizes formative, interim, and summative assessments to measure student mastery of the social studies standards adopted pursuant to section 79-760.01;
  - vii. Ensure that the social studies curriculum in the district incorporates one or more of the following for each student:
    - 1. Administration of a written test that is identical to the entire civics portion of the naturalization test used by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services prior to the completion of eighth grade and again prior to the completion of twelfth grade with the individual score from each test for each student made available to a parent or guardian of such student; or
    - 2. Attendance or participation between the commencement of eighth grade and completion of twelfth grade in a meeting of a public body as defined by section 84-1409 followed by the completion of a project or paper in which each student demonstrates or discusses the personal learning experience of such student related to such attendance or participation; or
    - 3. Completion of a project or paper and a class presentation between the commencement of eighth grade and the completion of twelfth grade on a person or persons or an event

- commemorated by a holiday listed in section 79-724(6) or on a topic related to such person or persons or event; and
- viii. Take all such other steps as will assure the carrying out of the provisions of this section and provide a report to the school board regarding the committee's findings and recommendations.

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## 5. Vacancies

- a. A vacancy on the board of education shall exist when any one of the following occurs:
- i. A member submits his or her formal resignation from the board.
  - ii. A member removes himself or herself from the district or is absent from the district for a continuous period of sixty days.
  - iii. A member misses more than two consecutive regular board meetings unless excused by a majority of the remaining members.
  - iv. Such other reasons as are set forth in Nebraska statutes.
- b. The board shall make note the vacancy in its minutes and shall give notice of the date the vacancy occurred, the office vacated, and the length of the unexpired term to (1) the election commissioner or county clerk, and (2) the public by published notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the district.
- c. Vacancies shall be filled in the manner set forth in Nebraska statutes.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## **2006 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. When such 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.

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 believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant to discrimination or harassment.
  
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, Title IX/504 coordinator, 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 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.

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- d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted, at any time during the complaint procedure to the School District's Title IX/504 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](mailto: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 to the Title IX/504 coordinator, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
- a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.
    - 1) If the complainant has not, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member, if appropriate.
    - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the staff member, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator 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. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in

writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator received the complaint.

4. If either the complainant or the accused party is not satisfied with the administrator's or the Title IX/504 coordinator's decision regarding a complaint he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent.
  - a) This appeal must be in writing.
  - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than ten (10) business days from the date the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
  - c) The superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.
  - d) Upon completion of this investigation, the superintendent will inform the complainant in writing of his or her decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal.
  
5. If either the complainant or the accused party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a complaint 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) business 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 shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.

- d) The board will notify the complainant in writing of its decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the board shall submit its decision within 180 days after it received complainant's written appeal.
  - e) 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 promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and 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, if appropriate.
    - 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 place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting.
  - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the president received the complaint.

**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.

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### Relationship with District Legal Counsel

The board will engage legal counsel to assist it and the administration in dealing with legal issues. When the district faces circumstances in which legal counsel may be needed between board meetings, the board president or superintendent may engage legal counsel on the board's behalf.

The superintendent and the board president shall have the authority to contact the school's legal counsel on behalf of the district. The superintendent may give other members of the administration permission to contact the district's legal counsel on an as-needed basis. Individual board members other than the president may not contact the district's legal counsel on behalf of the board without the approval of the board president or a majority of the board.

Any board member who contacts the district's legal counsel without board approval may be personally responsible for any legal fees incurred as a result of the unapproved contact.

The superintendent will, to the extent permitted by law, keep the board informed of matters in which the district's legal counsel is involved.

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### **3003.1**

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

##### **I. Applicability of the Policy**

This policy applies only to construction and contracts undertaken with federal funds which are subject to the federal Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG) and other applicable federal law, including but not limited to the Education Department and General Administration Regulations

(EDGAR) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) regulations governing school food service programs. In the event this policy conflicts or is otherwise inconsistent with mandatory provisions of the UGG, EDGAR or other applicable federal law, the mandatory provisions of the laws shall control.

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

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

**A. A bid guarantee from each bidder equivalent to five percent of the bid price. The "bid guarantee" must consist of a firm commitment such as a bid bond, certified check, or other negotiable instrument accompanying a bid as assurance that the bidder will, upon acceptance of the bid, execute such contractual documents as may be required within the time specified.**

**B. A performance bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "performance bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to secure fulfillment of all the contractor's obligations under such contract.**

**C. A payment bond on the part of the contractor for 100 percent of the contract price. A "payment bond" is one executed in connection with a contract to assure payment as required by law of all persons supplying labor and material in the execution of the work provided for in the contract.**

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

**A. Methods of Bidding/Soliciting Quotations or Estimates**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**B. Advertising for Bids.**

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

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

**C. Bid Documents**

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. The board shall have discretion in determining which bidders are responsible and responsive and shall award the contract to the lowest, responsible, and responsive bidder whose bid meets the bid specifications. This means that the board will select the bid that offers the best value and award a contract based upon the amount of the bid and the bidder's ability and capacity to carry on the work, its

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

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

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

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## V. Other Contract Matters.

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### A. Required Terms

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

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### B. Contracting with Certain Vendors

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

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

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### C. Full and Open Competition

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

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### D. Debarment and Suspension

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The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

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

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

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### **E. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Contract**

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

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### **F. Record Keeping**

#### **1. Record Retention**

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

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b) The U.S. Department of Education is authorized to recover any federal funds misspent within 5 years

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before the receipt of a program determination letter. 34 C.F.R. § 81.31(c). Schedule 10 (Local School Districts) and Schedule 24 (Local Agencies General Records) of the Nebraska Records Management Division as approved by the Nebraska Secretary of State/State Records Administrator requires the District to maintain records regarding construction projects for a minimum of five (5) years after the sale or demolition of the building. However, if any litigation, claim, or audit is started before the expiration of the record retention period, the records will be retained until all litigation, claims, or audit findings involving the records have been resolved and final action taken. 2 C.F.R. § 200.333.

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

## 2. Maintenance of Construction Records for Projects Financed with Federal Funds

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

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

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**VI. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct**

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

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

1. Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.

2. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.

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

**C. Favors and Gifts**

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

**D. Enforcement**

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

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## 3004.1

### Fiscal Management for Purchasing and Procurement Using Federal Funds

#### **I. Applicability of Policy**

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

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

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

#### **II. Procurement System**

The District maintains the following purchasing procedures.

##### **A. Responsibility for Purchasing**

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

##### **B. Methods of Purchasing**

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **3. Purchases Over \$250,000**

### **a) Sealed Bids (Formal Advertising)**

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

### **b) Contract/Price Analysis**

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

#### **4. Noncompetitive Proposals (Sole Sourcing)**

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

#### **C. Use of Purchase (Debit & Credit) Cards**

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

#### **D. Federal Procurement System Standards**

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

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

## **E. Debarment and Suspension**

The District awards contracts only to responsible contractors possessing the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of a proposed procurement. Consideration will be given to such matters as contractor integrity, compliance with public policy, record of past performance, and financial and technical resources.

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

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

## **F. Settlements of Issues Arising Out of Procurements**

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

## **III. Conflict of Interest and Code of Conduct**

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

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

- 1.** Employees, officers, and agents engaged in the selection, award, and/or administration of district contracts which are prohibited from engaging in such actions if a real or apparent conflict of interest is present.

2. Such a conflict of interest would arise when the employee, officer, or agent, any member of his or her immediate family, his or her partner, or an organization which employs or is about to employ any of the parties indicated herein, has a financial or other interest in or a tangible personal benefit from a firm considered for a contract.
3. The board may determine at its discretion that a financial interest is not substantial enough to give rise to a conflict of interest.

### **C. Favors and Gifts**

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

### **D. Enforcement**

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

## **IV. Property Management Systems**

### **A. Property Classifications**

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

information electronically, including accessories (or "peripherals") for printing, transmitting and receiving, or storing electronic information. 2 C.F.R. §200.20.

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

## **B. Inventory Procedure**

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

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

## **C. Inventory Records**

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

1. Serial number;
2. District identification number;
3. Manufacturer;
4. Model;
5. Date tagged and individual who tagged it;

6. Source of funding for the property;
7. Who holds title;
8. Acquisition date and cost of the property;
9. Percentage of federal participation in the project costs for the federal award under which the property was acquired;
10. Location, use and condition of the property; and
11. Any ultimate disposition data including the date of disposal and sale price of the property.

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

#### **D. Physical Inventory**

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

#### **E. Maintenance**

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

#### **F. Lost or Stolen Items**

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

#### **G. Use of Equipment**

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

#### **H. Disposal of Equipment**

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

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

## **V. Other Contract Matters.**

### **A. Required Terms**

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

### **B. Contracting with Certain Vendors**

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

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

### **C. Record Keeping**

#### **1. Record Retention**

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

75.732. These records and accounts must be retained and made available for programmatic or financial audit.

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

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

## 2. Maintenance of Procurement Records

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

Karen Haase 5/28/19 11:29 AM  
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b) Retention of procurement records shall be in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

**D. Privacy**

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

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**"Option B"  
3016**

**Use of Tobacco Products**

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.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

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**3028**  
**Sex Offenders**

The safety of the students attending school is very important to the board of education. School employees, parents, and students should be aware of dangers posed by sex offenders living within the school district, and should be vigilant in providing protection against these dangers.

[NOTE TO BE DELETED: This paragraph is not required but is recommended]. The Nebraska Legislature has enacted the Nebraska Sex Offender Registration Act. The Act requires sex offenders to register with the local county sheriff where they reside. The school district shall notify staff members, parents, and students of any registered sex offenders residing in the school district. Such notice shall contain information about the availability of further information on the State Patrol's web page, and shall inform the recipient of the prohibition against using the information for any retaliatory purpose against the sex offender, the offender's family, or the offender's employer. Only information deemed non-confidential pursuant to NEB. REV. STAT. §§ 29-4006 and 29-4009 will be disclosed in the aforementioned notification.

The board does not generally permit registered sex offenders on school grounds, at any school sponsored activity, or on any property under the control of the school district. The superintendent or his/her designee is hereby empowered to notify sex offenders of this policy and to grant limited permission to attend certain activities on a case-by-case basis.

Students who are registered sex offenders shall not be precluded from receiving a free education from the school district on that basis. The school district will consider a student's status as a registered sex offender in determining the student's educational placement and program.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## Threat Assessment and Response

### [Option 1: Team Concept]

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 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 (team) shall consist of \_\_\_\_\_ . [this team should include at least the superintendent of schools, building principal(s), guidance counselor and local law enforcement. It also could include the school nurse, members of the mental health profession who would be willing to work with the school. It should not include parents or board members. Members of the school crisis team may also serve on 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.

#### 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 unless permitted by law.

#### **5. 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 All-Hazard School Safety Plan.

Bobby Truhe 5/30/19 4:52 PM  
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**[Option 2: Superintendent as Primary Investigator and Decision-Maker]**

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 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 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 the superintendent. Upon receipt of an initial report of any threat, the superintendent 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 superintendent determines to be reasonable and useful. The superintendent must confer with at least one member of the school's guidance counseling staff as part of his/her investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the superintendent will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The superintendent is authorized to disclose the results of his/her investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The superintendent 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 his/her investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

### 3. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

To the extent possible, the superintendent will keep members of the school community informed about possible threats and about the District'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 superintendent will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

### 4. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The superintendent 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 All-Hazard School's Safety Plan.

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**[Option 3: Law Enforcement Unit as Primary Investigator; Superintendent as Primary Decision Maker – Please note, this option is only available if you have adopted the policy designating a Law Enforcement Unit]**

The board 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 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 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 the designated law enforcement unit. Upon receipt of an initial report of any threat, the law enforcement unit 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 unit determines to be reasonable and useful. The law enforcement unit

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must confer with at least one member of the school's guidance counseling staff as part of the investigation.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the law enforcement unit will share its findings with the superintendent. Superintendent will determine what, if any, response to the threat is appropriate. The superintendent is authorized to disclose the results of the investigation to law enforcement and to the target(s) of any threatened acts. The superintendent 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 the investigation to the student's individualized education plan team.

### 3. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

To the extent possible, the superintendent will keep members of the school community informed about possible threats and about the district'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 superintendent will not reveal the identity of the individual of concern or of any target(s) of threatened violence unless permitted by law.

### 4. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

The superintendent 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 All-Hazard School's Safety Plan.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 3046 Animals at Schools

Animals are not allowed in school district buildings or on school district property without the written permission of the superintendent or his or

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Comment [1]: Here, I thought we would still want the Law Enforcement Unit to answer to, and defer to, the Supt. so we don't have Law Enforcement Unit Barney Fife going rogue.

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Jordan Johnson 7/1/19 9:02 AM  
Comment [2]: Should we revise all options to simply defer to state and federal law?

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her designee except as provided in this policy or as otherwise required by law.

## **I. USE OF ANIMALS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PURPOSES**

Animals that support a district program or curriculum or that are used for instructional purposes are allowed in school district buildings or on school district property with the written permission of the superintendent or building principal.

## **II. SERVICE ANIMALS**

The school district does not permit discrimination against individuals with disabilities, including those who require the assistance of a service animal. An individual with a disability is permitted to be accompanied by his/her service animal on school property when required by law, subject to the conditions of this policy.

**Service Animal.** A “service animal” is a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of an individual with a disability, including a physical, sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability. Work or tasks **do not** include the crime deterrent effects of an animal’s presence and the provision of emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship. The work or tasks performed by a service animal must be directly related to the handler’s disability or necessary to mitigate a disability. Other species of animals, whether wild or domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the purposes of this definition. **See also,** Miniature Horses below.

**School District Inquiries.** School officials **may** ask the owner or handler of an animal whether the animal is required because of a disability and what work or task the animal has been trained to do **unless** the answers to these inquiries are readily apparent. School officials **may not** ask about the nature or extent of a person’s disability and may not require documentary proof of certification or licensing as a service animal.

**Procedural Requirements.** The following requirements must be satisfied **before** a service animal will be allowed in school buildings or on school grounds:

**Request.** A person who wants to be accompanied by his/her service animal must submit a written request form to a principal

or superintendent. The request form is attached to this policy. These requests must be renewed each school year or whenever a different service animal will be used.

**Health and Vaccination.** The ~~owner or handler must have~~ proof of current licensure from the local licensing authority ~~including~~ proof of the service animal's current vaccinations and immunizations ~~required by law~~.

Service animals will not be allowed in school buildings or other school property until the school has approved the request.

**Control.** A service animal must be under the control of its handler at all times. The service animal must have a harness, backpack, vest identifying the dog as a trained service dog, leash, or other tether. If the handler is unable to use a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether, because of a disability or the use of a harness, backpack, vest, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe, effective performance of work or tasks, the use of these items is not required. However, the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control.

**Exclusion or Removal from School.** A service animal may be excluded from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

- (1) A handler does not have control of the service animal;
- (2) The service animal is not housebroken;
- (3) The service animal presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
- (4) The animal's presence fundamentally alters the nature of the service, program, or activity.

The handler or the student's parent or guardian shall be required to remove the service animal from school premises immediately upon such a determination. If the service animal is removed, the individual with a disability shall be provided with the opportunity to participate in the service, program, or activity without the service animal.

**Allergic Reactions.** If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom or mode of transportation in which a service animal is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the service animal, the person having custody and control of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator. The

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school will arrange a meeting between school personnel, the individual with the disability, and the parents or guardian(s) of the person with the disability if that person is a student to develop an alternate plan.

**Supervision and Care of Service Animals.** The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the animal, including any feeding, exercising, and clean up while the animal is in a school building or on school property. The student's parent or guardian is responsible for providing for the supervision and the care of the animal in the event that his or her student is not able to do so. The school district is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a service animal.

**Extra Charges.** The owner or handler of a service animal will not be required to pay an admission fee or a charge for the animal to attend events for which a fee is charged.

**Damage to School Property and Injuries.** The owner or handler of a service animal is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the animal.

**Miniature Horses.** Requests to permit the use of a miniature horse by an individual with a disability will be addressed on a case-by-case basis by considering the following factors:

- (1) The type, size, and weight of the miniature horse and whether the facility can accommodate these features;
- (2) Whether the handler has sufficient control of the miniature horse;
- (3) Whether the miniature horse is housebroken; and
- (4) Whether the miniature horse's presence in a specific facility compromises legitimate safety requirements that are necessary for safe operation.

All additional requirements outlined in this policy, which apply to service animals, shall apply to miniature horses.

**Service Animal in Training.** This policy shall also be applicable to service animals in training that are accompanied by a bona fide trainer.

**Denial of Access and Grievance.** If a school official denies a request for access of a service animal, the disabled individual or parent

or guardian can file a written grievance with the school's Section 504 Coordinator.

[NOTE TO BE DELETED: There are 2 options below. The first option allows therapy animals brought by school employees as approved by the administration. The second does not allow therapy animals "except as required by law." YOU MUST PICK AN OPTION AND DELETE THE OTHER.]

[OPTION 1]

### III. THERAPY ANIMALS

The school district supports the use of therapy animals by teachers or other qualified school personnel ("Owner") for the benefit of its students subject to the conditions of this policy.

**Therapy Animal.** A "therapy animal" is an animal that has been individually trained and certified to work with its Owner to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship to school district students. Therapy animals are not "service animals" as that term is used in the American with Disabilities Act. The animal must be well behaved and have a temperament that is suitable for interaction with students and others in a public school. Therapy animals are personal property of the Owner and are not owned by the school district.

**Therapy Animal Standards and Procedures.** The following requirements must be satisfied **before** a therapy animal will be allowed in school buildings or on school grounds:

**Request.** An Owner who wants to bring a therapy animal to school must submit a written request form to a principal or superintendent. The request form is attached to this policy. The request must be renewed each school year or whenever a different therapy animal will be used.

**Training and Certification.** The Owner must submit training and certification information requested by the Superintendent or his or her designee. Any certification required by the school district must remain current at all times.

**Health and Vaccination.** The therapy animal must be clean, well groomed, in good health, house broken, and immunized

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against diseases common to such animals. The Owner must submit proof of current required licensure from the local licensing authority and proof of the therapy animal's current vaccinations and immunizations from a licensed veterinarian, if applicable.

**Control.** A therapy animal must be under the control of the Owner at all times.

**Identification.** The therapy animal must have appropriate identification identifying it as a therapy animal.

**No Disruption.** The therapy animal must not disrupt the educational process by any of its behaviors.

**Health and Safety.** The therapy animal must not pose a health and safety risk to any student, employee, or other person at school.

**Supervision and Care of Therapy Animals.** The Owner is solely responsible for the supervision and care of the therapy animal, including any feeding, exercising, and clean up while the animal is in a school building or on school property. The school district is not responsible for providing any care, supervision, or assistance for a therapy animal.

**Authorized Area(s).** The Owner shall only allow the therapy animal to be in areas in school buildings or on school property that are authorized by school district administrators.

**Insurance.** The Owner must submit a copy of an insurance policy that provides liability coverage for the therapy animal while on school property.

**Exclusion or Removal from School.** A therapy animal may be excluded from school property and buildings if a school administrator determines that:

- (1) A handler does not have control of the therapy animal;
- (2) The therapy animal is not housebroken;
- (3) The therapy animal presents a direct and immediate threat to others in the school; or
- (4) The animal's presence otherwise interferes with the educational process.

The Owner shall be required to remove the therapy animal from school premises immediately upon such a determination.

**Allergic Reactions.** If any student or school employee assigned to a classroom in which a therapy animal is permitted suffers an allergic reaction to the therapy animal, the Owner of the animal will be required to remove the animal to a different location designated by an administrator.

**Damages to School Property and Injuries.** The Owner of a therapy animal is solely responsible and liable for any damage to school property or injury to personnel, students, or others caused by the therapy animal.

**Other Therapy Animals.** Therapy animals (1) owned by students, patrons, or other non-school employees or (2) owned by school employees for their own benefit will not be allowed on school grounds or school property except as otherwise required by law.

[OPTION 2]

### **III. THERAPY ANIMALS**

A “therapy animal” is an animal that has been individually trained and certified to work with its owner to provide emotional support, well-being, comfort, or companionship. Therapy animals are not “service animals” as that term is used in the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Therapy animals will not be allowed on school grounds or school property except as otherwise required by law.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Author

**Deleted: Therapy Dog in Training.**

The therapy animal portion of this policy shall also be applicable to therapy dogs in training that are accompanied by a bona fide trainer.

Technology in the Classroom

I. In General

The district desires to use technology in a way that aides in the education of students. New devices and applications offer a number of helpful tools that can improve the student experience and increase learning. Many of these devices and applications also create concerns about student privacy. It is the goal of the district to embrace the helpful elements of technological advancement while remaining mindful of potential student privacy issues.

II. Devices

A. Non-district issued electronic devices may be provided by teachers for use in their classroom, so long as the use of such devices is supervised by a staff member and subject to the conditions set forth below.

Teachers who wish to bring a device into the classroom should inform the principal before deploying the device. The building principal may at his or her discretion prohibit the use of such devices or otherwise limit their use. The building principal may at any time direct that a teacher discontinue use of a given device.

1. Smart speakers such as Google Home, Amazon Echo, Apple HomePod, and similar devices may be approved for use in the classroom. The device must be registered to an account linked to the classroom teacher’s school email address. The district will not maintain any records created by use of the smart speaker device. Any record of use will be considered non-record communications pursuant to Nebraska’s Records Management Act, and not be maintained by the district.

2. All other electronic devices that connect to the internet that a staff member wishes to use for the education of students should be disclosed to the administration prior to use.

B. Assistive technology may be used in district classrooms. Any assistive technology, such as an AngelSense device, that actively or passively create or transmit audio or video recordings must have that function disabled while the student uses the device, in a district classroom unless required by law. No assistive technology devices will be permitted to record or transmit the classroom activity of other students unless required by law.

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C. Any classroom recordings made by a staff member will be made pursuant to district policy.

III. Applications

A. School as Agent. The school will serve as an agent for parents/guardians in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

B. District Applications. The district uses various software applications to record, track, and store student data. Each application selected by the district is in compliance with federal and state law, to the best of the administration's knowledge. Should the district become aware that an application used by the district has suffered a data breach, or been found to be out of compliance with federal or state law, the district will investigate the scope of the violations and notify students, parents, and staff in accordance with district policy.

C. Staff-Selected Applications.

1. Staff are permitted to select applications for use in the classroom.
2. Staff must perform basic due diligence to ensure that the application is safe for students and serves a pedagogical purpose. Staff must notify their supervising administrator of the application they plan to use as part of their lesson plan prior to their use in the classroom. The district may at any time direct that a teacher discontinue use of a given application. The district will provide training on the relevant student privacy laws to staff members who are selecting and deploying applications in the classroom.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**4045**

**Assessment Administration and Security**

The purpose of all testing and assessments is to measure students' knowledge, skills or abilities in the area tested. All staff members are prohibited from engaging in any behavior that adversely affects the validity of test scores as a measure of student achievement. This

policy applies to all national, state, and local assessments, including both standardized and general classroom assessments.

## 1. Assessment Responsibilities

- a. Each building principal, in consultation with the Superintendent and classroom teachers, will be responsible for:
  - overseeing the scheduling of state administered assessments, training all staff who administer assessments, and ensuring that all assessments, including make-up testing, is completed within required testing windows;
  - obtaining Standards, Assessment and Accountability Updates from the Department of Education and circulating the relevant portions of those updates to other staff members;
  - informing the board of education of changes to the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures; and
  - signing and enforcing the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Agreement.
- b. Every classroom teacher or other staff member who administers assessments is responsible for:
  - complying with the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System Security Procedures;
  - taking all reasonable and prudent steps to ensure the accuracy and integrity of all academic testing, including statewide assessments; and
  - ensuring the security of all test materials.

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## 2. Security Violations and Cheating

### a. Classroom assessments

Staff members who suspect students of having cheated on a classroom assessment should conduct a reasonable inquiry and impose consequences on the student consistent with classroom rules and the student handbook.

b. **State Accountability Tests**

Staff members who suspect a breach of security on State Accountability Tests, must promptly report their suspicions to the building principal or superintendent. The superintendent must notify the Department of Education's Statewide Assessment Office and follow the Department's protocol for Reporting and Investigating Test Security Violations.

Staff members who engage in or enable students to engage in academic dishonesty in any testing or assessment will be subject to discipline up to and including the immediate cancellation of their employment contract.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**4047**  
**Job References to Prospective Employers**

All requests for employment-related references or employment history by prospective employers of current or former employees must be referred to a member of the administrative team. The administrator will either provide a reference in compliance with this policy or will forward the request to the superintendent.

If the school district is subject to a written separation agreement regarding a particular employee, the terms of that agreement will govern the district's response to requests for information, regardless of any written consent provided to the school district.

If the school district is not bound by a separation agreement and receives a legally enforceable written consent to release information, the district may provide the information authorized by that document. The school district may provide additional truthful information to

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prospective employers of current and former employees in accordance with this policy.

### **Employees Suspected of Sexual Misconduct Against a Minor or Student**

Apart from the routine transmission of administrative and personnel files or unless otherwise permitted by law, the district and any employee, contractor, or agent of the school district is prohibited from providing any employee any assistance in obtaining a new job if the school district or the individual acting for the school district has probable cause to believe said employee has engaged in sexual misconduct with a student or minor in violation of the law.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **5002**

### **Admission of Students**

Students shall be admitted to the school district who are:

- 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

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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.

Prior to enrolling any student who is a ward of the state of Nebraska or a ward of any court, the district will ask to review a completed copy of the "Education Court Report Form" promulgated by the Nebraska Supreme Court's Commission on Children and Families in the Courts - Education Sub-Committee. If there is no such completed form, district staff will offer assistance to the appropriate responsible individual in securing the information necessary to complete the form as part of the district's enrollment process.

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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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### 5016 Student Records

The school district shall manage student records and reports as is necessary for effective administration and in compliance with law. In general "student records" shall not include transitory communications such as e-mail, text messages, handwritten communication between school and home, and the like, and these items will not generally be maintained by the district. **\*\*Insert only if you have adopted the policy designating a Law Enforcement Unit\*\*** "Student records" also shall not include any records created and maintained by the district's law enforcement unit for a law enforcement purpose.

**[OPTION 1]** For purposes of the district's compliance with state and

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federal law, the district "maintains" only those student records which are reduced to paper or physical format and placed within a student's file in the district's central offices or in the file pertaining to the student's special education or Section 504 services. Records which can be printed in paper form must be printed in order to be "maintained." Other records such as video recordings, which constitute student records, must be reduced to a physical medium in order to be "maintained." For example, a video must be put on a compact disk or other compatible hardware and placed within the student's file to be "maintained."

**[OPTION 2]** For purposes of the district's compliance with state and federal law, the district "maintains" student records which are printed and kept in the student's physical file or which school district staff have intentionally saved within the official school district digital student information system that specifically identifies the student for whom those records are maintained. The school district may also use learning management systems, which deliver and manage instructional content. The school district maintains student records within its student information system but not in its learning management system. The official school district student information system is PowerSchool.

**[OPTION 3]** For purposes of the district's compliance with state and federal law, the district "maintains" as "student records" all records, files, and documents which are located in any format and within any storage unit of the district, whether in hard copy, digital, or otherwise.

Each building principal will assign responsibilities for the preparation and maintenance of records and will ensure compliance with the applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and record retention schedules regarding their storage and use in the building. No "student record" or record required to be retained by the Nebraska Secretary of State's Record Retention Schedules applicable to the district will be destroyed unless it is first saved in a retrievable, digital format. This includes only records required to be kept by the applicable Retention Schedules and "student records" as defined by state and federal law, and this policy does not prohibit the district from following its record expungement procedures for all other records.

Students or their parents, guardians, teachers, counselors, or school administrators shall have access to the school's files or records maintained concerning themselves or their students. For purposes of

this policy, "teachers" include paraeducators and volunteers who are providing educational services to a student on behalf of the School District. "School officials" include attorneys; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; representatives of insurance providers that provide coverage to the school district; and third-party website operators who have contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and the district. All disciplinary material shall be removed and destroyed upon the pupil's graduation or after the pupil's continuous absence from the school for a period of three years, and after authorization is given by the State Records Board pursuant to state law. Upon request, the school district will disclose education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

Outside agencies such as physicians, probation officers, psychologists, child guidance clinics, and other agencies concerned with child welfare who are working directly with a child may have access to information pertaining to that child with written parental consent or upon issuance of a valid court order.

The school district shall share student data, records, and information with school districts, educational service units, learning communities, and the State Department of Education to the fullest extent practicable unless otherwise prohibited by law. This includes sharing information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third-year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by the agreement between the Nebraska Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

Each year, the school district will notify parents and guardians of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

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## 5017 Routine Directory Information

The school district shall disclose the following as routine directory information pertaining to any past, present or future student who is, has been, or will be regularly enrolled in the district.

- Name and grade
- Name of parent and/or guardian
- Address
- Telephone number, including the student's cell phone number
- E-mail address
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- The image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium
- Major field of study
- Participation in activities and sports
- Degrees and awards received
- Social media usernames or handles
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Most recent previous school attended
- Certain class work which may be published onto the Internet
- Classroom assignment and/or home room teacher
- Student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems, but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user.

Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Upon request, the district will provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of high school students unless a student's parents have notified the district in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without their prior written consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

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Within 30 days prior to or following the commencement of each school year and, for a new student who enrolls after the commencement of a school year, within 30 days following such enrollment, the district will notify parents and guardians each year of their rights under this policy and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Parents will be given an opportunity to prevent the release of this directory information by filing a written objection with the district.

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When a student reaches 18 years of age, the permission or consent required of and the rights accorded to the parents or guardians of such student under this policy shall only be required of and accorded to such student. Within 30 days prior to or following the commencement of each school year and, for a new student who enrolls after the commencement of a school year, within 30 days following such enrollment, each school district shall notify each student who is at least 18 years of age or who will reach 18 years of age during such school year of (1) the option to make a written request to the school district that routine directory information for such student not be released in response to a request made by a military recruiter without such student's written consent and (2) that any such request made previously by a parent or guardian for such student expires upon the student reaching 18 years of age.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 5022

### Investigations, Arrests, and Other Student Contact by Law Enforcement and Health and Human Services

**[NOTE TO BE DELETED BEFORE ADOPTION:** This policy describes the manner that the school will handle investigations and arrests by law enforcement officers. This is one you will need to review in detail with your board. We have attempted to capture what we believe to be the most common practice in Nebraska schools. However, there are several legal options for dealing with your interaction with law enforcement. Because they are so varied, we recommend reviewing this policy, then discussing it with a KSB Attorney how it squares with your practices. If the policy doesn't reflect your practices, we can

work with you to modify the policy to fit the legal requirements and your district's practices.]

The school district and its administrators and staff desire to maintain a positive working relationship with law enforcement officers and other representatives of governmental bodies in the discharge of their duties. However, this desire must be balanced against other equally important factors such as a student's legal rights, ensuring that a student's time spent in school is for education, and acknowledging that the school stands *in loco parentis* to the students.

"Law enforcement officer" means police officers, county sheriffs, state patrolmen, Health and Human Service workers, Child Protective Services workers, Office of Juvenile Services workers, probation officers, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents, Federal Bureau of Investigations agents, or any other government investigatory workers.

"Parent" means the biological or adoptive mother or father, guardian, responsible relative, or any other person who has claimed legal or actual charge or control of the student pursuant to Nebraska law or Title 92 Nebraska Administrative Code Chapter 19.

Law enforcement officers are encouraged whenever possible to talk to a student away from the school before or after school hours so as to cause as little disruption as possible to the student's education.

Law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or they may initiate contact with the school for their own purposes. Contact between the school and law enforcement officers on matters involving students shall be made through the office of the superintendent or building principal and the law enforcement officer. All reasonable attempts should be made to avoid embarrassing the student before his or her teachers and peers, and to avoid disrupting the student's and school's education program. Any questioning by law enforcement officers that is permitted should be conducted in a private room or area where confidentiality can be maintained. This should be an area removed from observation by or contact with other pupils and school personnel.

School staff shall promptly notify the superintendent when a student is questioned, arrested, or removed from school grounds by law enforcement officers.

## School Related Criminal Activity

This section applies to alleged or suspected criminal activity 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.

Law enforcement officers will be allowed to contact and question students at school regarding school related criminal activity as provided below.

The building principal must be notified before a student may be questioned in school or taken from a classroom by law enforcement. The building principal should request identification of the officers, their affiliation with the identified law enforcement agency, and whether their purpose is to interview, interrogate, or take custody of the student.

The building principal will make reasonable attempts to contact a student's parent for their consent and/or presence before the student is interviewed. In the event that a parent cannot be contacted after reasonable attempts, the student will be questioned only if the law enforcement officer identifies emergency circumstances requiring immediate questioning. A building principal or designee shall be present for such questioning solely to further school purposes or avoid duplication of the investigative process. The student will be brought to a private room and the contact will be made out of sight of others as much as practicable.

If the student is suspected of criminal activity, it is the responsibility of the law enforcement officer to advise a student of his or her rights against self-incrimination.

The building principal shall document steps taken to notify parents, summarize the law enforcement activities, identify the actions taken by the District on behalf of the student, and any further contacts with law enforcement officer.

## Non-School Related Criminal Activity

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**Deleted:** If at any time the district's representative believes that the questioning is being conducted in an inappropriate manner and clearly contrary to the rights of the student, then the representative shall request that the law enforcement activities cease. The building principal will also make another attempt to contact the student's parent. .

**[OPTION 1]** Law enforcement officials may not question students at school unless parental consent is obtained or the law enforcement authorities have a warrant or court order.

**[OPTION 2]** Law enforcement officials may not question students at school.

### **Taking a Student into Custody**

Law enforcement officers seeking custody of a student must contact the superintendent or building principal. The principal will request the arresting law enforcement officer to provide a copy of the arrest warrant, written parental consent, court order, or other document giving authority to take the student into legal custody. If there is no document presented, the principal should obtain the officer's name, badge number identifying the law enforcement agency, date, time, the reason for the arrest, and the place to which the student is reportedly being taken. Whenever practicable, the arrest or release of the student should be conducted in a location and in a manner that minimizes observation by others.

When a law enforcement officer removes a student from the school, the building principal will take immediate steps to notify the parent about the student's removal and the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse.

### **Child Abuse and Neglect**

When law enforcement officers seek to investigate reports of alleged child neglect or abuse regarding a student, the building principal shall obtain a proper identification from the authorities or officials. If a student interview is conducted on school grounds, the building principal or designee and such other school personnel as appropriate shall observe the interview.

If the law enforcement officer decides to remove the student from school, school officials shall provide the law enforcement authorities with the address and telephone number of the student's parent or guardian. The principal or other school official shall, as a condition of releasing the student to the law enforcement officer, require the officer to sign a statement certifying that the child is being removed from school premises because he or she is believed to be the victim of child

abuse and that the officer understands and will comply with the legal requirements of NEB. REV. STAT. § 79-294.

**Student Records**

Student records will be shared with law enforcement officers only as allowed by state and federal law.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## **5035 Student Discipline**

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than those specifically provided in this policy and the Student Discipline Act, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but need not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. Disciplinary consequences may also include in-school suspension, Saturday School, and any other consequence authorized by law. District administrators may develop building-specific protocols for the imposition of student discipline.

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

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

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

### **Short-Term Suspension**

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

1. Conduct constituting grounds for expulsion as hereinafter set forth; or,
2. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, that occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a connection between such conduct and school.

The following process applies to short-term suspension:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he or she is accused of having done, be given an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be given an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations, under the following conditions: Parents or

students may be required to come to school and pick up assignments daily.

### **Emergency Exclusion**

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

### **Weapons and/or Firearms**

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

### **Long-Term Suspension**

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

### **Expulsion**

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

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

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-266.

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

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

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;

2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (see *also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);
7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults which occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;

10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
  - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion;
  - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
  - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
  - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product, or imitation, or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
  - e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
  - f. Possession of pornography;
  - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
  - h. Engaging in hazing, defined as any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate. Hazing activities are generally considered to be: physically abusive, hazardous, and/or sexually violating and include but are not limited to the following: personal servitude; sleep deprivation and restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies;

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being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; branding; physical beatings; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;

- i. Bullying which shall include 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 to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;
- j. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;
- k. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
- l. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon; and
- m. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

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

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

- 1. On the date of the decision to discipline, the Principal shall file with the Superintendent a written charge and a summary of the evidence supporting such charge.

2. The Principal shall serve the student and the student's parents or guardian with a written notice by registered or certified mail or personal service within two school days of the date of the decision to recommend long-term suspension or expulsion. The notice shall include the following:
  - a. The rule or standard of conduct allegedly violated and the acts of the student alleged to constitute a cause for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, including a summary of the evidence to be presented against the student;
  - b. The penalty, if any, which the principal has recommended in the charge and any other penalty to which the student may be subject;
  - c. A statement that, before long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment for disciplinary purposes can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, on the specified charges;
  - d. A description of the hearing procedures provided by the act, along with procedures for appealing any decision rendered at the hearing;
  - e. A statement that the principal, legal counsel for the school, the student, the student's parent, or the student's representative or guardian has the right (i) to examine the student's academic and disciplinary records and any affidavits to be used at the hearing concerning the alleged misconduct and (ii) to know the identity of the witnesses to appear at the hearing and the substance of their testimony; and
  - f. A form on which the student, the student's parent, or the student's guardian may request a hearing, to be signed by such parties and delivered to the principal or superintendent in person or by registered or certified mail.
3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested

or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.

4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below.
6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below, except that the time constraints set forth may differ as provided by law and this policy. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

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

### **Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement**

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

1. The violation includes possession of a firearm;

2. The violation results in child abuse;
3. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that the administration believes cannot be adequately addressed solely by discipline from the school district;
4. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that endangers the health and welfare of staff or students;
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes;
6. The report is required or requested by law enforcement or the county attorney.

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Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**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 generally 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 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:

- Industrial Technology Classes                      \$15.00
- Art Classes    \$10.00
- High School FCS    \$15.00
- Band    \$10.00
- Outdoor Education – Middle School              \$25.00
- Middle School Honor Choir – if selected        \$25.00
- Elementary After School Program                \$10.00

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Fee - \$5.00

**5. 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 \$20.00  
*Covers admission to most regular season athletic events*
  
- Student participation fee \$20.00  
*Required of all students who participate in athletics and/or other extracurricular activities (Pay only one fee per year)*
  
- Middle School Builders Club \$ 1.00
  
- 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, Soccer and Basketball students must provide their own shoes and undergarments
  
- FFA, FCCLA, FBLA, Key Club, Skills USA Dues student pay dues of \$20.00 per activity

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- Dance and Cheerleading

Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group.

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## 6. 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.

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## 7. 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.

## 8. 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.

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

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

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these services shall be \$3.00 per day.

## 10. 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.

## 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 and marching band shoes.
- Show Choir Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group.

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## **12. 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.

### **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. 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.

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**G. Student Fee Hearing**

Annually the Board of Education of The School District of Seward will hold a public hearing on the student fee policy. Such hearing will include a review of the amount of money collected from students and uses of said fees.

Adopted on: June 9, 2014  
Revised on: June 13, 2016, August 13, 2018  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6035  
Audio and Video Recording**

Students and their parents or guardians should assume that any class in which students are enrolled may be recorded by the school district or other students for legitimate educational purposes. Recordings permitted pursuant to this policy may only be used by students for personal academic purposes and may not be republished without additional, written consent from a school administrator. For purposes of this policy "recording" includes still photographs, video, audio, and other similar data captured in any medium.

**Recordings Made by The District.** The district may use cameras or other devices for purposes of making security, safety, or other recordings without a specific purpose or for a specific purpose when such recordings are deemed necessary or appropriate by the administration. The district will not maintain the recordings unless the recording is purposefully copied and saved, and the recordings will only be available for review for a limited time based on the district's then-current recording capacity. The district administrators estimate that this is approximately 10 days but may change at any time.

**Classroom Recordings by Staff.** Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator.

**Prohibited Recordings by Students.** Unless otherwise authorized by this policy or law, students are prohibited from making audio or

video recordings during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, unless the recording is made in a manner permitted by the school for members of the public.

In such an instance, the students remain subject to the district's appropriate use and student discipline policies.

For example, this policy does not prohibit students from making recordings of an athletic event for their personal use similar to a parent or other patron, subject to other applicable board policy. However, this policy generally prohibits students from using smart-speakers or other devices which actively or passively create or transmit audio or video recordings, including Google Home, Amazon Alexa, Apple HomePod, and AngelSense devices.

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**Permitted Classroom Recordings by Students.** Students may make audio or video recordings of classroom lectures or discussions:

- (1) For their convenience after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher's permission;
- (2) For the benefit of another student who is absent after providing notice to the classroom teacher and receiving the teacher's permission;
- (3) If recording is necessary to accommodate the student's disability and is required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

Staff may revoke permission to record if the recording distracts from or disrupts the classroom environment, unless the recording is necessary to accommodate a student's disability.

**Permitted Non-classroom Recordings.** Students may make audio or video recordings otherwise prohibited by this policy outside the classroom only with the permission of a teacher or school administrator, provided that such recordings otherwise comply with any applicable state and federal laws and district policy. In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy.

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

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

## 6006

### Commencement Ceremony

The district shall conduct a commencement ceremony for members of the senior class at the end of the school year. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right, and the superintendent or his/her designee may prohibit students who have violated conduct rules from participating in the ceremony as a consequence for the misconduct.

Only those students who have completed all graduation requirements (i.e., completed the required coursework or achieved the goals set in the student's individual education plan) will be allowed to participate in commencement exercises.

Students who graduate from the School District of Seward must accumulate 235 hours. The total graduation requirements must include the following core curriculum:

Language Arts - - 45 hours

    Language Arts and English Classes – 40 hours

    Speech – 5 hours

Science - - 20 hours **(30 hours starting with the class of 2015)**

Mathematics - - 30 hours

Technology - - 5 hours

Vocational - - 5 hours

Social Science - - 35 hours

Physical Education - - 15 hours

Fine Arts or Foreign Language - - 5 hours

Personal Finance – 5 hours

Volunteer Service – 30 clock hours

The student handbook and registration book will list the core classes and the elective classes that are available.

## Early Graduation Plan

The School District of Seward supports the concept of early completion which is their senior year midterm or in some cases alternative high school as a means of accelerating students toward the achievement of lifetime plans. The following guidelines have been established for students to be eligible for early completion:

1. Students must meet all completion requirements established by the Board of Education in order to be eligible for early graduation as well as the credit hour requirements in each specific subject matter area.
2. A student who decides to opt for early graduation or completion is not eligible to participate in school sponsored activities following the last day he/she attends classes. The effective date for participation will end with the last day that the student is enrolled in classes. The only school activities that the applicant is eligible for will be the regularly scheduled graduation ceremony and the jr/sr prom.
3. This policy shall be evaluated annually by the high school principal and appropriate revisions shall be recommended to the Board for its consideration.

Adopted on: June 14, 2010

Revised on: July 11, 2011

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

Delete/Move the following Policies:

6008- Class Rank

Move Policy 4001 to 3053 and Delete Policy 4001-

**2017**  
**Indemnification and Liability Insurance**

In addition to circumstances where it is obligated to provide indemnity or procure insurance, the school board has broad authority to purchase insurance or otherwise indemnify school board members, officers, employees, or agents of the school district. The school board will purchase liability insurance and provide indemnification at its discretion and review its current coverages and indemnification obligations when it deems appropriate.

In the event the school district's current insurance, indemnification agreements, contract obligations, or other promises to indemnify do not cover a situation which the school board can agree to cover, the school board may authorize indemnification. The school board may elect to indemnify any board member, officer, agent, or employee if he or she is a party or is threatened to be made a party in any pending or completed suit, proceeding, or any other action, whether criminal, civil, administrative, or investigative, if the individual is involved because of current or past service on the board, employment, or agency relationship with the school district. However, the indemnification and defense will only be considered if such person acted in good faith and in a manner he or she reasonably believed to be in the best interests or not opposed to the best interests of the school district, including in a criminal proceeding if he or she had no reasonable cause to believe the conduct was unlawful.

In circumstances involving employees, the board delegates to the Superintendent the authority to provide the indemnification to the extent the Superintendent is authorized to procure legal services, as long as the indemnification is otherwise consistent with the authority granted under the law.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

## **Opioid Overdose Prevention and Response**

The district will maintain an opioid antagonist in its schools, specifically naloxone, otherwise known by its brand name Narcan. Pursuant to Nebraska law and the Naloxone Standing Order issued by the Nebraska DHHS, Division of Public Health, the board will permit school nurses, trained school staff, or other individuals qualified by law to administer naloxone to any person at school or a school event displaying symptoms of an opioid overdose.

This policy shall not create a duty on the part of the school district and/or its personnel to administer naloxone. School representatives will not administer naloxone under the following circumstances:

- a. Naloxone is not available during the overdose emergency;
- b. There is no individual available who is qualified to administer naloxone; or
- c. School representatives are uncertain as to whether an opioid overdose is occurring.

Nothing in this policy is intended to regulate, restrict or otherwise deter a law enforcement officer, emergency medical technician, volunteer fire fighter, licensed medical professional or other authorized individual from administering his/her own supply of naloxone when responding in good faith to a suspected drug overdose occurring on school district property or at a school-sponsored event.

**Procurement and Storage.** The superintendent, in consultation with the school's nursing staff, will make the necessary arrangements to obtain naloxone. The naloxone will be stored unlocked in the nurses' office(s). The superintendent, in consultation with the school's nursing staff, will reorder naloxone.

Naloxone that is nearing its expiration date will be replaced. The school nurse shall maintain a log of naloxone supplies consistent with the district's practices for logging other medications.

**Training.** Licensed health care professionals and school resource officers employed on the high school and middle school levels shall all complete an approved naloxone training prior to carrying and/or administering naloxone. Other school staff members may be trained as determined by the administration. Once trained, staff members shall review the DHHS standing order and applicable naloxone administration protocols as needed.

**Recordkeeping and Reporting.** Any individual who administers naloxone on behalf of the school district will promptly notify the building principal and superintendent of the facts and circumstances surrounding the drug overdose incident. The administration of naloxone to any student will be documented in his/her cumulative health record. The administration of naloxone to any staff member will be documented in his/her personnel file.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**3052**

### **Leasing Personal Property**

#### **I. Leases of Personal Property by the District**

##### **A. Applicability of this policy.**

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

This policy applies to all other leases of personal property made by the school district other than construction, remodeling, repair and site improvements.

##### **B. General Leasing Policy**

1. The school district's budget shall be the guide for all leases of personal property. Any leases of personal property must be approved by the board or superintendent.
2. The board intends to lease competitively, whenever possible, without prejudice and to seek maximum educational value for every dollar expended.

3. The leasing of equipment and other goods shall be centralized in the administration office under the supervision of the superintendent of schools, who shall be responsible for developing and administering the leasing program of the school district.
4. Leases of personal property or commitments of district funds that are not authorized by this policy will be the responsibility of the person making the commitment.
5. No board member, employee, volunteer, parent-teacher organization, or other individual or entity may use a school district account, its tax identification number, or its tax exemption to make personal leases of any kind or for any reason.

### **C. Leasing Procedures**

1. School personnel must secure the approval of the board or superintendent before entering into a lease for personal property.
2. For lease of more than \$ [REDACTED], the district will secure written quotes and/or estimates from a reasonable number of vendors. The district will lease from a responsible vendor with the lowest price unless the board approves the lease from the more expensive vendor.

### **D. Relations with Vendors**

1. The board wishes to maintain good working relations with vendors who lease equipment, goods, and other personal property to the school system. The school shall not extend favoritism to any vendors. Each lease shall be entered into on the basis of quality, price and delivery, with past experiences being a factor if all other considerations are equal.
2. No lease shall be made that violates any conflict of interest policy or law.
3. The board believes in patronizing local businesses. Consequently, when proposals are judged to be equal in terms of quality, price, and/or service, the lease will be awarded to the firm that is located within the district. However, the board will not sacrifice either quality or economy to patronize local businesses.

## **II. Lease of District-Owned Personal Property to Others**

**A. Personal Property Valued at No More Than \$\_\_\_\_\_**

If the Superintendent determines that any personal property that is owned by the school district and has a fair market value of no more than \$\_\_\_\_\_ is not needed for school district use, the Superintendent may enter into a lease agreement for a period no longer than the period of time during which such property is not needed for school purposes and in no event longer than \_\_\_\_\_ days. The Superintendent is authorized to determine the terms and conditions of the lease of this district-owned personal property, provided however that Superintendent will avoid leasing such personal property at a rate that is significantly lower than the fair market value for comparable rentals of similar personal property. At Superintendent's discretion, Superintendent may require lessors of this district-owned personal property to furnish property and liability insurance covering lessors use of such property.

**B. Personal Property Valued in Excess of \$\_\_\_\_\_**

If the board of education determines that any personal property that is owned by the school district and has a fair market value of at least \$\_\_\_\_\_ is not needed for school district use, the board may lease such property, or portion thereof, upon such terms and conditions as it determines.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**3054**

**Law Enforcement Unit**

The board is committed to providing a safe environment conducive to learning for members of the school community. In furtherance of this commitment, the board designates [insert designated individual(s) or department/offices here] to act as the district's Law Enforcement Unit.

**Authority of the Law Enforcement Unit.** The law enforcement unit is officially authorized to:

- Enforce any local, State, or Federal law, or refer to appropriate authorities a matter for enforcement of any local, State, or Federal law against; *and*
- Maintain the physical security and safety of the district

In maintaining the physical security and safety of the district, the law enforcement unit may employ surveillance or other safety or security equipment in compliance with state and federal law. The law enforcement unit is responsible for the maintenance and security of any such equipment.

**Records of the Law Enforcement Unit.** All records created and maintained by the law enforcement unit for a law enforcement purpose are considered law enforcement unit records. This would include any records produced by surveillance or other safety or security equipment employed by the law enforcement unit to maintain the physical security and safety of the district.

Law enforcement unit records must be maintained by the law enforcement unit until the unit determines the records may be destroyed. The law enforcement unit is responsible for maintaining law enforcement unit records separate and apart from the student records maintained by the district pursuant to the board's policy regarding student records.

Law enforcement unit records may only be disclosed with the authorization of the Superintendent or his/her designee. Only copies of law enforcement unit records may be disclosed, and the original must be retained by the law enforcement unit and will continue to be considered a law enforcement unit record.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Board of Education Study Session**

School District of Seward

410 South Street

Seward, NE 68434

Monday, June 10, 2019 5:30 PM

Attendance Taken at 5:32 PM.

Paul Duer: Absent

Jill Hochstein: Present

Jana Hughes: Present

Jerry Rumery: Present

Ryne Seaman: Present

Danielle Shipley: Present

Attendance Update Taken at 5:40 PM.

Paul Duer: Present

1. Preliminary Procedures

1.1. Call meeting to order & announce Open Meetings Act is Posted

1.2. Public Notice as publicized per board policy

1.3. Roll Call

1.3.1. Action to excuse board members if necessary

Motion to excuse Paul Duer from tonight's meeting Passed with a motion by Jill Hochstein and a second by Danielle Shipley.

Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

2. Possible Discussion Items

2.1. Summer Projects

Dr. Fields discussed the bus barn project and the need for a special use permit. RFP's have been sent out for the storage building, door access and the video intercom systems. The gym floor at the high school is complete. The english hallway and industrial technology space is ready for remodel. We have received bids for milling down and sealcoating the east parking lot at the high school. Tom and Dr. Fields will look at the concrete projects and get bids for the July meeting. Dr. Fields discussed the light poles at the high school football field. Marty Telecky discussed the use of the bus video camera.

2.2. 2019-2020 Student Handbooks

Dr. Fields discussed the building handbooks and changes.

2.3. Joint Meeting on affordable housing

Dr. Fields discussed the joint meeting on affordable housing that the board attended the end of May.

### 3. Adjournment

President Seaman adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Prepared by:  
Heidi Covert

Paul Duer  
Secretary

**Board of Education Regular Meeting**  
School District of Seward  
410 South Street  
Seward, NE 68434  
Monday, June 10, 2019 7:00 PM

Attendance Taken at 7:05 PM.

Paul Duer: Present  
Jill Hochstein: Present  
Jana Hughes: Present  
Jerry Rumery: Present  
Ryne Seaman: Present  
Danielle Shipley: Present

1. Preliminary Procedures

1.1. Call meeting to order & announce Open Meetings Act is Posted

1.2. Public Notice as publicized per board policy

1.3. Roll Call

1.3.1. Action to excuse board members if necessary

1.4. Pledge of Allegiance

1.5. Mission Statement-The school district of Seward --where every student, every day is a success -- affirms that all students will have the skills to become productive and contributing members of a global community. In cooperation with family and community members, the district is committed to the development of each student academically, emotionally, socially, and physically.

1.6. Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Jerry Rumery and a second by Paul Duer.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

1.7. Alternative School Graduation

Jaelyn Armentrout completed the requirements at the Alternative School and received her high school diploma from President Seaman.

2. Student Fees Hearing-Review Fees and receipted and expensed during the 2018-2019 school year and request input from the public in regard to potential policy changes.

There was no input from the public.

3. Public Forum: (The Board President reserves the right to place time limits on individuals and topics.)

3.1. Public Forum on Agenda Items: This is your opportunity to speak to items on the agenda. If you are not a part of the presentation of the agenda item you need to speak now. Thank you for your participation.

There was none.

3.2. Public Forum on Any Topic: This is your opportunity to speak to any topic concerning the school district. Since it is not an agenda item the board cannot discuss or take action at this time on the matter. Future discussion can be requested as an agenda item. Thank you for your participation.

There was none.

#### 4. Reports

##### 4.1. Administrator Reports

Written reports were received from the administrators.

##### 4.1.1. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Fields talked about legislature from this year - budget and property tax relief. Administrator data day is scheduled for June 18, 2019. On June 10, 2019 Farm Credit had volunteers come to the Seward Community and work on 4 projects in town. Aurora Cooperative has pledged \$10,000.00 to the Agronomy Academy. Kiwanis Club donated \$1,500.00 to the Agronomy Academy. Dr. Fields discussed the start date for the 2020-2021 school year.

#### 5. Discussion Items

#### 6. Old Business

#### 7. New Business

##### 7.1. Employee Assistance Plan

Motion to enter a contract with EAP, LLC for six sessions per employee up to twelve sessions per family for \$20.00 per employee for the 2019-2020 school year. Passed with a motion by Danielle Shipley and a second by Jana Hughes.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

##### 7.2. REI Cameras and Installation of Bus Cameras

Motion to approve six new bus cameras and installation from REI for \$14,630.40. Passed with a motion by Paul Duer and a second by Jill Hochstein.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

##### 7.3. Asphalt repair and sealcoating

Motion to accept the bid from NL Driveway Maintenance for \$15,068 for the repair and sealcoat of the the high school east parking lot. Passed with a motion by Jana Hughes and a second by Paul Duer.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

##### 7.4. Lunch and Breakfast Prices 2019-2020

Motion to approve a \$.10 increase to the breakfast and lunch prices for the 2019-2020 school year. Passed with a motion by Jana Hughes and a second by Jill Hochstein.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

#### 7.5. High School Football Light Poles and Lights

Motion to approve the bid for option 1 and 2 from Wattselectric to replace light poles and lights and or fixtures for a total of \$26,687.50. Passed with a motion by Paul Duer and a second by Jana Hughes.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

### 8. Personnel

#### 8.1. Classified Staff

Motion to approve the wages and benefits package for classified staff for the 2019-2020 school year. Passed with a motion by Paul Duer and a second by Jerry Rumery.

Ryne Seaman: Abstain (With Conflict), Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

#### 8.2. Middle Management and Administrator Wages and Benefits

Motion to approve the wages and benefits package for middle management and administrators for the 2019-2020 school year. Passed with a motion by Jill Hochstein and a second by Danielle Shipley.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

#### 8.3. Dr. Fields contract for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion to approve the contract for Dr. Josh Fields for the 2019-2020 school year. Passed with a motion by Paul Duer and a second by Jill Hochstein.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

### 9. Future Agenda Items

Policy updates

RFP approvals

### 10. Consent Agenda

#### 10.1. Approval of Minutes

#### 10.2. Approval of Financial Reports

##### 10.2.1. Treasurer

##### 10.2.2. Budget

##### 10.2.3. Activities

##### 10.2.4. Athletic

#### 10.3. Approval of Claims

10.3.1. General Fund - \$1,615,946.30

10.3.2. Bond Fund - \$132,602.50

10.3.3. Qualified Capital Purpose Undertaking Fund - \$6,961.25

10.3.4. Depreciation Fund - \$8,308.00

10.3.5. Unemployment Fund - \$6.27

10.4. Approval of Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the consent agenda as presented Passed with a motion by Jerry Rumery and a second by Jill Hochstein.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 PM with the next study session and regular board meeting scheduled for Monday, July 8th at 5:30 and 7:00 PM Passed with a motion by Jana Hughes and a second by Paul Duer.

Paul Duer: Yea, Jill Hochstein: Yea, Jana Hughes: Yea, Jerry Rumery: Yea, Ryne Seaman: Yea, Danielle Shipley: Yea

Prepared by:  
Heidi Covert

Paul Duer  
Secretary

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE MONTH  
ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

**GENERAL FUND (ACCOUNT NUMBER 100-172)**

Bank Balance		3,520,018.09
Bob Dahms--Local Taxes	1,275,028.34	
Karey Adamy--Local Taxes	104,937.45	
Seward Hot Lunch--Reimbursement	75,764.54	
EMC Insurance--light pole claim	11,958.70	
Trevor Svoboda--Preschool	198.00	
Devon Luebbe--Preschool	195.00	
Amanda Murman--Preschool	105.00	
Jennifer Koranda--Preschool	105.00	
Rusty Sugden--Preschool	216.00	
Jordan Daro--Preschool	78.00	
Jennifer Nantkes--Preschool	147.00	
Jamie Pollak--Preschool	204.00	
Tammi Dietz--Preschool	204.00	
Hannah Dorrell--Preschool	216.00	
Jacke Vanis--Sale of Junk	50.00	
City of Seward--Fines	5.00	
SHS--GBB Camp	570.03	
SHS--BBB Camp	596.40	
Tyson Frankling--lost calculator	13.00	
Bri Schulz--lost book	32.00	
SMS--Lance Todd Track	1,701.83	
ESU #4--Stipend	126.00	
ESU #6--Carl Perkins	684.80	
Sadoff Iron & Metal Co--sale of junk	31.90	
Evelyn Luebbe--Boards & Posts	140.00	
Twan Van Der Heijden--Boards & Posts	60.00	
Andrew Van Engelenhoven--Boards & Posts	300.00	
Connie Biaggio--Reimbursement	7.00	
State of Nebraska--Medicaid	1,192.01	
State of Nebraska--Medicaid	3,434.23	
State of Nebraska--GMS Title I 6200	27,063.00	
State of Nebraska--Assessment/Accountability	135.64	
State of Nebraska--State Aid	23,356.00	
Jones Bank - Interest	497.92	
		<u>1,529,353.79</u>
Disbursements for the Month -----		5,049,371.88
Bank Balance-----		1,280,343.40
Less Outstanding Checks -----		3,769,028.48
Available Balance -----		<u>425,355.72</u>
		<u>3,343,672.76</u>

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE MONTH  
ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

GENERAL RESERVE FUND (ACCOUNT NUMBER 461-170)

Beginning Balance -----	1,071,438.80
Transfer to General Fund for Cash Flow Purposes -----	0.00
Interest -----	<u>545.99</u>
Bank Balance -----	<u>1,071,984.79</u>

CD #47286 CNB--Interest Rate:2.72%-Maturity Date 08/01/2019	1,500,000.00
CD #47219 CNB--Interest Rate: 2.71%--Maturity Date 07/02/2019	<u>1,000,771.44</u>
	2,500,771.44

**TOTAL IN GENERAL RESERVE FUND 3,572,756.23**

DEPRECIATION FUND (ACCOUNT NUMBER 154--006)

Beginning Account Balance -----	193,885.92
Deposits: Cattle Bank Interest-----	0.00
Disbursements: -----	<u>8,308.00</u>
Interest-----	<u>25.22</u>
Bank Balance -----	<u>185,603.14</u>

CD#47203--CNB--2.72% DATE DUE 08/08/2019-----	545,142.55
CD#47220-CNB--2.71% DATE DUE 07/02/2019-----	<u>760,320.83</u>

TOTAL CD'S 1,305,463.38

**TOTAL IN DEPRECIATION FUND ACCOUNTS 1,491,066.52**

SPECIAL BUILDING FUND (ACCOUNT NUMBER 10-074-9)

Beginning Balance -----	1,737,129.83
Deposits: Bob Dahms--Local Taxes-----	45,103.71
Karey Adamy--Loal Taxes-----	3,949.74
Cattle Bank - Interest-----	0.00
Disbursements -----	<u>0.00</u>
Interest-----	<u>408.79</u>
Bank Balance -----	<u>1,786,592.07</u>

CD#47218-CNB-2.71% DATE DUE 07/02/2019-----	<u>233,941.59</u>
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**TOTAL IN SPECIAL BUILDING FUND ACCOUNTS 2,020,533.66**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE MONTH  
ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

**UNEMPLOYMENT FUND ACCOUNT (ACCT # 473-633)**

Beginning Balance -----	31,680.75
Interest -----	5.08
Disbursements -----	<u>1,797.15</u>
Bank Balance -----	<u>29,888.68</u>

**GIFTS AND DONATIONS (ACCT # 162036)**

Beginning Balance -----	28,152.86
Interest -----	3.59
Deposit: Propelr -----	72.11
Disbursements -----	<u>0.00</u>
Bank Balance -----	<u>28,228.56</u>

**QUALITY CAPITAL PURPOSE UNDERTAKING FUND (ACCT #640-822)**

Beginning Balance -----	144,310.61
Bob Dahms & Karey Adamy --Local Taxes -----	13,970.25
Interest -----	19.10
Disbursements -----	<u>6,961.25</u>
Bank Balance -----	<u>151,338.71</u>

**BOARD REVOLVING FUND (ACCOUNT NUMBER 159-913)**

Beginning Balance -----	14,501.66
Deposits: SPS -----	0.00
Interest -----	1.84
Disbursements -----	<u>289.08</u>
Bank Balance -----	<u>14,214.42</u>

**HOT LUNCH FUND (ACCOUNT # 10 353 5)**

Beginning Balance -----	170,705.26
Interest -----	30.11
State of NE Payments -----	19,884.40
Other Receipts -----	351.76
Disbursements -----	<u>75,880.79</u>
Bank Balance -----	115,090.74
Amount Due District -----	<u>26,462.96</u>
Available Balance -----	<u>88,627.78</u>

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
TREASURER'S REPORT  
FOR THE MONTH  
ENDED JUNE 30, 2019**

**STUDENT FEE FUND (ACCOUNT #668-157)**

Beginning Balance -----	1,291.26
Receipts: Seward High School Activity Fund -----	0.00
Interest -----	0.00
Disbursements-----	<u>0.00</u>
Bank Balance -----	<u>1,291.26</u>

**BOND FUND (ACCOUNT #60000586)**

Beginning Balance-----	974,359.72
Bob Dahms - Taxes-----	155,838.64
Karey Adamy - Taxes-----	13,650.19
Jones Bank - Interest-----	4,520.08
Interest-----	130.72
Disbursements-----	<u>132,602.50</u>
Bank Balance -----	<u>1,015,896.85</u>

CD#47307--CNB RATE OF 2.68 DATE DUE 11/29/2019-----	<u>350,000.00</u>
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<b>TOTAL IN BOND FUND ACCOUNT</b>	<b>1,365,896.85</b>
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**Heidi Covert, Treasurer**

**BUDGET PRINTOUT  
RECAPITULATION  
JUNE 30, 2019**

**RECEIPTS PORTION OF THE 2018-2019 BUDGET**

	AMOUNT BUDGETED	AMOUNT RECEIVED	AMOUNT REMAINING	% RECEIVED TO DATE
RECEIPTS	19,546,817.00	15,548,907.69	3,997,909.31	79.55%
HOT LUNCH		<u>706,657.19</u>		
TOTAL RECEIPTS		16,255,564.88	3,291,252.12	

**EXPENDITURES PORTION OF THE 2018-2019 BUDGET**

CATEGORY	BUDGET	SPENT	REMAINING	% EXPENDED
REG INSTRUCTION	9,400,000.00	6,993,569.53	2,406,430.47	74.40%
SPECIAL ED	3,600,000.00	2,186,996.18	1,413,003.82	60.75%
SS--PUPILS	475,817.00	806,173.76	-330,356.76	169.43%
SS-INSTRUCTION	550,000.00	387,673.53	162,326.47	70.49%
GENERAL ADM	405,000.00	249,229.46	155,770.54	61.54%
PRIN ADMIN	850,000.00	804,295.66	45,704.34	94.62%
GEN BUSINESS	275,000.00	311,788.70	-36,788.70	113.38%
OPER/MAINT	2,200,000.00	1,285,539.87	914,460.13	58.43%
TRANSPORTATION	860,000.00	645,240.21	214,759.79	75.03%
FOUNDATION	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00	0.00%
TRANSFERS	200,000.00	2,450.00	197,550.00	1.23%
GEN FUND TOTALS	18,821,817.00	13,672,956.90	5,148,860.10	72.64%
FEDERAL FUNDS	725,000.00	491,597.45	233,402.55	67.81%
SIXPENCE		77,437.40		
GRAND TOTAL	19,546,817.00	14,241,991.75	5,304,825.25	72.86%
HOT LUNCH	850,000.00	680,221.83		
TOTAL	20,396,817.00	14,922,213.58		

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
PROPOSED WARRANTS  
JULY 8, 2019**

Salaries from June	Salaries	514,479.04
Jones Bank	FIT/FICA	12,576.68
Jones Bank	FIT/FICA	153,904.19
Five Points Bank	Lease	180.00
Nebraska Child Support Payment Ctr	Garnishment	1,525.00
Mass Mutual	Annuity	13,908.00
Jones Bank	FIT/FICA	9,171.33
NPERS	Retirement	146,170.01
Nebraska Department of Revenue	State Tax	26,612.59
Pay Flex	Section 125	11,999.07
AA Leupold & Son Inc	Maintenance	7,992.00
Ahern	Maintenance	845.00
Aldrich, Sharon	Mileage	88.11
Amazon	Supplies	2,271.60
American Union Ventures	Other	660.07
Americom	Maintenance	190.00
Auto-Jet Muffler Corp	Transportation	157.09
Awards Unlimited Inc	Supplies	117.93
Bern's Body Shop	Transportation	1,609.11
Biaggio, Connie	Mileage	689.65
Blevens Law Office	Retainer Fee	200.00
BlueCross BlueShield	Health Insurance	175,890.78
Blue Valley Community Action	Sixpence	30,939.14
Bohaty, Marilyn	Title IIA	85.17
Brandenburgh, Celeste	Staff Development	9.67
Canon Financial Services	Lease	1,141.00
Capital Business Systems, Inc	Lease	688.05
Card Services	Maintenance	532.96
CDW-G	Supplies	14,301.14
Centerpoint	Utilities	2,769.34
Central Nebraska Rehabilitation Services	Pupil Services	1,584.45
City of Seward Utility Dept	Utilities	24,478.80
Cornhusker Cleaning Supply	Transportation	86.70
Cornhusker International	Transportation	488.50
Crane, Lisa	Title IIA	85.17
Culligan	Maintenance	35.00
DAS State Accounting	Distance Learning	229.49
Diesel Specialties of Omaha	Transportation	455.52
Echo Group Inc	Maintenance	249.01
ESU 6	ESU Expense	64,973.44
Engineered Controls	Maintenance	2,652.80
Ferguson, Jill	Staff Development	400.00
FES	Technology	2,750.00
Fredrick, Craig	Agronomy Academy	145.00
Frisbie, Dan	Supplies	185.80
Global Equipment Company Inc	Equipment	168.72
Godfather's Pizza	Board Expense	76.96
Gottschalk, Kirk	Mileage	31.15
Grainger	Maintenance	27.20
Hartung, Ciera	Other	130.00
Heinemann	Supplies	409.00
Hillyard	Maintenance	203.00

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
PROPOSED WARRANTS  
JULY 8, 2019**

Houghton Mifflin	HAL	202.95
Hoxmeier, Alissa	Title IIA	85.17
I-Blason, LLC	Technology	1,290.00
Insect Lore	Supplies	30.78
Johnson, Jill	Telephone	225.90
Kenney, Amanda	Mileage	72.07
KSB School Law	Legal Fees	813.00
Kully Supply	Equipment	1,700.13
LaQuinta	Travel & Mileage	1,049.50
Madison National Life	LTD Insurance	2,507.15
Matheson	Supplies	387.60
Meehl, Jan	Pupil Services	1,277.94
Meister, Jody	Title IIA	85.17
MHCS	Transportation	183.00
Menards	Maintenance	71.00
Midwest Floor Covering, Inc	Maintenance	2,796.00
Milford High School	Books	60.00
Nantkes, Jen	Pupil Services	816.57
NASCD	Staff Development	440.00
Nebraska Council of School Admin	Staff Development	906.00
Nebraska Equipment	Repairs	43.58
Nebraska Landscape Solutions	Maintenance	1,115.64
Nebraska Safety Center	Drivers Education	3,750.00
OMNI Behavioral Health	Title I	4,728.00
One Call Now	Technology	2,251.13
One Source	Admin Expense	110.00
Paper Tiger	Other	135.30
Presto-X	Maintenance	178.00
Quill	Supplies	113.99
Ray, Denise	Title IIA	85.15
Reed Electric	Maintenance	480.00
S & S Worldwide	Supplies	492.75
Sack Lumber	Maintenance	96.68
School District of Seward HS Activity Fund	Furniture	50.00
School Specialty	Supplies	564.12
Seward County Independent	Advertising	1,248.92
Shaffer Communications, Inc	Transportation	432.75
Sherwin Williams	Maintenance	1,268.28
SitSpots	Supplies	59.98
Todd, Lori	Staff Development	14.25
Twin Rivers Urgent Care LLC	Transportation	95.00
Unite Private Networks	Distance Learning	1,401.04
Unity School Bus Parts	Transportation	298.69
Unum	Life Insurance	525.60
Uribe	Maintenance	1,740.00
Verizon	Telephone	161.10
Warriner, Laura	Title IIA	85.17
Windham Professionals	Garnishment	536.00
Windstream	Telephone	2,138.13

**TOTAL GENERAL FUND CLAIMS**

**1,270,748.61**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
PROPOSED WARRANTS  
JULY 8, 2019**

**ADDITIONAL CLAIMS**

ASCD	Dues & Fees	99.00
CDW-G	Equip/Furn	1,705.83
Computers Etc	Supplies	3,665.34
Farmer's Coop	Transportation	1,597.01
Follett School Solutions	Books	1,449.62
Goodheart-Willcox Publisher	Books	2,501.43
John Deere Financial	Repairs	299.14
Johnson Controls	Maintenance	572.00
JourneyEd.com Inc	Software	3,223.85
Lab-Aids	Supplies	390.88
Lakeshore	Supplies	1,494.85
Learning without Tears	Software	1,641.40
LittleBits	HAL	4,746.71
McGraw Hill	Textbooks	142.06
Midwest Auto Parts, Inc	Transportation	192.70
Midwest Automotive Inc	Maintenance	274.15
Nasco	Equipment	3,163.76
O'Reilly Automotive, Inc	Transportation	252.68
Pac N Save	Food	1,125.32
Pac N Save	Maintenance	200.44
Payflex	Section 125	209.10
School Outfitters	Furniture	2,368.22
Seward Lumber	Maintenance	168.43
Software Unlimited	Software	3,600.00
Time Warner Cable	Phone	84.98
Troxell	Equipment	288.63
Twin Rivers Health Care, LLC	Transportation	95.00
Virco	Furniture	954.84
Wells Fargo	Supplies	1,855.73
<b>TOTAL GENERAL FUND CLAIMS</b>		<b>1,309,111.71</b>
<b>TOTAL SPECIAL BUILDING FUND CLAIMS</b>		<b>19,823.00</b>
<b>TOTAL DEPRECIATION FUND CLAIMS</b>		<b>14,280.40</b>

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
PROPOSED DEPRECIATION FUND CLAIMS  
JULY 8, 2019**

**RADIO ENGINEERING INDUSTRIES**

**BUS CAMERAS**

**14,280.40**

**TOTAL 14,280.40**

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SEWARD  
PROPOSED SPECIAL BUILDING FUND CLAIMS  
JULY 8, 2019**

<b>EGAN SUPPLY CO</b>	<b>HS OLD GYM FLOOR</b>	<b>19,823.00</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19,823.00</b>
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