

SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes
Monday, June 15, 2026
7:05 PM
Sandhills High School Lecture Hall

Regular Board Meeting:

1. **Call to order**
The regular monthly meeting of the Sandhills Public Schools Board of Education is called to order on _____ at ____ p.m. in the Sandhills High School Lecture Hall by President Rory Zutavern
2. **Mission Statement**
"To develop **KNIGHTS**" **K**nowledgeable, **N**oble, **I**ndependent, **G**rateful, **H**onest, **T**enacious, and **S**uccessful citizens for an ever-changing world."
3. **Nebraska Open Meetings Law**
4. **Publication of Meetings**
5. **Roll Call**
A motion made by Jill Thompson, seconded by Dillon Simonson **If needed: to excuse Michelle Milleson absence. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea
6. **Pledge of Allegiance**
The pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Board and others in attendance.
7. **Approval of Agenda**
A motion made by Jill Thompson, seconded by Dillon Simonson A motion made by Jill Thompson, seconded by Dillon Simonson to approve the agenda : Yea, : Nay. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea
8. **Public Comment**
The Board sets aside time to hear comments or concerns from patrons.
9. **Consent Agenda**
A motion made by Reed Larsen, seconded by Jill Thompson A motion made by Reed Larsen, seconded by Jill Thompson to approve the consent agenda : Yea, : Nay. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea
 - 9.a. Approve the minutes of the May 11, 2026 regular board meeting
 - 9.b. Approve the Financial Report
 - 9.c. Approve the payment of bills
10. **Administrative Reports**

10.a. Activities Director's Report

10.b. Principal's Report

10.c. Superintendent

10.d. Board Committee Reports

11. Discussion Items

11.a. Transportation

The 2024 van still needs to go to Kansas City for the conversion approved in April. Dates are yet to be determined.

11.b. Report on facilities

Electrical upgrades at the high school have been completed. A final walk-through will be held the week of June 8.

12. Action Items

12.a. Review and approve meal prices for the 2026-2027 school year

A motion made by Reed Larsen, seconded by Dillon Simonson Review and approve meal prices for 2026-2027 school year motion made by Reed Larsen and second by Dillon Simonson. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea

12.b. Review and approval of snack program for the 2026-2027 school year

The snack program was continued last year at no cost to students. After review by NDE services, snacks are to be 'smart' snacks and if not charged to the student, the general fund needs to reimburse the school nutrition fund for that cost. The second semester's cost was just over \$1,000 for the high school. If estimated to include the elementary and both semesters, it would appear that the snack program costs the district an estimated \$4,000 per year. Options would include charging students for snacks, discontinuing the snack program, or some combination such as continuing the program at elementary and possibly not high school, charging or not for the snacks, or something else.

A motion made by Jeff Martindale, seconded by Dillon Simonson Review and approval of snack program for the 2026-2027 school to eliminate the snack program. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea A motion made by Jeff Martindale, seconded by Reed Larsen review and approval of snack program with the elimination of the snack program at the high school but continuing at the elementary.. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea

12.c. Approve contract with Emily Martindale for a 1.0 FTE position beginning September 9, 2026

A motion made by Dillon Simonson, seconded by Reed Larsen Approve contract with Emily Martindale for a 1.0 FTE position beginning September 9, 2026 motion

made by Dillon Simonson and second by Reed Larsen. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Abstain (With Conflict), Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea

- 12.d. Consider and adopt new Board Policy based on NASB and Perry Law Firm policies.

We are very close to having access to the new policies. However, I won't have them until later in the week of the board meeting. I need to do their training and should be able to do that in the next few days, so we should have access for sure before the July meeting. There are also several annual reviews and/or hearings for policies that we will need to complete before the beginning of the new year.

- 12.e. Review and adopt Student/Parent Handbook for the 2026-2027 school year Pending policy updates that will be available very shortly for things such as students fees, there are a few items that we want to be sure what is in the handbook will match policy.

A motion made by Jill Thompson, seconded by Reed Larsen Review and adopt Student/Parent Handbook for the 2026-2027 school year motion made by Jill Thompson and second motion made by Reed Larsen. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea

- 12.f. Review and adopt Sandhills Student ExtraCurricular Participation Handbook for the 2026-2027 school year.

A motion made by Jeff Martindale, seconded by Reed Larsen Review and adopt Sandhills Student ExtraCurricular Participation Handbook for the 2026-2027 school year motion made by Jeff Martindale and second by Jill Thompson. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea

13. Adjourn

NEBRASKA OPEN MEETINGS ACT

84-1407. Act, how cited. Sections 84-1407 to 84-1414 shall be known and may be cited as the Open Meetings Act.

84-1408. Declaration of intent; meetings open to public. It is hereby declared to be the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret.

Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of Nebraska, federal statutes, and the Open Meetings Act.

84-1409. Terms, defined. For purposes of the Open Meetings Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1)(a) Public body means (i) governing bodies of all political subdivisions of the State of Nebraska, (ii) governing bodies of all agencies, created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, of the executive department of the State of Nebraska, (iii) all independent boards, commissions, bureaus, committees, councils, subunits, or any other bodies created by the Constitution of Nebraska, statute, or otherwise pursuant to law, (iv) all study or advisory committees of the executive department of the State of Nebraska whether having continuing existence or appointed as special committees with limited existence, (v) advisory committees of the bodies referred to in subdivisions (i), (ii), and (iii) of this subdivision, and (vi) instrumentalities exercising essentially public functions; and

(b) Public body does not include (i) subcommittees of such bodies unless a quorum of the public body attends a subcommittee meeting or unless such subcommittees are holding hearings, making policy, or taking formal action on behalf of their parent body, except that all meetings of any subcommittee established under section 81-15,175 are subject to the Open Meetings Act, (ii) entities conducting judicial proceedings unless a court or other judicial body is exercising rulemaking authority, deliberating, or deciding upon the issuance of administrative orders, and (iii) the Judicial Resources Commission or subcommittees or subgroups of the commission;

(2) Meeting means all regular, special, or called meetings, formal or informal, of any public body for the purposes of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body; and

(3) Virtual conferencing means conducting or participating in a meeting electronically or telephonically with interaction among the participants subject to subsection (2) of section 84-1412.

84-1410. Closed session; when; purpose; reasons listed; procedure; right to challenge; prohibited acts; chance meetings, conventions, or workshops.

(1) Any public body may hold a closed session by the affirmative vote of a majority of its voting members if a closed session is clearly necessary for the protection of the public interest or for the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual and if such individual has not requested a public meeting. The subject matter and the reason necessitating the closed session shall be identified in the motion to close. Closed sessions may be held for, but shall not be limited to, such reasons as:

(a) Strategy sessions with respect to collective bargaining, real estate purchases, pending litigation, or litigation which is imminent as evidenced by communication of a claim or threat of litigation to or by the public body;

(b) Discussion regarding deployment of security personnel or devices;

(c) Investigative proceedings regarding allegations of criminal misconduct;

(d) Evaluation of the job performance of a person when necessary to prevent needless injury to the reputation of a person and if such person has not requested a public meeting;

(e) For the Community Trust created under section 81-1801.02, discussion regarding the amounts to be paid to individuals who have suffered from a tragedy of violence or natural disaster; or

(f) For public hospitals, governing board peer review activities, professional review activities, review and discussion of medical staff investigations or disciplinary actions, and any strategy session concerning transactional negotiations with any referral source that is required by federal law to be conducted at arms length.

Nothing in this section shall permit a closed meeting for discussion of the appointment or election of a new member to any public body.

(2) The vote to hold a closed session shall be taken in open session. The entire motion, the vote of each member on the question of holding a closed session, and the time when the closed session commenced and concluded shall be recorded in the minutes. If the motion to close passes, then the presiding officer immediately prior to the closed session shall restate on the record the limitation of the subject matter of the closed session. The public body holding such a closed session shall restrict its consideration of matters during the closed portions to only those purposes set forth in the motion to close as the reason for the closed session. The meeting shall be reconvened in open session before any formal action may be taken. For purposes of this section, formal action shall mean a collective decision or a collective commitment or promise to make a decision on any question, motion, proposal, resolution, order, or ordinance or formation of a position or policy but shall not include negotiating guidance given by members of the public body to legal counsel or other negotiators in closed sessions authorized under subdivision (1) (a) of this section.

(3) Any member of any public body shall have the right to challenge the continuation of a closed session if the member determines that the session has exceeded the reason stated in the original motion to hold a closed session or if the member contends that the closed session is neither clearly necessary for (a) the protection of the public interest or (b) the prevention of needless injury to the reputation of an individual. Such challenge shall be overruled only by a majority vote of the members of the public body. Such challenge and its disposition shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require that any meeting be closed to the public. No person or public body shall fail to invite a portion of its members to a meeting, and no public body shall designate itself a subcommittee of the whole body for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act. No closed session, informal meeting, chance meeting, social gathering, email, fax, or other electronic communication shall be used for the purpose of circumventing the requirements of the act.

(5) The act does not apply to chance meetings or to attendance at or travel to conventions or workshops of members of a public body at which there is no meeting of the body then intentionally convened, if there is no vote or other action taken regarding any matter over which the public body has supervision, control, jurisdiction, or advisory power.

84-1411. Meetings of public body; notice; method; contents; when available; right to modify; duties concerning notice; virtual conferencing authorized; requirements; emergency meeting without notice; appearance before public body.

(1) Until January 1, 2025:

(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (1)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committee, such notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village or such body's advisory committee or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be published by:

(A) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction and, if available, on such newspaper's website; or

(B) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district. Such notice shall be posted in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (1) (b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to timely publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, and (B) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

(c) In addition to a method of notice required by subdivision (1)(b) (i) or (ii) of this section, such notice may also be provided by any other appropriate method designated by such public body or such advisory committee.

(d) Each public body shall record the methods and dates of such notice in its minutes.

(e) Such notice shall contain an agenda of subjects known at the time of the publicized notice or a statement that the agenda, which shall be kept continually current, shall be readily available for public inspection at the principal office of the public body during normal business hours. Agenda items shall be sufficiently descriptive to give the public reasonable notice of the matters to be considered at the meeting. Except for items of an emergency nature, the agenda shall not be altered later than (i) twenty-four hours before the scheduled commencement of the meeting or (ii) forty-eight hours before the scheduled commencement of a meeting of a city council or village board scheduled outside the corporate limits of the municipality. The public body shall have the right to modify the agenda to include items of an emergency nature only at such public meeting.

(2) Beginning January 1, 2025:

(a) Each public body shall give reasonable advance publicized notice of the time and place of each meeting as provided in this subsection. Such notice shall be transmitted to all members of the public body and to the public.

(b)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (2)(b)(ii) of this section, in the case of a public body described in subdivision (1)(a)(i) of section 84-1409 or such body's advisory committees, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting to a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper.

(ii) In the case of the governing body of a city of the second class or village, any advisory committee of such governing body, or the governing body of a rural or suburban fire protection district, such notice shall be given by:

(A)(I) Publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction that is finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting, (II) posting on such newspaper's website, if available, and (III) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper;

(B)(I) Posting to the newspaper's website, if available, and (II) posting on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers if no edition of a newspaper of general circulation within the public body's jurisdiction is to be finalized for printing prior to the time and date of the meeting. Such notice shall be placed in the newspaper and on the websites by the newspaper; or

(C)(III) Posting written notice in three conspicuous public places in such city, village, or district. Such notice shall be posted by the public body in the same three places for each meeting.

(iii) In the case of a public body not described in subdivision (2) (b)(i) or (ii) of this section, such notice shall be given by a method designated by the public body.

(iv) In case of refusal, neglect, or inability of the newspaper to publish the notice, the public body shall (A) post such notice on its website, if available, (B) submit a post on a statewide website established and maintained as a repository for such notices by a majority of Nebraska newspapers, and (C) post such notice in a conspicuous public place in such public body's jurisdiction. The public body shall keep a written record of such posting. The record of such posting shall be evidence that such posting was done as required and shall be sufficient to fulfill the requirement of publication.

(3)(a) The following entities may hold a meeting by means of virtual conferencing if the requirements of subdivision (3)(b) of this section are met:

(i) A state agency, state board, state commission, state council, or state committee, or an advisory committee of any such state entity;

(ii) An organization, including the governing body, created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act, the Joint Public Agency Act, or the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act;

(iii) The governing body of a public power district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(iv) The governing body of a public power and irrigation district having a chartered territory of more than one county in this state;

(v) An educational service unit;

(vi) The Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council;

(vii) An organization, including the governing body, of a risk management pool or its advisory committees organized in accordance with the Intergovernmental Risk Management Act;

(viii) A community college board of governors;

(ix) The Nebraska Brand Committee;

(x) A local public health department;

(xi) A metropolitan utilities district;

(xii) A regional metropolitan transit authority; and

(xiii) A natural resources district.

(b) The requirements for holding a meeting by means of virtual conferencing are as follows:

(i) Reasonable advance publicized notice is given as provided in subsections (1) and (2) of this section, including providing access to a dial-in number or link to the virtual conference;

(ii) In addition to the public's right to participate by virtual conferencing, reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend at a physical site and participate as provided in section 84-1412, including reasonable seating, in at least one designated site in a building open to the public and identified in the notice, with: At least one member of the entity holding such meeting, or his or her designee, present at each site; a recording of the hearing by audio or visual recording devices; and a reasonable opportunity for input, such as public comment or questions, is provided to at least the same extent as would be provided if virtual conferencing was not used;

(iii) At least one copy of all documents being considered at the meeting is available at any physical site open to the public where individuals may attend the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act; and

(iv) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision or subsection (4) of section 79-2204, no more than one-half of the meetings of the state entities, advisory committees, boards, councils, organizations, or governing bodies are held by virtual conferencing in a calendar year. In the case of (a) an organization created under the Interlocal Cooperation Act that sells electricity or natural gas, (b) an organization created under the Municipal Cooperative Financing Act, (C) a governing body of a risk management pool and any advisory committee of such governing body, or (D) any advisory committee of any state entity created in response to the Opioid Prevention and Treatment Act, such organization, governing body, or committee may hold more than one-half of its meetings by virtual conferencing if such organization holds at least one meeting each calendar year that is not by virtual conferencing.

(4) Virtual conferencing, emails, faxes, or other electronic communication shall not be used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act.

(5) The secretary or other designee of each public body shall maintain a list of the news media requesting notification of meetings and shall make reasonable efforts to provide advance notification to them of the time and place of each meeting and the subjects to be discussed at that meeting.

(6) When it is necessary to hold an emergency meeting without reasonable advance public notice, the nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes and any formal action taken in such meeting shall pertain only to the emergency. Such emergency meetings may be held by virtual conferencing. The provisions of subsection (5) of this section shall be complied with in conducting emergency meetings. Complete minutes of such emergency meetings specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available to the public by no later than the end of the next regular business day.

(7) A public body may allow a member of the public or any other witness to appear before the public body by means of virtual conferencing.

(8)(a) Notwithstanding subsections (3) and (6) of this section, if an emergency is declared by the Governor pursuant to the Emergency Management Act as defined in section 81-829.39, a public body the territorial jurisdiction of which is included in the emergency declaration, in whole or in part, may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing during such emergency if the public body gives reasonable advance publicized notice as described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section. The notice shall include information regarding access for the public and news media. In addition to any formal action taken pertaining to the emergency, the public body may hold such meeting for the purpose of briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action by the public body.

(b) The public body shall provide access by providing a dial-in number or a link to the virtual conference. The public body shall also provide links to an electronic copy of the agenda, all documents being considered at the meeting, and the current version of the Open Meetings Act. Reasonable arrangements shall be made to accommodate the public's right to hear and speak at the meeting and record the meeting. Subsection (5) of this section shall be complied with in conducting such meetings.

(c) The nature of the emergency shall be stated in the minutes. Complete minutes of such meeting specifying the nature of the emergency and any formal action taken at the meeting shall be made available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of section

84-1413.

(9) In addition to any other statutory authorization for virtual conferencing, any public body not listed in subdivision (3)(a) of this section may hold a meeting by virtual conferencing if:

(a) The purpose of the virtual meeting is to discuss items that are scheduled to be discussed or acted upon at a subsequent non-virtual open meeting of the public body;

(b) No action is taken by the public body at the virtual meeting; and

(c) The public body complies with subdivisions (3)(b)(i) and (ii) of this section.

84-1412. Meetings of public body; rights of public; public body; powers and duties.

(1) Subject to the Open Meetings Act, the public has the right to attend and the right to speak at meetings of public bodies, and all or any part of a meeting of a public body, except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, may be videotaped, televised, photographed, broadcast, or recorded by any person in attendance by means of a tape recorder, a camera, video equipment, or any other means of pictorial or sonic reproduction or in writing. Except for closed sessions called pursuant to section 84-1410, a public body shall allow members of the public an opportunity to speak at each meeting.

(2) It shall not be a violation of subsection (1) of this section for any public body to make and enforce reasonable rules and regulations regarding the conduct of persons attending, speaking at, videotaping, televising, photographing, broadcasting, or recording its meetings, including meetings held by virtual conferencing.

(3) No public body shall require members of the public to identify themselves as a condition for admission to the meeting nor shall such body require that the name of any member of the public be placed on the agenda prior to such meeting in order to speak about items on the agenda. The body shall require any member of the public desiring to address the body to identify himself or herself, including an address and the name of any organization represented by such person unless the address requirement is waived to protect the security of the individual.

(4) No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the Open Meetings Act, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience.

(5) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds its meeting in its traditional meeting place which is located in this state.

(6) No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section if it holds a meeting outside of this state if, but only if:

(a) A member entity of the public body is located outside of this state and the meeting is in that member's jurisdiction;

(b) All out-of-state locations identified in the notice are located within public buildings used by members of the entity or at a place which will accommodate the anticipated audience;

(c) Reasonable arrangements are made to accommodate the public's right to attend, hear, and speak at the meeting, including making virtual conferencing available at an in-state location to members, the public, or the press, if requested twenty-four hours in advance;

(d) No more than twenty-five percent of the public body's meetings in a calendar year are held out-of-state;

(e) Out-of-state meetings are not used to circumvent any of the public government purposes established in the Open Meetings Act; and

(f) The public body publishes notice of the out-of-state meeting at least twenty-one days before the date of the meeting in a legal newspaper of statewide circulation.

(7) Each public body shall, upon request, make a reasonable effort to accommodate the public's right to hear the discussion and testimony presented at a meeting.

(8) Public bodies shall make available at the meeting or the in-state location for virtual conferencing as required by subdivision (6)(c) of this section, for examination and copying by members of the public, at least one copy of all reproducible written material to be discussed at an open meeting, either in paper or electronic form. Public bodies shall make available at least one current copy of the Open Meetings Act posted in the meeting room at a location accessible to members of the public. At the beginning of the meeting, the public shall be informed about the location of the posted information.

84-1413. Meetings; minutes; roll call vote; secret ballot; when; agenda and minutes; required on website; when.

(1) Each public body shall keep minutes of all meetings showing the time, place, members present and absent, and the substance of all matters discussed.

(2) Any action taken on any question or motion duly moved and seconded shall be by roll call vote of the public body in open session, and the record shall state how each member voted or if the member was absent or not voting. The requirements of a roll call or viva voce vote shall be satisfied by a public body which utilizes an electronic voting device which allows the yeas and nays of each member of such public body to be readily seen by the public.

(3) The vote to elect leadership within a public body may be taken by secret ballot, but the total number of votes for each candidate shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) The minutes of all meetings and evidence and documentation received or disclosed in open session shall be public records and open to public inspection during normal business hours.

(5) Minutes shall be written or kept as an electronic record and shall be available for inspection within ten working days or prior to the next convened meeting, whichever occurs earlier, except that cities of the second class and villages may have an additional ten working days if the employee responsible for writing or keeping the minutes is absent due to a serious illness or emergency.

(6) Beginning July 31, 2022, the governing body of a natural resources district, the city council of a city of the metropolitan class, the city council of a city of the primary class, the city council of a city of the first class, the county board of a county with a population greater than twenty-five thousand inhabitants, and the school board of a school district shall make available on such entity's public website the agenda and minutes of any meeting of the governing body. The agenda shall be placed on the website at least twenty-four hours before the meeting of the governing body. Minutes shall be placed on the website at such time as the minutes are available for inspection as provided in subsection (5) of this section. This information shall be available on the public website for at least six months.

84-1414. Unlawful action by public body; declared void or voidable by district court; when; duty to enforce open meeting laws; citizen's suit; procedure; violations; penalties.

(1) Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be declared void by the district court if the suit is commenced within one hundred twenty days of the meeting of the public body at which the alleged violation occurred. Any motion, resolution, rule, regulation, ordinance, or formal action of a public body made or taken in substantial violation of the Open Meetings Act shall be voidable by the district court if the suit is commenced more than one hundred twenty days after but within one year of the meeting of the public body in which the alleged violation occurred. A suit to void any final action shall be commenced within one year of the action.

(2) The Attorney General and the county attorney of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets shall enforce the Open Meetings Act.

(3) Any citizen of this state may commence a suit in the district court of the county in which the public body ordinarily meets or in which the plaintiff resides for the purpose of requiring compliance with or preventing violations of the Open Meetings Act, for the purpose of declaring an action of a public body void, or for the purpose of determining the applicability of the act to discussions or decisions of the public body. It shall not be a defense that the citizen attended the meeting and failed to object at such time. The court may order payment of reasonable attorney's fees and court costs to a successful plaintiff in a suit brought under this section.

(4) Any member of a public body who knowingly violates or conspires to violate or who attends or remains at a meeting knowing that the public body is in violation of any provision of the Open Meetings Act shall be guilty of a Class IV misdemeanor for a first offense and a Class III misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

Revised 07/2024


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PROOF OF PUBLICATION

State of Nebraska)
) ss.
County of Thomas)

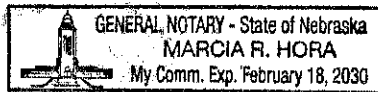
Kendra L. Cutler, being first duly sworn, deposes and says she is the Editor of the Thomas County Herald a weekly legal newspaper having a bona fide circulation of more than 300 copies published in Thedford, Nebraska; and said newspaper has been published for at least 52 consecutive weeks prior to publication of attached notice; that said publication is of general circulation; that attached notice was published 1 time(s) on May 7, 2026

Kendra L. Cutler

Subscribed to in my presence and Sworn to before me this 28th day of May, 2026

Marcia R. Hora
Notary Public

Publication Fee 15.65



Sandhills Public Schools Board
~~Of Education~~
Public Notice

The Board of Education of Sandhills Public Schools will meet Monday, Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall at the high school in Dunning, Nebraska. All meetings are open to the public. Agendas are kept continually current and available for public inspection in the Superintendent's Office during regular business hours with reasonable notice.

Publish: May 7, 2026
ZNEZ

SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Regular Regular Board of Education May Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 11, 2026
7:00 PM
Sandhills High School Lecture Hall

1. **Call to order**

The regular monthly meeting of the Sandhills Public Schools Board of Education was called to order on May 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of Sandhills High School by President Rory Zutavern.

2. **Mission Statement**

“To Develop KNIGHTS” Knowledgeable, Noble, Independent, Grateful, Honest, Tenacious, and Successful citizens for an ever-changing world.

3. **Nebraska Open Meetings Law**

The Nebraska Open Meetings Law was posted in the meeting room.

4. **Publication of Meetings**

Per Board Policy 204.7, reasonable advance notification was made of the meeting. Verification of Publication in the Thomas County Herald April 28, 2026.

5. **Roll Call**

Board members present: Rory Zutavern, Jeff Martindale, Reed Larsen, Jill Thompson, Dillon Simonson, and Michelle Milleson. All members present.

6. **Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the Board and others in attendance.

7. **Approval of Agenda**

A motion made by Michelle Milleson, seconded by Dillon Simonson to approve the agenda: Yea, : Nay. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Milleson: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea. Motion passed.

8. **Public Comment**

Marcia Wales, wished to address the board during public comment. President Zutavern read the following statement prior to her comments, “Thank you for attending the board meeting. Comments from the public should be made during this time. Please introduce yourself and refrain from defamatory or personal comments. Comments should be limited to three minutes.” Ms. Wales shared concerns with the school nutrition program.

9. **Consent Agenda**

A motion made by Jeff Martindale, seconded by Jill Thompson to approve the consent agenda : Yea, : Nay. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Milleson: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea. Motion passed.

- 9.a. Approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 regular board meeting
- 9.b. Approve the Financial Report
- 9.c. Approve the payment of bills

10. **Administrative Reports**

10.a. Activities Director Report

NSAA has announced Multi-Activity Student Award recipients. The award is given to students in grades 9-12 that take part in at least three NSAA sanctioned activities during the school year. Thirteen Sandhills students were recipients of the award. All State Honorable Mention for girls basketball from the Omaha World Herald went to four students representing Sandhills/Theford. Raif Ruppert has been hired as an assistant football coach for the 2026-2027 year. Sandhills/Theford had a strong showing at the MNAC Championship Track meet with junior high girls winning the conference title, the junior high boys placed fourth, the high school boys finished sixth, and the high school girls placed fourth. The Sandhills Knights Athletic Banquet will be held May 12 at 6:00 p.m. in Halsey. District track will be May 13 in Paxton and District golf will be May 18 in Ainsworth.

10.b. Principal's Report

Mr. Recoy reported that all testing of students K-10 has been completed. Grades 3-8 completed the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) tests as directed by the state. Grades K-2 and Grades 9 and 10 completed the Measures of Academic Progress (MAPS) assessments. NSCAS scores are made public in the fall. Juniors completed the ACT test in April, which reviews math and language arts for students based on grade level. The April Knights Award was won by Piper Hanson. Five seniors graduated on May 9. Salutatorian was HayLynn Glidden and Valedictorian was Connor Sutton. The last day for K-11 will be May 19.

10.c. Superintendent's Report

Dr. Isom reported that electricians have been at the high school and are about half way through the electrical panel upgrades. They will be back after school is out to complete the project. Potential write-in candidates for the board of education for the fall election must file a notarized affidavit with the county prior to October 23. A contract has been offered and accepted for the elementary Title 1 and PE position. It will be finalized as part of the June board meeting.

10.d. Board Committee Reports

- Americanism
- Sandhills-Theford Cooperative
- Facilities and Strategic Planning – The committee met with representatives of Facility Advocates prior to the regular board meeting, about the possibility of pursuing a low interest loan through the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) for updating HVAC, ventilation systems and potentially windows.

- Hiring
- Transportation
- Finance
- Negotiations
- Policy

11. Discussion Items

11.a. Transportation

The 2024 van will need to go to Kansas City for the conversion approved in April. Dates are yet to be determined.

11.b. Report on facilities

Electrical updates are in process with two of the boxes being updated so far with the others to be completed once school is out. There was discussion about window coverings in the activity gym

12. Action Items

12.a. Review and approve an option for Board Policies Services with NASB

NASB offers two options for their policy service. Option 1 includes SPARQ online publishing, NASB Policy Manual (Perry Law Firm), ongoing legal policy updates, and structured policy review support. Option 2 includes the NASB Policy Manual (Perry Law Firm), ongoing legal policy updates, and policy review schedule.

A motion made by Jeff Martindale, seconded by Michelle Milleson to approve Option 1 of the Board Policies Services with NASB. Motion made by Jeff Martindale and second by Michelle Milleson. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Milleson: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea. Motion passed.

12.b. Planning for Energy Loan with Facility Advocates

The Facility and Strategic Planning committee met with a team from Facility Advocates regarding application for a low interest energy loan through the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy. Earlier this year, Facility Advocates had identified seven projects in the high school relating to updating heating and cooling, lighting, ventilation, fire sprinklers and panel, sidewalks, windows and renovations of restrooms and locker rooms for ADA compliance. Not all of the seven identified projects would qualify for energy loan support, but four would. If the application is approved, loans funds may be available based on identified projects. The district may choose to move ahead with a project or not at any time through the process.

A motion made by Jeff Martindale, seconded by Dillon Simonson to move forward with planning and application for the low interest Energy Loan through the Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy with technical assistance from Facility Advocates for the applicable identified projects. Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Yea, Milleson: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Yea. Motion passed. Motion passed.

- 12.c. Approve renewed License Agreement with Pepsi-Cola of Western NE, LLC
A motion made by Jeff Martindale and seconded by Reed Larsen to approve the renewed contract with Pepsi-Cola of Western NE, LLC.
Larsen: Yea, Martindale: Nay, Milleson: Yea, Simonson: Yea, Thompson: Yea, Zutavern: Nay. Motion passed. Motion passed.

13. **Adjourn**

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m. by President Rory Zutavern. The next regular meeting of the Sandhills Board of Education will be Monday, June 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

OFFICIAL MEETING NOTICE:

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education of Sandhills Public Schools will be held June 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall of Sandhills High School. The meeting is open to the public and agendas are kept continually current and available for public inspection in the Superintendent's office during regular business hours with reasonable notice.

Cash Receipt Listing by Fund

Fund: 01 GENERAL FUND

<u>Receipt Number</u>	<u>Received From</u>	<u>Receipt Date</u>	<u>Cash Receipt Description</u>	<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Detail Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	LOGANCOUNT Logan Country Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 1100	LOCAL DISTRICT TAXES	10,998.86
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 1100	LOCAL DISTRICT TAXES	88,862.55
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	01 1100	LOCAL DISTRICT TAXES	371,721.98
	BROWNCOUNT Brown County Treasure	05/18/2026	Taxes	01 1100	LOCAL DISTRICT TAXES	22,088.98
	LOUPCOUNTY Loup County Treasure	05/18/2026	Taxes	01 1100	LOCAL DISTRICT TAXES	5,501.23
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 1100	LOCAL DISTRICT TAXES	12,838.18
Account Number Total: 01 1100					LOCAL DISTRICT TAXES	512,011.78
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 1115	CARLINE TAX	1,549.09
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	01 1115	CARLINE TAX	3,766.37
Account Number Total: 01 1115					CARLINE TAX	5,315.46
	LOGANCOUNT Logan Country Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 1125	MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	0.52
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 1125	MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	2,584.21
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	01 1125	MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	5,277.28
Account Number Total: 01 1125					MOTOR VEHICLE TAX	7,862.01
	WESTERNNEB Western Nebraska Bank	05/29/2026	Interest	01 1510	INTEREST	472.00
Account Number Total: 01 1510					INTEREST	472.00
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 1911	LOCAL LICENSE FEES	0.21
Account Number Total: 01 1911					LOCAL LICENSE FEES	0.21
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 1921	POLICE COURT FINES	1.53
Account Number Total: 01 1921					POLICE COURT FINES	1.53
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 2110	COUNTY FINES/LICENSE FEES	176.14
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	01 2110	COUNTY FINES/LICENSE FEES	487.50
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 2110	COUNTY FINES/LICENSE FEES	20.07
Account Number Total: 01 2110					COUNTY FINES/LICENSE	683.71

Cash Receipt Listing by Fund

Fund: 01 GENERAL FUND

Receipt Number	Received From	Receipt Date	Cash Receipt Description	Chart of Account Number	Detail Description	Amount
					FEES	
	STATEOFNEB State of Nebraska	05/29/2026	Interest	01 3110	STATE AID	13,850.00
				Account Number Total: 01 3110	STATE AID	13,850.00
	STATEOFNEB State of Nebraska	05/22/2026	SPED Reimbursement 24-25	01 3120	SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL AGE	19,403.00
				Account Number Total: 01 3120	SPECIAL EDUCATION SCHOOL AGE	19,403.00
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 3130	HOMESTEAD EXEMPION	501.15
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	01 3130	HOMESTEAD EXEMPION	721.56
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 3130	HOMESTEAD EXEMPION	12.12
				Account Number Total: 01 3130	HOMESTEAD EXEMPION	1,234.83
	LOGANCOUNT Logan Country Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	5,620.07
	LOGANCOUNT Logan Country Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	10,768.93
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	24,837.01
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	44,372.23
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	157,201.20
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	272,935.86
	BROWNCOUNT Brown County Treasure	05/18/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	7,648.06
	BROWNCOUNT Brown County Treasure	05/18/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	17,028.84
	LOUPCOUNTY Loup County Treasure	05/18/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	6,978.57
	LOUPCOUNTY Loup County Treasure	05/18/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	11,099.20
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	12,251.78
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	22,462.77
				Account Number Total: 01 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	593,204.52
	LOGANCOUNT Logan Country Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	01 3180	PRO-RATED MOTOR VEHICLE	64.89
				Account Number Total: 01 3180	PRO-RATED MOTOR	64.89

Cash Receipt Listing by Fund

Fund: 01 GENERAL FUND

<u>Receipt Number</u>	<u>Received From</u>	<u>Receipt Date</u>	<u>Cash Receipt Description</u>	<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Detail Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
					VEHICLE	
	ANDERSON7 Anderson Jody	05/29/2026	Disposal Sales	01 5300	PROCEEDS FROM DISPOSAL	49.50
				Account Number Total: 01 5300	PROCEEDS FROM DISPOSAL	49.50
	PATRONS Patrons	05/29/2026	Computer Charger Fee	01 5320	SALE OF PROPERTY	79.00
	PATRONS Patrons	05/29/2026	Sale of Book Fee	01 5320	SALE OF PROPERTY	10.00
				Account Number Total: 01 5320	SALE OF PROPERTY	89.00
					Fund Total: 01	1,154,242.44

Summary Totals

<u>Account Type</u>		<u>Cash Accounts</u>		<u>Receivable Accounts</u>
Subtotal Revenue	1,154,242.44	01 101	1,154,242.44	
Subtotal Expense		Total:	1,154,242.44	
Subtotal General Ledger				
Total:	1,154,242.44			

Cash Receipt Listing by Fund

Fund: 08 BUILDING FUND

<u>Receipt Number</u>	<u>Received From</u>	<u>Receipt Date</u>	<u>Cash Receipt Description</u>	<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Detail Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	LOGANCOUNT Logan Country Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 1100	TAXES	517.31
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 1100	TAXES	4,179.57
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	08 1100	TAXES	17,484.05
	BROWNCOUNT Brown County Treasure	05/19/2026	Taxes	08 1100	TAXES	1,038.94
	BROWNCOUNT Brown County Treasure	05/19/2026	Taxes	08 1100	TAXES	6.22
	LOUPCOUNTY Loup County Treasure	05/19/2026	Taxes	08 1100	TAXES	258.49
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 1100	TAXES	603.61
Account Number Total: 08 1100					TAXES	24,088.19
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	08 1115	CARLINE TAXES	177.15
Account Number Total: 08 1115					CARLINE TAXES	177.15
	WESTERNNEB Western Nebraska Bank	05/29/2026	Interest	08 1510	INTEREST	35.56
Account Number Total: 08 1510					INTEREST	35.56
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 3130	HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	23.58
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	08 3130	HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	33.95
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 3130	HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	0.57
Account Number Total: 08 3130					HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION	58.10
	LOGANCOUNT Logan Country Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	264.33
	LOGANCOUNT Logan Country Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	506.51
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	1,168.18
	THOMASCOUN Thomas County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	2,087.00
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	7,393.80
	BLAINECOUN Blaine County Treasure	05/13/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	12,837.25
	BROWNCOUNT Brown County Treasure	05/19/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	359.71
	BROWNCOUNT Brown County Treasure	05/19/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	800.93

Cash Receipt Listing by Fund

Fund: 08 BUILDING FUND

<u>Receipt Number</u>	<u>Received From</u>	<u>Receipt Date</u>	<u>Cash Receipt Description</u>	<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Detail Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	LOUPCOUNTY Loup County Treasure	05/19/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	327.90
	LOUPCOUNTY Loup County Treasure	05/19/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	521.52
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	576.25
	CUSTERCOUN Custer County Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	1,056.51
				Account Number Total: 08 3131	PROPERTY TAX CREDIT	<u>27,899.89</u>
	LOGANCOUNT Logan Country Treasure	05/15/2026	Taxes	08 3180	PRO-RATE MOTOR VEHICLE	3.05
				Account Number Total: 08 3180	PRO-RATE MOTOR VEHICLE	<u>3.05</u>
					Fund Total: 08	<u>52,261.94</u>

Summary Totals

<u>Account Type</u>		<u>Cash Accounts</u>		<u>Receivable Accounts</u>
Subtotal Revenue	52,261.94	08 101	52,261.94	
Subtotal Expense			Total: <u>52,261.94</u>	
Subtotal General Ledger				
Total:	<u>52,261.94</u>			

Cash Receipt Listing by Fund

Fund: 06 LUNCH FUND

<u>Receipt Number</u>	<u>Received From</u>	<u>Receipt Date</u>	<u>Cash Receipt Description</u>	<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Detail Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	PATRONS Patrons	05/15/2026	Daily Lunch Sales	06 1611	DAILY SALES LUNCH	1,365.00
	PATRONS Patrons	05/14/2026	Daily Lunch Sales	06 1611	DAILY SALES LUNCH	340.65
	PATRONS Patrons	05/15/2026	Daily Lunch Sales	06 1611	DAILY SALES LUNCH	1,155.05
	PATRONS Patrons	05/29/2026	Daily Lunch Sales	06 1611	DAILY SALES LUNCH	1,308.80
	PATRONS Patrons	05/29/2026	Daily Lunch Sales	06 1611	DAILY SALES LUNCH	376.05
	PATRONS Patrons	05/29/2026	Daily Lunch Sales	06 1611	DAILY SALES LUNCH	3,017.48
Account Number Total: 06 1611						7,563.03
	STATEOFNEB State of Nebraska	05/04/2026	Free/Reduced Lunch April	06 4210	FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT(OF NUTRIT PRGMS)	593.98
	STATEOFNEB State of Nebraska	05/14/2026	Free/reduced Lunch	06 4210	FEDERAL REIMBURSEMENT(OF NUTRIT PRGMS)	5,172.87
Account Number Total: 06 4210						5,766.85
	GENERALFUN General Fund	05/15/2026	Transfer from General	06 5200	TRANSFER FROM GENERAL	10,000.00
Account Number Total: 06 5200						10,000.00
Fund Total: 06						23,329.88

Summary Totals

<u>Account Type</u>		<u>Cash Accounts</u>		<u>Receivable Accounts</u>
Subtotal Revenue	23,329.88	06 101	23,329.88	
Subtotal Expense			Total:	23,329.88
Subtotal General Ledger				
Total:	23,329.88			

District Financial Statement

May 31, 2026
Financial Statement

		General	Lunch	Operational	Building	Activity
Beginning Balance	5/1/2026	\$865,727.40	\$10,393.15	\$5,485.00	\$77,733.37	\$59,113.12
Revenue Received		\$1,154,242.44	\$23,329.88	\$52,466.48	\$52,261.94	\$4,276.44
Expenditures		\$247,461.86	\$15,365.06	\$51,951.48	\$2,945.00	\$10,522.00
Ending Balance	5/31/2026	\$1,772,507.98	\$18,357.97	\$6,000.00	\$127,050.31	\$52,867.56

		Depreciation Fund	STK Co-op	Activity Building Loan	Building Floor Loan
Beginning Balance	5/1/2026	\$83,899.54	\$16,301.56	\$321,875.00	\$83,190
Revenue Received		\$25.93	\$330.00		
Expenditures		\$39,000.00	\$1,826.81		
Ending Balance	5/31/2026	\$44,925.47	\$14,804.75		

		CD #0114	CD #9867
Ending Balance	5/31/2026	\$118,195.96	\$111,602.68

5/31/2026

FUND	Budget Amount	YTD \$ spent	% of Budget
General	5,419,146.00	2,364,564.18	43.63%
Lunch	204,201.00	143,447.89	70.25%
Building	182,977.00	131,017.00	71.60%
Depreciation	424,137.00	174,449.99	41.13%
Activities	183,200.00	89,203.68	48.69%
STK Co-op	200,000.00	59,817.38	29.91%
		2,962,500.12	

District Financial Statement



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Payroll Register - Totals Combined

	<u>PIK/Gross</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expense/ Employer</u>	<u>Adjustment Amount</u>	<u>Check Total</u>	<u>Payee ID</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>	
ADD								
BUSACT Bus Activity Rte			27.00					
BUSPRACT Bus Practice			18.00					
BUSREG Bus Driver			977.90					
BUSROUTESU Bus Route Supplement			596.69					
BUSSIT Bus Sit Time			127.50					
CUSTODIAN Custodian			7,358.32					
EXTRADUTY Extra Duty			1,706.94					
HALFTIMEOV Halftime Overtime			36.61					
OT Overtime			636.54					
SECRETARY Secretary			2,367.68					
SPEDPARA SPED-Para			1,981.35					
SUBMISC Sub Misc			152.38					
SUBWORET Sub w/o RET			4,627.66					
UNUSEDSICK Unused Sick Days			2,902.50					
			<u>23,517.07</u>					
CONTRACT								
BSNSMGR Business Mgr			3,862.50					
COACH Coach			1,405.68					
COACH1 Coach			1,497.16					
COACH2 Coach			450.07					
COACH3 Coach			297.84					
COOK Cook			1,821.21					
KITCHENMGR Kitchen Mgr			2,146.10					
PRINCIPAL Principal			7,083.37					
SPONSOR Sponsor			1,359.31					
SUPERINT Superintendent			5,666.63					
TEACHER Teacher			88,869.33					
			<u>114,459.20</u>					
DEDUCTION								
403B 403B		100.00			100.00	MGTRUSTCOM	Matrix Trust	A
403BROTH 403BROTH		400.00			400.00	MGTRUSTCOM	Matrix Trust	A
AFLACLAT AFLACLAT		73.84			73.84	AFLAC	Aflac	
COLONIALLI Colonial Life		1,192.64			1,192.64	COLONIALLI	Colonial Life and Accident Insurance	
COLONLIFE Col Life		448.42			448.42	COLONIALLI	Colonial Life and Accident Insurance	
DENTAL DENTAL		731.10	814.82		1,545.92	BLUECROSSB	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska	
DISABILITY DISABILITY		43.95	589.61		633.56	MADISONNA1	Madison National Life	
GARNISHMEN Garnishment		298.92			298.92	CREDITMANA	Credit Management	
HEALTH HEALTH			36,719.07		36,719.07	BLUECROSSB	Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska	
SUPPINS SUPPINS		775.79			775.79	AFLAC	Aflac	
VSP VSP		467.64			467.64	VISONSERVI	Vison Service Plan	
		<u>4,532.30</u>	<u>38,123.50</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>42,655.80</u>			
RET DEDUCTION								
NPERS RETIREMENT	125,023.64	10,001.87	10,101.91		20,103.78	SANDHILLSP	Sandhills Public School	
		<u>10,001.87</u>	<u>10,101.91</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>20,103.78</u>			
TAX								
FIT FIT	125,438.33	6,657.09			6,657.09	SANDHILLSP	Sandhills Public School	
FUTA FUTA	130,240.22					SANDHILLSP	Sandhills Public School	
MEDICARE MEDICARE	130,907.36	1,898.14	1,898.14		3,796.28	SANDHILLSP	Sandhills Public School	
SITNE SIT NE	125,438.33	3,829.36			3,829.36	SANDHILLSP	Sandhills Public School	
SOCSEC SOC SEC	130,907.36	8,116.29	8,116.29		16,232.58	SANDHILLSP	Sandhills Public School	
SUTANE SUTA NE	130,240.22					SANDHILLSP	Sandhills Public School	
WCNE WORK COMP NE	127,450.76					SANDHILLSP	Sandhills Public School	
		<u>20,500.88</u>	<u>10,014.43</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>30,515.31</u>			
						Net Pay:	102,941.22	
						Cash Total:	196,216.11	
Non - FIT Taxable Deductions		12,537.94						

Payroll Register - Totals Combined

<u>PIK/Gross</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Expense/ Employer</u>	<u>Adjustment Amount</u>	<u>Check Total</u>	<u>Payee ID</u>	<u>Payee Name</u>
Non - SIT Taxable Deductions	12,537.94					
Non - SOC SEC Taxable Deductions	2,436.07					
Non - MEDICARE Taxable Deductions	2,436.07					
Direct Deposits	102,941.22					
Automatic Payments	500.00					
Adds + Contracts + Deduction Adds	137,976.27					

GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENT				
MONTH	2024-2025	2025-2026	DIFFERENCE	
SEPTEMBER	\$299,224.94	\$356,110.04	\$56,885.10	
OCTOBER	\$261,816.13	\$269,099.26	\$7,283.13	
NOVEMBER	\$244,381.81	\$241,208.68	-\$3,173.13	
DECEMBER	\$248,084.42	\$235,240.39	-\$12,844.03	
JANUARY	\$250,888.35	\$262,157.31	\$11,268.96	
FEBRUARY	\$320,663.50	\$242,256.68	-\$78,406.82	
MARCH	\$298,167.49	\$232,540.59	-\$65,626.90	
APRIL	\$244,237.70	\$243,462.20	-\$775.50	
MAY	\$226,854.00	\$252,035.30	\$25,181.30	
JUNE	\$213,580.20	\$226,957.48	\$13,377.28	
JULY	\$222,243.15			
AUGUST	\$601,058.35			
TOTALS	\$3,431,200.04	\$2,561,067.93	-\$46,830.61	
GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS				
MONTH	2024-2025	2025-2026	DIFFERENCE	
SEPTEMBER	\$561,488.63	\$413,032.66	-\$148,455.97	
OCTOBER	\$214,645.88	\$182,829.00	-\$31,816.88	
NOVEMBER	\$18,837.83	\$31,943.40	\$13,105.57	
DECEMBER	\$161,092.23	\$123,726.96	-\$37,365.27	
JANUARY	\$433,140.49	\$459,201.03	\$26,060.54	
FEBRUARY	\$622,339.43	\$651,171.29	\$28,831.86	
MARCH	\$120,303.27	\$107,187.32	-\$13,115.95	
APRIL	\$104,224.72	\$92,666.12	-\$11,558.60	
MAY	\$998,584.88	\$1,154,242.44	\$155,657.56	
JUNE	\$247,665.12			
JULY	\$19,670.24			
AUGUST	\$33,452.07			
TOTALS	\$3,535,444.79		-\$18,657.14	

\$700,000

Blaine County School District 0071 (Sandhills Public Schools)
 Lease Purchase
 Series 2022

Debt Service Schedule

Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total P+
06/15/2022	-	-	2,992.50	2,992.50 ✓
12/15/2022	95,000.00	1.900%	6,650.00	101,650.00 ✓
06/15/2023	-	-	5,747.50	5,747.50 ✓
12/15/2023	95,000.00	1.900%	5,747.50	100,747.50 ✓
06/15/2024	-	-	4,845.00	4,845.00 ✓
12/15/2024	100,000.00	1.900%	4,845.00	104,845.00 ✓
06/15/2025	-	-	3,895.00	3,895.00 ✓
12/15/2025	100,000.00	1.900%	3,895.00	103,895.00 ✓
06/15/2026	-	-	2,945.00	2,945.00 ✓
12/15/2026	100,000.00	1.900%	2,945.00	102,945.00 ✓
06/15/2027	-	-	1,995.00	1,995.00 ✓
12/15/2027	105,000.00	1.900%	1,995.00	106,995.00 ✓
06/15/2028	-	-	997.50	997.50 ✓
12/15/2028	105,000.00	1.900%	997.50	105,997.50 ✓
06/15/2029	-	1.900%	-	- ✓
Total	\$700,000.00	-	\$50,492.50	\$750,492.50

Handwritten notes:
 100747.52
 324722.50
 21,875

Yield Statistics

Bond Year Dollars	\$2,657.50
Average Life	3.796 Years
Average Coupon	1.900000%
Net Interest Cost (NIC)	2.2951082%
True Interest Cost (TIC)	2.3203116%
Bond Yield for Arbitrage Purposes	1.9003065%
All Inclusive Cost (AIC)	2.5358313%

IRS Form 8038

Net Interest Cost	1.9000000%
Weighted Average Maturity	3.796 Years

\$90,000

Blaine County SD 0071 (Sandhills Public Schools)
Certificates of Participation (COPs)
Series 2025

Debt Service Schedule

Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total P+I
10/15/2025	-	-	1,869.00	1,869.00
04/15/2026	15,000.00	4.200%	1,890.00	16,890.00
10/15/2026	-	-	1,575.00	1,575.00
04/15/2027	15,000.00	4.200%	1,575.00	16,575.00
10/15/2027	-	-	1,260.00	1,260.00
04/15/2028	20,000.00	4.200%	1,260.00	21,260.00
10/15/2028	-	-	840.00	840.00
04/15/2029	20,000.00	4.200%	840.00	20,840.00
10/15/2029	-	-	420.00	420.00
04/15/2030	20,000.00	4.200%	420.00	20,420.00
Total	\$90,000.00	-	\$11,949.00	\$101,949.00

83,190

Yield Statistics

Bond Year Dollars	\$284.50
Average Life	3.161 Years
Average Coupon	4.2000000%
Net Interest Cost (NIC)	4.2000000%
True Interest Cost (TIC)	4.2000814%
Bond Yield for Arbitrage Purposes	4.2000814%
All Inclusive Cost (AIC)	7.4090806%

IRS Form 8038

Net Interest Cost	4.2000000%
Weighted Average Maturity	3.161 Years



Tobin Buchanan
 Managing Director | Public Finance
 Direct: (308) 234-7211 | TF: (800) 851-2920
 Email: tbuchanan@fnni.com

Fund: 10 COOPERATIVE FUND

Chart of Account Number		Chart of Account Description				Entity Name	Expenses	Revenues	Outstanding AP	Outstanding PO	Balance Change	Balance
Entry Date	JR	Reference #	Check Acct	Check #	Description							
10 704			FUND BALANCE			*Previous Balance						16,301.56
10 704			FUND BALANCE									
10 1990			OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS									
05/15/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Burwell Public Schools	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00		
05/15/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Rock County Public Schools	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00		
05/15/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Anselmo-Merna Public School	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00		
05/15/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Mullen Public School	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00		
05/15/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Mullen Public School	0.00	40.00	0.00	0.00		
05/15/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Anselmo-Merna Public School	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00		
05/15/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Mullen Public School	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00		
05/29/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Hershey Public Schools	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00		
05/29/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Valentine Community Schools	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00		
05/29/2026	CR				OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	Patrons	0.00	60.00	0.00	0.00		
10 1100 610 000			STK COOP SUPPLIES									
05/13/2026	CD	20260513	10	1232	STK COOP SUPPLIES	Ray, Rebecca	228.05	0.00	0.00	0.00		
10 1100 810 000			DUES & FEES									
05/06/2026	CD	20260506	10	1223	DUES & FEES	Ainsworth Public School	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/06/2026	CD	20260506-0001	10	1224	DUES & FEES	Ainsworth Public School	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/06/2026	CD	20260506	10	1226	DUES & FEES	Mullen Public School	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/06/2026	CD	20260506-0001	10	1227	DUES & FEES	Mullen Public School	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/06/2026	CD	20260506	10	1231	DUES & FEES	Stapleton Public School	160.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/06/2026	CD	20260506	10	1229	DUES & FEES	Paxton Consolidated Schools	252.78	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/06/2026	CD	20260506	10	1228	DUES & FEES	Nichols, Mary	40.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/06/2026	CD	20260506	10	1230	DUES & FEES	Saint Pats High School	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/06/2026	CD	20260506	10	1225	DUES & FEES	Brady Public Schools	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/12/2026	CD	20260422 Void Check	10	1220	DUES & FEES	South Loup Bobcats	(75.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/13/2026	CD	20260512	10	1213	DUES & FEES	South Loup Bobcats	60.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/13/2026	CD	20260512-0001	10	1214	DUES & FEES	South Loup Bobcats	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/13/2026	CD	20260512-0001	10	1235	DUES & FEES	Theford High School	37.98	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/13/2026	CD	20260512	10	1236	DUES & FEES	Valentine School	75.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/13/2026	CD	20260408-0001 Void Check	10	1234	DUES & FEES	South Loup Bobcats	(150.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/13/2026	CD	20260408 Void Check	10	1233	DUES & FEES	South Loup Bobcats	(60.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/18/2026	CD	20260518	10	1238	DUES & FEES	Western Nebraska Bank	720.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
05/18/2026	CD	20260518	10	1237	DUES & FEES	Gothenburg High School	48.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
10 704			FUND BALANCE			*Current Activity						(1,496.81)
						*Ending Balance:	1,826.81	330.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,804.75
			Fund Total: 10				1,826.81	330.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14,804.75

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 10	Fund Number 10	COOPERATIVE FUND	
Ainsworth Public School	20260506	GOLF FEES 5/4	60.00
Ainsworth Public School	20260506-0001	DISTRICT GOLF 5/18	100.00
Total Ainsworth Public School			<u>160.00</u>
Brady Public Schools	20260506	JR HI TRACK FEES 5/6	60.00
Total Brady Public Schools			<u>60.00</u>
Gothenburg High School	20260518	Jr Hi State Track Fees 5/16	48.00
Total Gothenburg High School			<u>48.00</u>
Mullen Public School	20260506	JV GOLF FEES 5/1	20.00
Mullen Public School	20260506-0001	MULLEN GOLF INVITE 5/13	50.00
Total Mullen Public School			<u>70.00</u>
Nichols, Mary	20260506	HOSPITALITY GOLF MEET 4/23	40.00
Total Nichols, Mary			<u>40.00</u>
Paxton Consolidated Schools	20260506	HS DISCTRICK TRACK FEES 5/13	252.78
Total Paxton Consolidated Schools			<u>252.78</u>
Ray, Rebecca	20260513	Reimburse for STK COOP Banquet	228.05
Total Ray, Rebecca			<u>228.05</u>
Saint Pats High School	20260506	GOLF FEES 5/7	50.00
Total Saint Pats High School			<u>50.00</u>
South Loup Bobcats	20260512	South Loup Golf Invite 4/10	60.00
South Loup Bobcats	20260512-0001	Track Meet Fees 4/10	150.00
Total South Loup Bobcats			<u>210.00</u>
Stapleton Public School	20260506	HS TRACK FEES 5/8	160.00
Total Stapleton Public School			<u>160.00</u>
Thedford High School	20260512-0001	Coop Committee Meeting	37.98
Total Thedford High School			<u>37.98</u>
Valentine School	20260512	Golf Invite 5/14	75.00
Total Valentine School			<u>75.00</u>
Western Nebraska Bank	20260518	State Track Meal Money x8	720.00
Total Western Nebraska Bank			<u>720.00</u>
Fund Number 10			<u>2,111.81</u>
Checking Account ID 10			<u>2,111.81</u>

Cash Receipt Listing by Fund

Fund: 10 COOPERATIVE FUND

<u>Receipt Number</u>	<u>Received From</u>	<u>Receipt Date</u>	<u>Cash Receipt Description</u>	<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Detail Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
	BURWELLPUB Burwell Public Schools	05/15/2026	Golf Invite Fees	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	50.00
	ROCKCOUNTY Rock County Public Schools	05/15/2026	Golf JV Invite Fees	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	10.00
	ANSELMOME2 Anselmo-Merna Public School	05/15/2026	Golf Fees	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	40.00
	MULLENPUB1 Mullen Public School	05/15/2026	JV Golf Fees	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	10.00
	MULLENPUB1 Mullen Public School	05/15/2026	MNAC Golf Fees	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	40.00
	ANSELMOME2 Anselmo-Merna Public School	05/15/2026	Golf Invite Fees	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	50.00
	MULLENPUB1 Mullen Public School	05/15/2026	Golf Invite Fees	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	50.00
	HERSHEYPU1 Hershey Public Schools	05/29/2026	JV Golf Fee	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	10.00
	VALENTINEC Valentine Community Schools	05/29/2026	JV Golf Fees	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	10.00
	PATRONS Patrons	05/29/2026	State Track Money Return	10 1990	OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	60.00
Account Number Total: 10 1990					OTHER LOCAL RECEIPTS	330.00
					Fund Total: 10	330.00

Summary Totals

<u>Account Type</u>		<u>Cash Accounts</u>		<u>Receivable Accounts</u>
Subtotal Revenue	330.00	10 101	330.00	
Subtotal Expense			330.00	
Subtotal General Ledger				
Total:	330.00			

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 1	Fund Number 01	GENERAL FUND	
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska	20260604	Insurance Board	2,229.84
Total Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska			2,229.84
Consolidated Telephone	20260603	Telephone	370.04
Total Consolidated Telephone			370.04
Corporate Payment Systems	20260604	Credit Card	323.18
Total Corporate Payment Systems			323.18
Creative Printers, INC	20260603	Board Notice	15.65
Total Creative Printers, INC			15.65
Custer Public Power District	20260603	Utilities	2,709.91
Total Custer Public Power District			2,709.91
Department of Health and Human Services	20260603	Exceeded allowable cost MIPS	3.12
Total Department of Health and Human Services			3.12
Duda Plumbing	20260603	Ag Shop Stool/Girls Locker Room	1,153.90
Total Duda Plumbing			1,153.90
Dunning Water	20260603	Utilities	400.00
Total Dunning Water			400.00
Eakes Office Solutions	20260604	Custodial Supplies	913.45
Total Eakes Office Solutions			913.45
ESU 10	20260603	Services	6,145.05
Total ESU 10			6,145.05
Flatwater Sales Inc	20260604	Water Hose Reel Repair	663.95
Total Flatwater Sales Inc			663.95
Ganoung, Kristin	20260603	Teaching Supplies Reimbursement	23.56
Total Ganoung, Kristin			23.56
Greene, Zeta	20260604	Teaching Supplies Science	97.45
Total Greene, Zeta			97.45
Hometown Leasing	20260604	Copier Lease	532.28
Hometown Leasing	20260605	Sharp Printer Lease May & June	173.98
Total Hometown Leasing			706.26
KCNI-AM	20260608	State Track Boardcasting	100.00
Total KCNI-AM			100.00
Kelly, Bradley	20260604	2nd Semester Mileage Reimbursement	630.42
Total Kelly, Bradley			630.42
Lunch Fund	20260605	Snacks Jan 2026-May2026	1,081.02
Total Lunch Fund			1,081.02

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
MCI	20260603	Telephone	57.26
Total MCI			<u>57.26</u>
N A S B	20260603	Policy Support Service	1,750.00
Total N A S B			<u>1,750.00</u>
NAEA	20260604	Ag Educator Training Fees	275.00
Total NAEA			<u>275.00</u>
NIBC,	20260604	Ice Machines	275.00
Total NIBC,			<u>275.00</u>
Norms Auto	20260604	Vehicle Maintenance/Water Gun repair	524.71
Total Norms Auto			<u>524.71</u>
OnToCollege	20260604	ACT Prep Resources	1,750.00
Total OnToCollege			<u>1,750.00</u>
Presto X Company	20260604	Pest Control	261.68
Total Presto X Company			<u>261.68</u>
Rapid Fire Protection	20260604	Inspections Fire Ext	199.95
Total Rapid Fire Protection			<u>199.95</u>
Retirement Plan Consultants LLC	20260604	403B Plan Renewal	400.00
Total Retirement Plan Consultants LLC			<u>400.00</u>
Sandhill Oil Company	20260603	Propane	3,469.94
Total Sandhill Oil Company			<u>3,469.94</u>
Sock's Garage, LLC	20260604	Mower Inspection/Service Elementary	153.31
Total Sock's Garage, LLC			<u>153.31</u>
TEAM Physical Therapy	20260511	PT Services	245.75
Total TEAM Physical Therapy			<u>245.75</u>
Theford Lumber and Supply	20260604	Washer/Dryer & Paint	2,345.97
Total Theford Lumber and Supply			<u>2,345.97</u>
Thomas County Treasurer	20260608	Primary Election dues	100.00
Total Thomas County Treasurer			<u>100.00</u>
Valley County Health	20260603	Drug Testing Transportation	53.00
Total Valley County Health			<u>53.00</u>
Waldinger Corporation, The	20260604	HVAC Maintenance	1,113.00
Total Waldinger Corporation, The			<u>1,113.00</u>
Western Nebraska Bank	20260605	Postage	200.00
Total Western Nebraska Bank			<u>200.00</u>
Fund Number 01			<u>30,741.37</u>

Board Report - Board

Invoice Number

Description

Amount

Checking Account ID 1

30,741.37

**Expenditure Report by Function/Object -
Summary**

06/08/2026 01:24 PM

User ID: JJS

Function Number	Revised Budget	Expended During Month	Expenditures to Date	% of Budget	Balance at EOM	A/ P Outstanding	P/ O Outstanding	Unencumbered Balance
6200 TITLE I, PART A NCLB IMPROV THE ACADEM	27,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	27,500.00	0.00	0.00	27,500.00
6210 TITLE I NCLB IMPROVING BSC PRGRMS ACCNT	500.00	0.00	570.00	114.00	(70.00)	0.00	0.00	(70.00)
6403 IDEA PART B(611) BASE ALLOC-SCHOOL AGE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6404 IDEA PART B(611) BASE ALLOC BIRTH TO 4	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6406 IDEA PRESCHOOL(619) BASE ALLOC	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	1,600.00
6408 IDEA Part B	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00	0.00	0.00	25,000.00
6410 IDEA ENROLLMENT/POVERTY(611)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6421 IDEA ARP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6422 IDEA PRESCHOOL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6700 FED VOC & APP TECH ED (CARL PERKINS)	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00	0.00	0.00	7,500.00
6967 TITLE IV PART A	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6969 TITLE IV - A	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
6992 REAP	12,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00	0.00	0.00	12,500.00
6996 CARES	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
6997 ESSERII	84,251.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	84,251.00	0.00	0.00	84,251.00
6998 ESSER III	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
8000 TRANSFERS (OUTGOING)	299,261.00	1,081.02	28,051.35	9.37	271,209.65	0.00	0.00	271,209.65
01 GENFRAI FUND	4,654,146.00	222,374.50	2,511,956.32	53.97	2,142,189.68	0.00	0.00	2,142,189.68

**Expenditure Report by Function/Object -
Summary**

06/08/2026 01:24 PM

User ID: JJS

Function Number	Revised Budget	Expended During Month	Expenditures to Date	% of Budget	Balance at EOM	A/ P Outstanding	P/ O Outstanding	Unencumbered Balance
Grand Total:	4,654,146.00	222,374.50	2,511,956.32	53.97	2,142,189.68	0.00	0.00	2,142,189.68

Board Report - Board

Vendor Name	Invoice Number	Description	Amount
Checking Account ID 6	Fund Number 06	LUNCH FUND	
Cash-Wa Distributing	20260604	Food	1,477.47
Total Cash-Wa Distributing			<hr/> 1,477.47
Ewoldts Grocery	20260604	Food	506.88
Total Ewoldts Grocery			<hr/> 506.88
Fund Number 06			<hr/> 1,984.35
Checking Account ID 6			<hr/> 1,984.35

Fund: 05 ACTIVITY FUND

<u>Chart of Account Number</u>	<u>Chart of Account Description</u>	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Outstanding AP</u>	<u>Outstanding PO</u>	<u>Balance Change</u>	<u>Balance</u>
05 704 0101	ANNUAL	1,561.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,561.32
05 704 0104	ACTIVITIES	21,983.94	125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	21,858.94
05 704 0113	ST TRACK	877.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	877.87
05 704 0116	CLASS OF 2026	2,500.73	333.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,167.73
05 704 0118	CLASS OF 2027	456.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	456.25
05 704 0120	DRAMA	1,012.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,012.40
05 704 0122	ELEMENTARY	958.78	44.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	914.00
05 704 0123	FBLA	1,832.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,832.24
05 704 0125	FFA	5,944.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5,944.16
05 704 0128	CONCESSION STAND	1,090.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,090.38
05 704 0129	HONOR SOCIETY	731.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	731.51
05 704 0130	MUSIC	2,854.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,854.25
05 704 0133	SCHOLARSHIPS	3,060.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,060.87
05 704 0134	S/T COOP	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
05 704 0135	SIXTH GRADE TRIP	5,324.26	2,400.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,923.92
05 704 0136	SPEECH	805.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	805.35
05 704 0137	ST BOYS BASKETBALL	641.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	641.07
05 704 0139	ST FOOTBALL	871.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	871.18
05 704 0145	DIGITAL DESIGN	361.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	361.00
Fund Total: 05		52,867.56	2,903.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	49,964.44

May Charges	
Amount	Description

193.08 Cracker Barrel - 6th Grade Trip
 235.66 Perkins - 6th Grade Trip
 439.89 Amazing Pizza Machine - 6th Grade Trip
 200.00 Parkers Smokehouse - 6th Grade Trip
 81.00 UNL Museum - 6th Grade Trip
 230.00 Hu Hot - 6th Grade
 144.08 Jimmy Johns - 6th Grade
 104.00 Caseys - Fuel 6th Grade Trip
 110.00 Strategic Air Command 6th Grade Trip
 218.00 IHOP 6th Grade Trip
 86.41 Dunkin Donuts - 6th Grade Trip
 281.00 Olive Garden 6th Grade Tip
 76.00 Henry Doorly Zoo 6th Grade Trip
 105.22 Cold Stone 6th Grade Trip
 107.94 Amazon
 23.28 Walmart - Art Teaching Supplies
 87.96 High Vee Fuel State Track
 44.78 Dairy Queen - 4th/5th Grade Trip
 106.00 Archway Kearny 4th Grade Trip

2,874.30	TOTAL DUE
	Activity

AD Report
June 15, 2026
(Pat Recoy)

We did not have any state qualifiers for state golf, but we are seeing more students wanting to participate in the future. We had four competitors qualify for state track, Connor Sutton (400, 800, 1600), Shylee Gonzales (1600, 3200), Lindsey McIntosh (Discuss), and Paizley Zutavern (800, 1600). Connor Sutton was our only placer with a first place finish in the 800.

The MNAC minutes from the June 2nd meeting are not available yet, but discussions were had on...

Speech - unified duet will follow the NSAA tournament style of awards with gold, silver, and bronze being awarded.

Volleyball - consolation bracket will be held in the morning and split between the two gyms. Semi-finals and finals will be played 3 out of 5.

Track - MNAC will place top 8 instead of 6 to match districts and state.

Cross Country - Course will be changed to allow for the use of the clubhouse restrooms. The Junior High race will now be 1 mile instead of 1.5 miles.

Music - Vocal and Instrumental Clinic will now allow junior high students at the discretion of the director of each school program.

Wrestling - the conference tournament will remain the same this year. Discussions will be had with wrestling coaches on the future of the conference tournament and format.

The main gym floor in Dunning and the gym floor in Halsey will be closed July 6th-10th for waxing. The activities building in Dunning will be open during this time for use.

Principal Report
June 15th, 2026

We closed out the school year with our annual athletic banquet, district competitions for golf and track, and state meet for track qualifiers. We had 12 students get honor roll awards and 12 students receive high honor roll awards. At the high school we finished the year with 10 high school students with 95% attendance and above and 3 students with perfect attendance for 4th quarter. We also had one student (Charlie Smith) with perfect attendance for the second semester. At the elementary we had 21 students with 95% attendance or better. 6 students with perfect attendance for the 4th quarter and one student (Piper Hanson) with perfect attendance for the second semester.

We had a district Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) meeting on June 8th in Dunning with Mr. Marten, Mrs. Zimmerman, Mrs. Teahon, Mrs. Zutavern and myself in attendance. Amy Walters from ESU10 was also on site for support. The purpose of this meeting is to input data from the current school year and review data to make recommendations for the upcoming school year. We discussed having scheduled monthly meetings to support student learning, review data, and have a better team approach to decision making. We also discussed creating a mentor program as we transition in new staff members.

I attended PowerSchool training, literacy training, and the conference activities meeting. End of the year PowerSchool records cleanup and storage is happening now through July. The Nebraska Reads Act has a goal of 75% of 3rd grade students being grade level proficient in reading by 2030. This has placed a lot of focus on grades K-3 in state reporting and teacher training. We have aligned our language arts curriculum and testing with the state standards and will be training teachers to meet the expectations.

Sandhills Public School District

Annual Report

School District Performance Overview for
2024-2025

May 2026

Superintendent

Dr. Jamie Isom

Principal

Patrick Recoy



District Overview

Mission

The mission of our school district is to develop knowledgeable, noble, independent, grateful, honest, tenacious, and successful citizens for an ever changing world. We develop KNIGHTS.

Beliefs

We believe the Sandhills Public Schools exist for the benefit of all students and the community and shall work toward meeting the needs of each while encouraging and challenging all students to achieve their greatest potential.

We believe the students of the Sandhills Public Schools should develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills leading them to become lifelong learners.

We believe the students of Sandhills Public Schools should understand the importance of uniqueness in both themselves and others, becoming informed citizens who function as useful and productive members of society.

We believe the students of the Sandhills Public Schools shall understand the operation, application, and function of current and developing technology in a changing society.

84 Students

Total Enrollment for the Year
(Fall Membership)

41
K-5 Students

43
6-12 Students

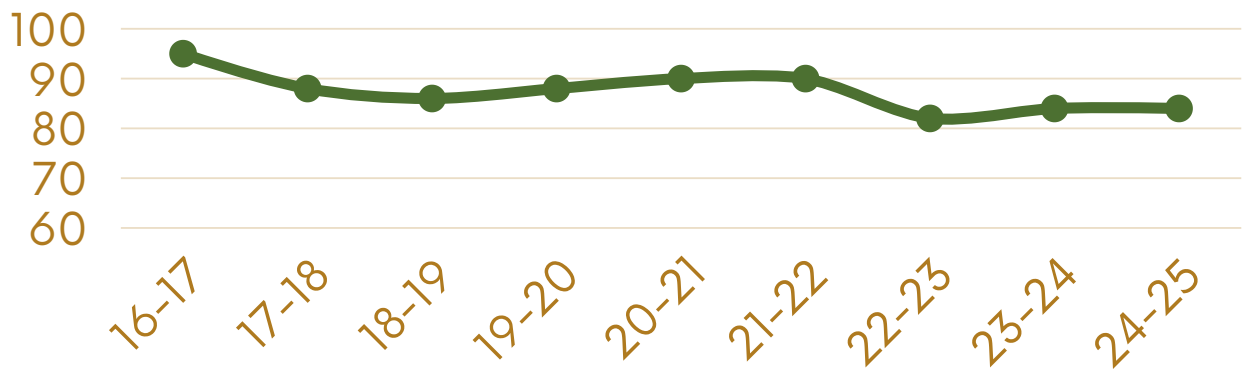
Elementary Building

KG	5
1st	8
2nd	6
3rd	5
4th	10
5th	7

High School Building

6th	9
7th	5
8th	5
9th	5
10th	8
11th	5
12th	6

Enrollment By Year



Academic Performance

Focus on Achievement and Development

Academic performance is a top priority for our school district. In the 2025-2026 academic year, we focused on enhancing student achievement through various programs. These include personalized learning initiatives, comprehensive assessment strategies, and targeted intervention programs. We have also implemented professional development for staff to equip them with the tools needed to support learners, ensuring that every student can reach their full potential and achieve academic success.

NSCAS - Nebraska Student Centered Assessment System

Data Year	English Lanuage Arts		Mathematics		Science	
	Sandhills District	Nebraska	Sandhills District	Nebraska	Sandhills District	Nebraska
2024-2025	80%	59%	63%	58%	-	80%
2023-2024	71%	59%	69%	58%	93%	74%
2022-2023	58%	58%	63%	61%	75%	70%
2021-2022	39%	47%	42%	46%	73%	66%
2020-2021	38%	48%	38%	46%	-	-

Student Snapshot

	District	State
Free and Reduced Lunch	57%	50%
Special Education Percent	17%	17%
High Ability Learners Percent	*	13%
Attendance Rate	93%	93%
Graduation Rate Percent	*	88%
Highly Mobile	3.65%	5.56%

AQuESTT Classification

SUCCESS, ACCESS, AND SUPPORT

Positive Partnerships, Relationships, and Success 1 100%

Students without out of school suspension or expulsion

Transitions 1 100%

Four Year Graduation Rate 100%
 Extended Graduation 100%

AQuESTT uses 2023-2024 graduation rates

Educational Opportunities and Access 1 -13%

Chronic Absenteeism Reduction Score -13%
 Progress Towards EL Proficiency N/A

TEACHING, LEARNING, AND SERVING

Postsecondary, Career, and Civic Ready 1 In Development!

Student Achievement & Growth 1 63%

Individual Score Growth 63%
 Non-Proficiency Reduction Yes
 Science Proficiency Status 76%

Educator Effectiveness 1 In Development!

Final AQuESTT Classification



Teacher Snapshot

	District	State
Number of Certified Staff	18	-
Percent of Teachers with Master's Degree	29%	59%
Average Years of Teaching	14	14
Percent of Teachers with 4 Years or Less of Experience	33%	22%

Financial Data

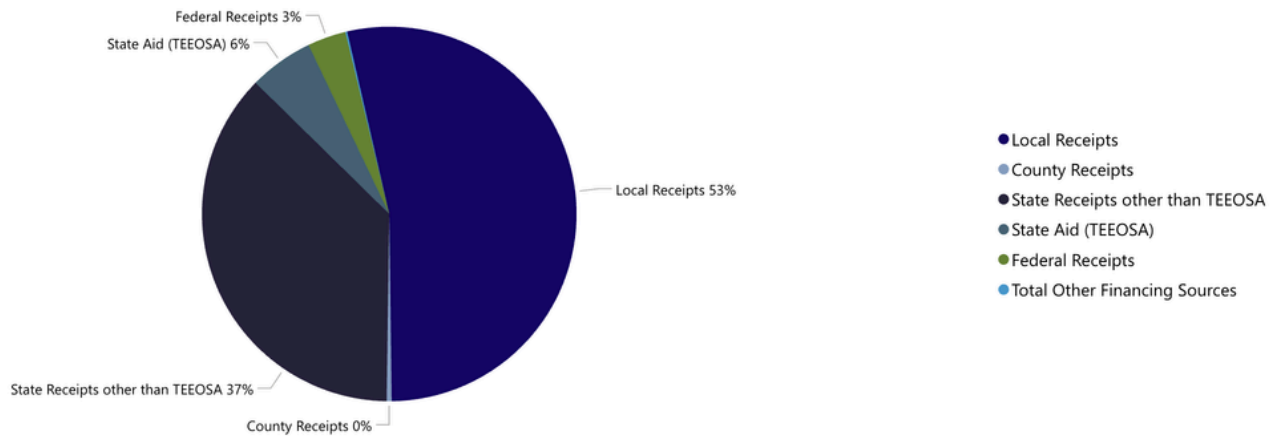
Financial Overview for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Financial Receipts

Where do schools get their monetary resources?

[Click Here for Data Definition](#)

Financial Receipts for School Year : 2024-2025



Description	Receipts	Percent
Local Receipts	\$1,825,042	53.41%
County Receipts	\$14,656	0.43%
State Receipts other than TEEOSA	\$1,268,684	37.12%
State Aid (TEEOSA)	\$189,939	5.56%
Federal Receipts	\$113,523	3.32%
Total Other Financing Sources	\$5,515	0.16%
Total Receipts	\$3,417,359	100.00%

Financial Data

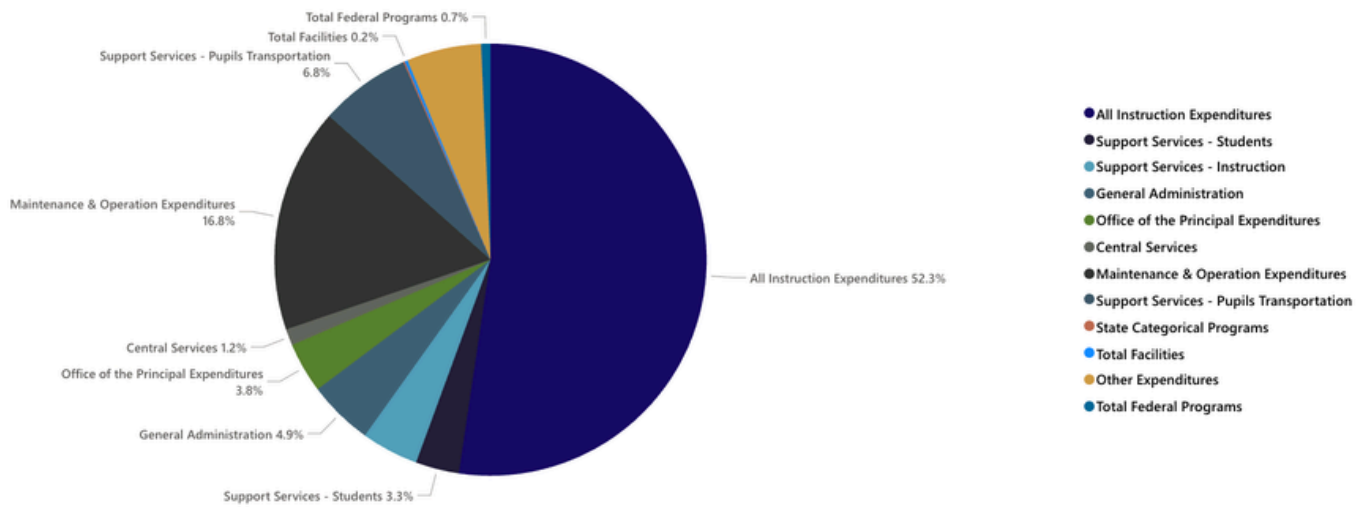
Financial Overview for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Financial Expenditures

Where do schools spend their monetary resources?

[Click Here for Data Definition](#)

Financial Expenditures for School Year : 2024-2025



	Expenditures	Percent
All Instruction Expenditures	\$1,764,348	52.35%
Support Services - Students	\$109,673	3.25%
Support Services - Instruction	\$144,139	4.28%
General Administration	\$164,754	4.89%
Office of the Principal Expenditures	\$127,305	3.78%
Central Services	\$41,252	1.22%
Maintenance & Operation Expenditures	\$566,419	16.80%
Support Services - Pupils Transportation	\$229,787	6.82%
State Categorical Programs	\$3,747	0.11%
Total Facilities	\$7,500	0.22%
Other Expenditures	\$188,000	5.58%
Total Federal Programs	\$23,616	0.70%
Total Disbursements	\$3,370,540	100.00%

Financial Data

Financial Overview for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

Per Pupil Expenditure

[Click Here for Data Definition](#)

Name	General Fund Expenditures Per Pupil						Total Per Pupil Cost
	ADM	Salaries	Benefits	Federal (A)	State/Local (B)	3% Building & Contents (C)	(D) = A+B+C
SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS (05-0071-000)	83.49	\$18,620	\$8,318	\$271	\$36,254	\$5,534	\$42,059
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT HALSEY (05-0071-002)	49.43	\$16,102	\$6,907	\$457	\$32,059	\$2,642	\$35,158
HIGH SCHOOL AT DUNNING (05-0071-001)	34.06	\$22,275	\$10,365	\$0	\$42,341	\$9,731	\$52,072

Name	District Only Submitted General Fund Expenditures Per Pupil						District Submitted Per Pupil Cost
	ADM	Salaries	Benefits	Federal (E)	State/Local (F)	3% Building & Contents (G)	(H) = E+F+G
SANDHILLS PUBLIC SCHOOLS (05-0071-000)	83.49	\$4,006	\$1,426	\$0	\$11,220	\$139	\$11,359

Name	School Only Submitted General Fund Expenditures Per Pupil						School Submitted Per Pupil Cost	District Submitted Per Pupil Cost	Total Per Pupil Cost
	ADM	Salaries	Benefits	Federal (I)	State/Local (J)	3% Building & Contents (K)	(L)=I+J+K	(H)	(M) = L+H
HIGH SCHOOL AT DUNNING (05-0071-001)	34.06	\$18,268	\$8,939	\$0	\$31,119	\$9,585	\$40,704	\$11,359	\$52,063
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AT HALSEY (05-0071-002)	49.43	\$12,096	\$5,482	\$457	\$20,840	\$2,508	\$23,805	\$11,359	\$35,164

Total District Exclusion (Adjustment to Current Expense)	\$320,097
Excluded Expenditures	Debt Interest, Capital Purchases, Equipments, Adult Education, Pre-K, State & Local Grants, and Community Services
Membership Count	ADM = Average Daily Membership



We Develop KNIGHTS



Contact Us

Sandhills Public Schools

107 Gandy Ave
PO Box 29
Dunning, NE 68833

High School (Dunning)

308-538-2224

Elementary School (Halsey)

308-533-2203

Sandhills School Website

sandhillsknights.org

or follow on our live feed
sandhillsknights.org/live-feed

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Download the **Sandhills Public Schools, NE** app from the iOS App Store or Android Play Store and enable Notifications.



Superintendents Report

June 15, 2026

1. Electricians have been here updating electrical panels. The work is completed and the final walk through was held. Wiring was replaced in the kitchen area as well.
2. Work on the low interest energy loan application has started. I have been in contact with the bank representative, the Nebraska Department of Energy and Environment. Projects over \$500,000, must have a "Commercial Energy Audit" completed by a licensed engineer. Facility Advocates has put us in touch with an engineer to do this and this can be done as an agent of the district or as an additional contract with Facility Advocates. I will be receiving more information about this. This engineer along with the engineer with Facility Advocates plans to come and walk through the building in the next few weeks.
3. To my knowledge, there is currently no write in candidate for board elections. The potential candidate needs to file a notarized affidavit with the county clerk by October 23, 2026. Write in's that haven't filed an affidavit are not included in the count. Should there not be a write-in, the board could appoint after the election.
4. Budget preparations for the 2026-2027 year are gearing up. Forms for most of the process will be released by the end of June, if they aren't available already. Certified Valuation is the last piece, as counties have until August 20 to certify that for school districts. As part of the July board meeting, I plan to go through a very preliminary draft of the budget for the 2026-2027 year. Also of note, additions made to this process through the passage of LB 803 in late April, including notifications to the county clerk information of every county in the political subdivision, an additional joint public hearing held between July 1 – 15, etc. will take effect for the 2027-2028 budget year, not as part of the 2026–2027-year process.
5. Review of bus routes and bus driver rates for the 2026-2027 year are planned for the July meeting. There are also several policies that have a required annual review and/or public hearing.
6. Approval of new board policies is on the agenda as an action item even though we likely won't be able to complete this as it has taken a bit longer than I thought to get that ready. However, in the week or so, we should be ready to go forward. As was discussed, the plan is to adopt the new policy manual through NASB done by Perry Law Firm as a whole, and then review to make any revisions that may be necessary to have them fit the district over the coming months. My understanding is that policies will be renumbered and edited from the previous NASB policy service. A few of the 'new' policies may impact the approval of handbooks as we want to be sure new policies align with those referenced in the handbooks. Approval of the parent/student and extracurricular handbooks are included on the agenda, knowing that there are policies referenced in the handbook that may need to be updated based on the new policy service.
7. There are several policies that are required to be reviewed annually, some require a hearing and some do not so plan to include those in July or August, prior to the beginning of the school year, if at all possible, once we have the new policy manual in place.

2026-2027 Breakfast & Lunch Prices

Suggested

Elementary Breakfast - \$2.20

High School Breakfast - \$2.20

Adult Breakfast - \$3.20

Seconds - \$1.70

Extra Milk - \$0.35

Elementary Lunch = \$3.45

High School Lunch = \$3.70

Adult Lunch = \$4.65

SFA NAME: [TYPE SFA NAME HERE]

The prices are based on adjusting SY 2025-26 price requirement by the 2% rate increase plus the Consumer Price Index (3.85%).

SY 2026-27 Weighted Average Price Requirement	
Requirement to the nearest cent	Requirement ROUNDED DOWN to the nearest 5 cents
\$ 3.55	\$ 3.50

Requirement based on

SY 2026-27 Price Raise Calculator

Step 1

If the SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Price is equal to or above the target price of \$4.16 then the SFA is compliant for SY 2026-27.

SY 2025-26 Weighted Average Price Calculator

Enter the paid prices and number of paid lunches sold at each price for October 2025.

	Number of Paid Lunches	Paid Lunch Prices	Monthly Revenue	Weighted Average Price for SY 2025-26
1	356	\$ 3.35	\$ 1,192.60	
2	322	\$ 3.60	\$ 1,159.20	
3			\$ -	
4			\$ -	
5			\$ -	
6			\$ -	
7			\$ -	
8			\$ -	
9			\$ -	
10			\$ -	
Total	678		\$ 2,351.80	\$ 3.47

10¢ increase each year typically

Step 2

Shortfall or Credit
Enter any shortfall or credit carried forward from SY 2025-26
\$ 0.10

Overview of the Calculations

Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on the requirement rounded down to the nearest 5 cents)	\$ (0.07)
Required Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27 (Increase with the 10 cents cap)	
No price increase necessary	
Remaining Shortfall to Meet the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on establishing the price with the 10 cents cap)	\$ -
Credit From the Total Price Increase for SY 2026-27 (Based on a greater price in SY 25-26 and/or credit from the previous year)	\$ (0.07)

2025-2026 Breakfast & Lunch Prices

- Elementary Breakfast = \$2.10
- High School Breakfast = \$2.10
- Adult Breakfast = \$3.10
- Seconds = \$1.60
- Extra milk = \$0.35

- Elementary Lunch = \$3.35
- High School Lunch = \$3.60
- Adult Lunch = \$4.55

(Optional Step)

Pricing Estimation Calculator

Below is a tool allowing users to manipulate prices to achieve the required weighted average price for SY 2026-27.

	Number of Paid Lunches	Paid Lunch Prices	Monthly Revenue	Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27
1			\$ -	
2			\$ -	
3			\$ -	
4			\$ -	
5			\$ -	
6			\$ -	
7			\$ -	
8			\$ -	
9			\$ -	
10			\$ -	
Total	-		\$ -	\$ -

2026-2027 Breakfast & Lunch Prices

Suggested

- Elementary Breakfast - \$2.20
- High School Breakfast - \$2.20
- Adult Breakfast - \$3.20
- Seconds - \$1.70
- Extra Milk - \$0.35

- Elementary Lunch = \$3.45
- High School Lunch = \$3.70
- Adult Lunch = \$4.65

Step 3

SY 26-27 Report

To review the instructions for the SY 26-27 Price Raise Calculator:

Instructions

Attention: Users should only enter information in the cells highlighted in green. Modifications should not be made to the tool as changes can cause an incorrect new average price to be calculated which will impact future calculations.

10% increase each year

SFA NAME: [TYPE SFA NAME HERE]

Paid Lunch Equity Report for SY 2026-2027

This report provides a summary of the calculations made for SY 2026-27. It details the weighted average paid price requirement, the method SFAs chose to meet the requirement and any shortfall or credit that will need to be carried forward to the next school year. This report will be helpful to have when completing next year's PLE tool so it is recommended that SFAs print and keep this report in their records.

Section 1: SY 2026-27 Weighted Average Paid Price Requirements

A. Requirement to the nearest cent: This unrounded price will be entered into the SY 2027-28 tool to determine the weighted average price requirements	\$3.55
B. Requirement ROUNDED DOWN to the nearest 5 cents:	\$3.50

Required Price

Section 2: Summary of Calculations

Select the method used to meet the requirement for SY 2026-27
Method 1: Raise the Weighted Average Price of Paid Lunches

Suggested Prices

Average Weighted Price Adjustments

A. Shortfall Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:	
B. Credit Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:	
C. Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27:	

Non-Federal Source Contributions

D. Shortfall Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:	
E. Credit Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:	
F. Amount of Revenue from non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27:	
G. Non-Federal Revenue Sources:	
H. General Fund Transfer:	

Split Calculations

I. Shortfall Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:	
J. Credit Carried Forward to SY 2027-28:	
K. Weighted Average Price for SY 2026-27:	
L. Amount of Revenue from non-Federal Sources for SY 2026-27:	

Teacher's Contract
School Year 2026-2027

Name: **Emily Martindale**

Annual Salary: \$36,198

Start Date: on or about September 9, 2026

Addendum Salary:

End Date: on or about May 20, 2027

Total Salary: \$36,198

THIS CONTRACT made by and between the School District of SANDHILLS, No. 71 in the County of Blaine, in the State of Nebraska, hereinafter referred to as the District and the above named individual, a legally qualified teacher, hereinafter referred to as Teacher.

WITNESSETH: That the Board of Education of the District hereby agrees to employ the Teacher above named in the schools of the District for a school year, which shall begin on or about listed above, and end on listed above, and shall consist of **167** days of service including at least **162** teaching days and that the Teacher hereby agrees to accept such employment at a salary as listed above.

FIRST: The salary of the Teacher shall be payable in **12** equal installments. The first installment shall be payable on the **20th day of September** of the current year, or, if that date falls on a weekend, on the prior business day. The remaining installments shall be payable on the 20th day of each month thereafter.

SECOND: The teacher hereby agrees to be governed by the policies of the Board of Education of the District and that the teaching duties to be performed by the teacher under this contract shall be subject to assignment of the Superintendent of the District with the approval of the Board of Education of the District; and further agrees to devote full time, during days of school to the teacher's position in all respects, to diligently and faithfully perform the assigned duties as Teacher to the best of their professional ability.

THIRD: In addition to the teaching duties set forth herein, the Teacher may be assigned such "extra duty" assignments as defined from time to time by the parties of this agreement which shall be upon such terms and conditions and at such additional stated rate of compensation as the Teacher and the District may from time to time agree upon.

FOURTH: This contract may be cancelled or amended by a majority of the members of the school board during the school year for any of the following reasons: (a) upon cancellation, termination, revocation, or suspension of the teacher's certificate by the State Board of Education; (b) breach of any material provisions of this contract; (c) for any reason set forth in this contract; (d) incompetence; (e) neglect of duty; (f) unprofessional conduct; (g) insubordination; (h) immorality; or (i) physical or mental incapacity. The provisions of 79-822-849 shall govern cancellation or amendment under this contract.

FIFTH: That upon termination of this contract for just cause, or upon the release of the Teacher from this contract, the compensation paid or to be paid hereunder shall be an amount which bears the same ration to the yearly salary herein specified as the number of days of service to the date of such termination bears to a **167** days of service. The Teacher shall refund any unearned fractional portion of an installment paid but not earned prior to termination of the contact.

SIXTH: There shall be no penalty for release or resignation by the Teacher from this contract; provided no resignation shall become effective until the close of the school year unless accepted by the Board of Education of the District and the Board shall fix the time at which the resignation is to take effect.

SEVENTH: This contract shall conform to the regulations governing deductions from above stated compensation with reference to Withholding Tax, Social Security, and Teacher's Retirement. Other deductions may be withheld as agreed to by the parties to this contract.

EIGHTH: The Teacher hereby affirms that they are not under contract with another School Board or Board of Education within this State covering a part or all of the same time of performance as is contemplated by this agreement. The Teacher further affirms that at the beginning of the term of this contract they hold or will hold a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate. It is understood and agreed that this contract is not valid until the Teacher's Certificate, as herein listed, is registered in the office of the Superintendent of Schools and that the Teacher shall not be compensated for any services performed prior to the date of registration of this certificate.

NINTH: Terms and conditions set forth in this agreement shall be subject to such wages and conditions of employment as may, from time to time, be mutually agreed upon by and between the Board and teachers or a duly recognized collective bargaining agent for said teachers, and said agreement, when reduced to writing, and executed by the parties, shall be deemed to be included herein by reference and shall become a part hereof.

TENTH: Hereafter, this contract may be continued by a separate, annual written "Renewal Agreement" which shall incorporate all the provisions hereof by reference, except as stated on such Renewal Agreement.

ELEVENTH: Other Contract Terms:

Salary based on the teacher being on the Lane and Step indicated above of the Salary Schedule. Salary adjustments will be made upon completion of contract negotiations with BCEA (Blaine County Education Association).

Additional Terms of Employment:

Teacher (Emily Martindale) agrees to obtain a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate prior to employment. The teacher will provide the district with a course of study to obtain appropriate Elementary Education certification through an accredited institution. Ms. Martindale will confer with administration to determine an appropriate time line for completion of the course work and obtaining the endorsement. Cost of the Praxis test or coursework will be the responsibility of the teacher.

Teacher agrees to participate in appropriate staff development or training(s) related to the Elementary Education field as directed by administration.

Teacher Emily Martindale

Date 6/10/26

Superintendent _____

Date _____

Board Chairman _____

Date _____

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

~~2025-2026~~

2026-2027

~~*Approved July 14th, 2025 by the Sandhills Board of Education~~



Sandhills High School
107 Gandy Ave.
P.O. Box 29
Dunning, NE 68833
308-538-2224
(Fax) 308-538-2228

Sandhills Elementary School
408 HWY 2
P.O. Box 99
Halsey, NE 69142
308-533-2203
(Fax) 308-533-2338

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

(All parents must submit online form to indicate receipt annually)

Foreword

Table of Contents

		Page
Section 1	Intent of Handbook	5
Section 2	School Calendar	5
Section 3	Members of the Board of Education	5
Section 4	Administrative Staff	6
Section 5	Staff	6

Article 1 - Mission and Beliefs

		Page
Section 1	Mission Statement	8
Section 2	Belief Statements	8
Section 3	Complaint Procedures	8

Article 2 - School Day

		Page
Section 1	Daily Schedule	9
Section 2	Shortened Schedules	9
Section 3	Severe Weather and School Cancellations	10
Section 4	Closed Campus	11
Section 5	Supervision Responsibility Before/After School	11

Article 3 - Use of Building and Grounds

		Page
Section 1	Visitors	13
Section 2	Smoke-Free Environment	13
Section 3	Care of School Property	13
Section 4	Playground Rules	13
Section 5	Lockers	14
Section 6	Searches of Lockers and Other Types of Searches	14
Section 7	Video Surveillance	15
Section 8	Recording of Others	15
Section 9	Use of Cell Phones or Other Electronic Devices	15
Section 10	Student Valuables	16
Section 11	Lost and Found	16
Section 12	Accidents	16
Section 13	Laboratory/Shop Safety Glasses	16
Section 14	Bulletins and Announcements	16
Section 15	Celebrations	16

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Section 16	Copyright	16
Section 17	Behavioral Points of Contact	17

Article 4 – Attendance

		Page
Section 1	Attendance	18
Section 2	Attendance and Absences	18
Section 3	Make-up Work	19
Section 4	Attendance is Required to Participate in Activities	20
Section 5	Truancy	20

Article 5 - Scholastic Achievement

		Page
Section 1	Grading System	22
Section 2	High School Yearly Course Requirements	22
Section 3	Graduation Requirements	23
Section 4	Promotion and Retention	24
Section 5	Schedule Changes	24
Section 6	Interim Reports	24
Section 7	Report Cards/Transcripts	25
Section 8	Parent-Teacher Conferences	25
Section 9	Honor Roll	25
Section 10	National Honor Society	25

Article 6 - Support Services

		Page
Section 1	Special Education Services	27
Section 2	Students with Disabilities: Section 504	28
Section 3	Health Services	29
Section 4	Insurance	31
Section 5	Transportation Services	31

Article 7 - Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

		Page
Section 1	Drug-Free Schools	33
Section 2	Education and Prevention	33
Section 3	Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco	33

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Article 8 - Student Conduct Rules

		Page	
Section 1	Purpose of Student Conduct Rules	34	
Section 2	Forms of School Discipline	● Short-Term Suspension	34
		● Long-Term Suspension	35
		● Expulsion	36
		● Emergency Exclusion	37
		● Other Forms of Student Discipline	37
		● Student Conduct Expectations	38
		● Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment	38
		● Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline	40
		● Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection	45
		● Law Violations	45
		● Anti-Bullying	45
		● Network, E-Mail, Internet, and Other Computer Use Rules	45
		● Possession and use of an Electronic Device	47
		● Risks of Social Media	47
● Specific Rule Items	48		

Article 9 – Student Fees Policy

		Page
Section 1	Student Activity Fees	49

Article 10 - State and Federal Programs

		Page
Section 1	Notice of Nondiscrimination	55
Section 2	Designation of Coordinators	55
Section 3	Multicultural	55
Section 4	Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	56
Section 5	Notification of Rights Under FERPA	56
Section 6	Military Recruiters	59
Section 7	Combined District and School Title I Parent/Family Involvement	59
Section 8	Student Privacy Protection Policy	59
Section 9	Homeless Students	61
Section 10	Breakfast and Lunch Programs	61
	Acknowledgment of Receipt Form	65

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Foreword

Section 1 Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Sandhills Public Schools. 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 the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students and the educational program. 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, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

The Policies of the Board of Education may cover areas not addressed in this Handbook. Every parent or guardian and student should familiarize themselves with Board Policies online at: <https://meeting.sparqdata.com/Public/Organization/sandhills>

Section 2 School Calendar

Please refer to the live district calendar available at www.sandhillsknights.org. Dates and times are subject to change and changes will most likely occur. Please contact the main office for assistance.

Section 3 Members of the Board of Education

Name	Position	Phone Number	Email
Rory Zutavern	President	402-440-4383	rory.zutavern@sandhillsknights.org
Jeff Martindale	Vice President	308-880-0789	jeff.martindale@sandhillsknights.org
Reed Larsen	Secretary	208-390-9750	reed.larsen@sandhillsknights.org
Michelle Milleson	Treasurer	308-539-4872	michelle.milleson@sandhillsknights.org
Jill Thompson	Member	308-882-0108	jill.thompson@sandhillsknights.org
Dillon Simonson	Member	308-880-0810	dillon.simonson@sandhillsknights.org

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook 2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Section 4 Administrative Staff

Name	Position	Phone Number	Email
Jamie Isom	Superintendent	308-538-2224	jamie.isom@sandhillsknights.org
Patrick Recoy	K-12 Principal	308-538-2224	patrick.recoy@sandhillsknights.org
Jaylee Simonson	Business Manager & HS Secretary	308-538-2224	jaylee.simonson@sandhillsknights.org
Monique Leach	Elementary Secretary	308-533-2203	monique.leach@sandhillsknights.org

Section 5 Staff

Teacher/Staff Member	Email Address	Grades/Subject Area
Elementary School Building Staff		
Kristin Webster	kristi.webster@sandhillsknights.org	Kindergarten
Jeanine Saner	jeanine.saner@sandhillsknights.org	1st Grade
Julie Teahon	julie.teahon@sandhillsknights.org	2nd Grade
Delite Zutavern	delite.zutavern@sandhillsknights.org	3rd Grade
Trish Rodocker	trish.rodocker@sandhillsknights.org	4th Grade
Janine Catlett	janine.catlett@sandhillsknights.org	5th Grade
Brittni Bradley Emily Martindale	brittni.bradley@sandhillsknights.org emily.martindale@sandhillsknights.org	K-5 PE & Title I
Jean Cox	jean.cox@sandhillsknights.org	Library Aide
Anita Peterson	anita.peterson@sandhillsknights.org	Custodian/Facilities
District Wide Staff		
Bobbi Zimmerman	bobbi.zimmerman@sandhillsknights.org	K-12 Guidance & Tech Coordinator
Danielle Thompson	danielle.thompson@sandhillsknights.org	K-12 Special Education

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

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Kristin Ganoung	kristin.ganoung@sandhillsknights.org	K-12 Art & Library
Cindy Coffman	ccoffman@esu10.org	ESU 10 Speech Path.
Tiffany Glidden	tiffany.glidden@sandhillsknights.org	Kitchen Supervisor
Roxannie Payne	roxannie.payne@sandhillsknights.org	Kitchen Aide
High School Building Staff		
Chantelle Milleson	chantelle.milleson@sandhillsknights.org	6th Grade
Andra Smith	andra.smith@sandhillsknights.org	7-12 Agriculture
Jake Trospen	jake.trospen@sandhillsknights.org	6-12 PE
Chris Rodgers	chris.rodgers@sandhillsknights.org	7-12 Math
Florence Bernardo	florence.bernardo@sandhillsknights.org	7-12 Language Arts
Adam Marten	adam.marten@sandhillsknights.org	7-12 Social Science
Zeta Greene	zeta.greene@sandhillsknights.org	7-12 Science
Elise Miller	elise.miller@sandhillsknights.org	7-12 Business
Jody Anderson	jody.anderson@sandhillsknights.org	Custodian/Facilities
Jack Moody	jack.moody@sandhillsknights.org	6-12 Para

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Article 1 – Mission and Beliefs

Section 1 Mission Statement

The Sandhills Public School mission is to develop K.N.I.G.H.T.S. Knowledgeable, noble, independent, grateful, honest, tenacious, successful citizens for an ever-changing world.

Section 2 Belief Statements

- We believe the Sandhills Public Schools exist for the benefit of all students and the community and shall work toward meeting the needs of each while encouraging and challenging all students to achieve their greatest potential.
- We believe the students of the Sandhills Public Schools should develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills leading them to become lifelong learners.
- We believe the students of Sandhills Public Schools should understand the importance of uniqueness in both themselves and others, becoming informed citizens who function as useful and productive members of society.
- We believe the students of the Sandhills Public Schools shall understand the operation, application, and function of current and developing technology in a changing society.

Section 2 Complaint Procedures

The proper procedure for a parent or student to make complaints or raise concerns is to begin with the school employee who is most immediately or directly involved in the matter, as illustrated in the complaint procedure set forth below. There are other procedures identified in the Handbook to address specific complaints or concerns, such as discrimination or harassment, bullying, disciplinary actions. Those procedures should be used where applicable.

1. Complaint procedure
Step 1. Schedule a conference with the staff person most immediately or directly involved in the matter.
Step 2. Address the concern with the Principal if the matter is not resolved at Step 1.
Step 3. Address the concern with the Superintendent if the matter is not resolved at Step 2.
Step 4. Address the concern to the Board of Education if the matter is not resolved at Step 3.

2. Conditions Applicable to All Levels of Complaint Procedure
All information to be considered at each step should be placed in writing in order to be most effective. Action or decisions will be expedited as quickly as possible, typically within ten (10) calendar days, depending on the nature of the complaint and the need for prompt resolution.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Article 2 – School Day

Section 1 Daily Schedule Monday through Thursday

Period	Start Time	End Time	Period	Start Time	End Time
*Breakfast	7:45 am	7:58 am	Period 5	11:40 am	12:29 pm
Homeroom	8:00 am	8:14 8:10 am	Lunch	12:29 pm	12:59 pm
Period 1	8:16 8:12 am	9:05 9:01 am	Period 6	1:01 pm	1:50 pm
Period 2	9:07 9:03 am	9:56 9:52 am	Period 7	1:52 pm	2:41 pm
Period 3	9:58 9:54 am	10:47 am	Period 8	2:43 pm	3:32 pm
Period 4	10:49 am	11:38 am			

Section 2 Shortened Schedules Friday Schedule

Period	Start Time	End Time	Period	Start Time	End Time
*Breakfast	7:45 am	7:58 am	Period 5	11:09 11:11 am	11:53 11:56 pm
Period 1	8:00 am	8:45 am	Lunch	11:53 11:56 pm	12:23 12:26 pm
Period 2	8:47 am	9:32 am	Period 6	12:25 12:28 pm	1:10 1:12 pm
Period 3	9:34 am	10:19 10:22 am	Period 7	1:12 1:14 pm	1:57 1:58 pm
Period 4	10:21 10:24 am	11:06 11:09 am	Period 8	1:59 2:00 pm	2:44 pm

2:00 Dismissal Schedule

Period	Start Time	End Time	Period	Start Time	End Time
*Breakfast	7:45 am	7:58 am	Period 5	10:44 10:47 am	11:23 11:26 pm

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook 2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Period 1	8:00 am	8:39 am	Lunch Period 6	11:25 11:28 pm	12:04 12:07 pm
Period 2	8:41 am	9:20 am	Period 6 Lunch	12:06 12:09 pm	12:38 12:39 pm
Period 3	9:22 am	10:01 10:04 am	Period 7	12:40 12:41 pm	1:19 1:20 pm
Period 4	10:03 10:06 am	10:42 10:45 am	Period 8	1:21 1:22 pm	2:00 pm

10:00 Late Start Schedule

Period	Start Time	End Time	Period	Start Time	End Time
No Breakfast Served			Lunch	12:30 am	1:00 pm
Period 1	10:00 am	10:36 am	Period 5	1:02 pm	1:38 pm
Period 2	10:38 am	11:14 am	Period 6	1:40 pm	2:16 pm
Period 3	11:16 am	11:52 am	Period 7	2:18 pm	2:54 pm
Period 4	11:54 am	12:30 am	Period 8	2:56 pm	3:32 pm

Section 3 Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The Superintendent may close public schools in case of severe weather or an emergency. Parents and students will be notified via the messaging system regarding school closings. In addition, the district webpage and Facebook page will also carry these important announcements.

It is the responsibility of the student's parent/guardian to make certain the district office has current and up to date contact information in order to be successfully notified by the system. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will also notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information is usually broadcast regularly by radio and television stations (KBBN - 95.3, KBRB - 92.7 FM, KCNI- 96.3 & 1280 AM, KBEAR- 92.3 FM, and KOLN/KGIN TV, KNOP TV, SandhillsExpress.com). Due to the size of the Sandhills District, it is possible to have inclement weather in one area and not others. Parents are encouraged to contact school personnel about questions regarding school closings.

Parental Decisions. Parents may decide to keep their children at home during inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will generally be considered an excused absence.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

Pickup During Inclement Weather. Parents should not come to school during severe weather, such as during a tornado warning since students will be moved into safe areas of the building and will not ordinarily be released during inclement weather or dangerous circumstances.

Emergency Closing Procedures. Parents are requested to provide an emergency contact telephone number to have on file in the event of an emergency closing or any other general or individual situation that requires the immediate presence of a parent/guardian. In the event that parents do not have such a number or cannot be contacted, it will be assumed that the parent has instructed their children concerning the procedure they are to follow should school be dismissed early. Realizing that the school might be unable to reach all parents, it is suggested that all children be advised as to what they are to do should they ever be dismissed early. It is recommended that parents give their children an alternate destination and that the building principal be made aware of this information. If conditions allow and supervision is available in the event of an early dismissal, the child will be held in school until the normal dismissal time. If the parent or guardian has not arrived to pick up the child by the normal dismissal time, law enforcement or child protective services may be contacted to ensure the safety of the child.

Section 4 Closed Campus

All students are required to remain on campus during the school day. In order to leave the building, a student's parent must provide written or verbal permission. On occasion, students are allowed, with teacher/staff permission, to leave the building to quickly retrieve something from their vehicle, etc. Any time a student leaves the building they must sign out at the main office and sign in upon return.

Section 5 Supervision Responsibility Before/After School

Arrival at Sandhills Elementary School/Dismissal From Sandhills Elementary School

The Elementary Center at Halsey will be opened at 7:35 a.m. and closed at 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. However, parents are to stay informed regarding schedule changes which are communicated by messages, notes, or the school calendar. It is the responsibility of the parent to make certain their student is properly cared for outside of school supervised hours. On Friday school will be dismissed at 2:30 p.m., so the building will only be opened until 3:00 p.m.

Children arriving before 7:35 a.m. should remain outside the building unless arrangements have been made with their teacher, or until the Purdum bus arrives at school. Supervision will be provided for students riding the Purdum bus after school until the bus returns to pick up students. Because the safety of your child is paramount to us, the supervisor will have a list of students staying after school.

If you pick your child up early, please let the office know. Also, if your child does not usually stay after school and you would like them to, please contact the school secretary in advance in order to accommodate your needs. Students not riding the Purdum bus after school are to leave the school grounds immediately after school unless other arrangements have been made.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Arrival at Sandhills High School/Dismissal From Sandhills High School

Students are expected to arrive at school no more than 20 minutes prior to the first class or school program in which they are participating. Prior to that time, the school is not responsible for supervision of the students. Students will ordinarily be admitted to the school building 20 minutes prior to the first class. Students will not be permitted to enter earlier unless the Principal determines it to be necessary due to inclement weather or other factors. Students are to enter through their assigned entrance and proceed to designated areas.

Students will be dismissed at the end of the last period of the school day unless there are other circumstances (early dismissal, detention etc.). Upon dismissal, students must leave the school grounds and proceed home or to a previously designated location unless participating in a school-sponsored activity. The school is not responsible for supervision of students once the students are to have left school grounds. It is expected that students, who are not involved in a school sponsored activity, will proceed home in a timely manner. If a student is staying after school to receive assistance from a teacher, prior arrangements must be made with that teacher and student(s) must be supervised by that teacher.

Certain days on the calendar are “shortened days,” meaning that the school day starts or ends other than on the normal schedule. Parents are strongly encouraged to be aware of those days, so their children are not left in an unsupervised situation or without a means to get home upon dismissal.

Signing a Child In and Out of School

Parents or guardians are required to check in with the office if they are entering after their child’s first class or leaving prior to their child’s final class. The parent or guardian must report to the main office for this purpose. Parents may not go directly to the classrooms. The schools will only release children to adults designated by the parent or an emergency contact.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Article 3 – Use of Building and Grounds

Section 1 Visitors

All visitors must report to the office, upon entering the main entrance, to communicate their business with main office personnel. Visits to classrooms may be limited or regulated depending on the circumstances. Visitation by parents or relatives to classrooms are welcomed and encouraged; provided that the visits do not disrupt the educational program, individual students, or create a safety concern. Visitors must recognize the importance of communicating their wishes to visit with the classroom teacher before the visit and to obtain administrative permission. Wanting to visit without reasonable notice is not appropriate. If a concern exists it should be promptly communicated to the classroom teacher and administration if necessary. Simply contact the main office and we will gladly assist you in the process. Student visitors must be approved by the administration or designee before the visit and in accordance with board policy. Student visitors will be allowed to visit for a portion of the school day in order to minimize distraction to the educational process. Prospective transfer/option students are welcome to visit, with their parents or guardian by appointment with the administration. The administration reserves the right to make decisions regarding visitors on a case-by-case basis if deemed necessary.

Section 2 Smoke-Free Environment

All of our school buildings and grounds are smoke and tobacco-free. No smoking or tobacco is allowed on school grounds or at any school activity.

Section 3 Care of School Property

1. Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school.
2. Students who damage property, break windows, or cause other harm to school property or equipment will be required to pay the cost to repair or replace the item.

School-issued items that are stolen or damaged from unlocked lockers are the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued. Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications and final grades.

Section 4 Playground Rules for Sandhills Elementary School

1. Students must stay within sight of the playground supervisor at all times. If a student is to leave the playground area to go off school grounds the student must have a parental note from home.
2. There will be no throwing of snowballs on school grounds.
3. Tackle football is not allowed.
4. Students are to sit down on the slides. No going down backwards or head first. Only one person may go down the slide at a time.
5. Obscene language is not allowed on school property.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

6. No baseballs allowed at school only softballs will be permitted. Students not at bat need to stand behind the backstop. Helmets need to be worn while batting.
7. Students are not to jump or stand in the swings. Only one person on a swing at a time.
8. The playground supervisor has complete authority over the students and is not to accept any inappropriate behavior. The supervisor will report any problems to the student's teacher and/or to the superintendent. The supervisor will never use corporal punishment on a student.
9. Jump ropes are only to be used for jumping.
10. No students are to play directly on or around the propane tanks.
11. When in the gym, soft sole shoes are to be worn. Students will be allowed to use only basketballs, nerf balls, and wiffle balls.
12. Only hand over hand will be allowed while climbing on the monkey bars. Always use this equipment as instructed without sitting or crawling on the top.
13. Annie-Annie Over will not be allowed to be played due to the chance of students running into one another.
14. No jumping out of the swings while they are in motion.
15. No items brought from home are allowed on the playground.
16. While on the playground, shoes must be worn.
17. Students are expected to comply with the requests and directions of the playground supervisor.

Section 5 Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker. Students must use their own lockers and are not to share lockers with other students, except as assigned by school officials. Students are expected to keep all books, etc., in their assigned locker. Students are also responsible for the cleanliness inside their locker and the door of their locker. Students may be assessed a fine for damage to lockers.

Students may not display images, information or messages that may cause a substantial disruption to the operations of the school. If a staff member sees or learns of an image or message that may cause a disruption, the staff member may ask the student to remove the image or message from the locker. If the student refuses, then the administration will meet with the student and parents to discuss the situation. The principal shall have the final say on whether a student needs to remove the image or message from the locker.

Section 6 Searches of Lockers and Other Types of Searches

Student lockers, desks, computers, and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over 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 of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.

The following rules 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:

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

1. School Administration 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 is to be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Random searches of student lockers, desks, and other similar school property provided for use by students may be conducted at the discretion of the administration.
3. Searches of the District's computer system may be conducted at the discretion of the administration at any time.

Section 7 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 to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations as deemed appropriate by the administration. As a result, 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.

Section 8 Recording of Others

To ensure the privacy and confidentiality of student information, no person is authorized to record or transmit any sound or image of any person (including themselves) without the prior consent or authorization of either (1) the person or persons being recorded or whose image or sound is being transmitted, (2) by authorized staff for purposes of child welfare (for example, to record images of injuries to students caused or believed to be caused by another person), or (3) the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. This prohibition applies to all persons, including students, parents, and community members, regardless of the content or context of the image or sound; however, this provision shall not apply to District-sponsored athletic or activity events where the focus of the recording or transmission is on the student performances or activity. Nothing in this provision shall prohibit the recording of an Individualized Education Program meeting if the recording is necessary to ensure that the parent understands the IEP or the IEP process or to implement other parental rights guaranteed by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Section 9 Use of Cell Phones or Other Electronic Devices

1. K-6 Students may not use cell phones or other electronic personal devices during the school day. We recognize today's technology needs/wishes and ask that parents inform their child's classroom teacher if their child has a phone or personal device. If the need to use such a device arises, it must be approved and supervised by the teaching staff. The use of cell phones or other image capable technology in restrooms is strictly forbidden. Violation of this rule will result in confiscation of devices in addition to further disciplinary action if deemed necessary by the classroom teacher and or administration.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

2. 7-12 Students may not use cell phones or other electronic personal devices during class time or passing periods, unless otherwise permitted by a teacher for the purpose of an academic activity. Cell phones or other electronic communication devices are to be kept in the students' lockers. A student who violates this rule may be required to turn their phone into the office or lose phone/device privileges for an extended period of time.
3. Students may use electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care Plan, or pursuant to a plan developed with the student's parent and administration when the student has a compelling need to have the device.

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. The school does not guarantee or represent 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, where the articles can be claimed by the owner. 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 the Supt/Principal.

Section 13 Laboratory/Shop Safety Glasses

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and teacher while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

Section 14 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 need to be approved by the Principal's office. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible for seeing that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event or when directed by the Principal.

Section 15 Celebrations

Celebrations and classroom parties will be held under the direction of the classroom teacher or sponsoring teacher. These may be held for special occasions, holidays, birthdays, or other special events.

Section 16 Copyright

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing course work, they also must follow the federal

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

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.

Section 17 Behavioral Points of Contact

The District maintains a registry of local mental health and counseling resources, including those resource services that can be accessed by families and individuals outside of school. To gain more information about these resources, parents and/or students should contact their building counselor or principal. This information, as well as the District's behavioral points of contact, are also listed on the District's website.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Article 4 – Attendance

Section 1 Attendance

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations and staff are responsible for assisting in the enforcement of the rules and regulations. Students and parents are responsible for developing behaviors which will result in regular and punctual student attendance.

If your child is ill, tardy, or absent for any reason, please call the school no later than 8:30. If you know your child will be absent from school in advance, please call the office. It is the policy of our school to call parents when children become ill or are hurt more than taking simple first aid. If a child is injured severely an accident report form will be filled out detailing the cause of the accident. It is also a good idea if parents provide the school with alternative names and telephone numbers in case the parent/parents cannot be reached. Please be sure to keep the office informed of any changes of addresses or telephone numbers during the school year.

Section 2 Attendance and Absences

Excused and Unexcused Absences. An absence from school will be reported as: (a) an excused absence or (b) an unexcused absence.

1. Excused Absences. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance, whenever possible. An absence or tardy, even with parental approval, may not be considered excused by the school. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval. An absence for any of the following reasons will be typically excused, provided the required procedures have been followed:
 - a. Attendance at a funeral for a member of the immediate family (parents, siblings, and grandparents).
 - b. Illness which causes a student to be absent from school.
 - c. Doctor or dental appointment which requires the student to be absent from school.
 - d. Court appearances that are required by a court order.
 - e. School sponsored activities which require students to be absent from school.
 - f. Other absences which have received prior approval from the Principal.

The Principal has the discretion to deny approval for a student's absence, depending on circumstances, such as the student's absence record, the student's academic status, the tests or other projects which may be missed, and other relevant reasons.

2. Unexcused Absences: An absence which is not excused is unexcused. If a student's absence is unexcused the student may receive zeros for any class work missed during the absence and may be required to make up work and the time missed.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Tardy to School.

1. K-5 Elementary students will be considered tardy at 8:25 a.m.
2. 6-12 Students will be considered tardy to school if they are not seated in their assigned class or ready and attentive in their assigned area when the bell for their first-class rings at 8:00 a.m.

Tardy to Class. 6-12 Students have a sufficient time period between classes to make it to their next assigned class on time. Students will be considered tardy to class if they are not in their assigned classroom when the tardy bell rings unless they have a pass from a staff member. Specific tardy guidelines once students are in the classroom doorway are at the discretion of the classroom teacher.

Tardy Discipline Policy: Students who are tardy for 1st period will report to the office to get a pass before entering classes. All Teachers are responsible to give a tardy to late students and log tardies into PowerSchool. The school's intent and purpose is to model proper time management and punctual behavior on the part of students. If a student begins to accumulate multiple tardies, that student will meet with the Superintendent/Principal or designee to discuss a remedy to their lateness which may include disciplinary action including, but not limited to, detention time served at the discretion of the administration.

Leaving School or Class. Students who leave school for any reason during the school day must check out of the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students must check in at the office.

College Visitation: Students wishing to visit a college will follow these guidelines:

1. Communicate with the Guidance Counselor and or Principal in order to obtain approval prior to the visit. It is strongly recommended the visit being arranged with the college by the Guidance Counselor to insure the best services during the visit.
2. Get all schoolwork made up before attending the visit.
3. The student must be accompanied by their parent(s) when visiting a college.
4. Pre-approved college visits, through the Guidance Counselor or Principal, will be counted as a school activity and not against the student's attendance record.

Students who leave school without permission and without signing out in the proper manner, or who leave their assigned classroom without teacher permission, may be considered truant.

Section 3 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 completed, students will receive no credit for the work required. The time each student is allowed for make-up work will be determined by the teacher. The student has the

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments. The Superintendent/Principal reserves the right to work with the teacher(s) to grant additional time for a student to complete make-up work in the event of special circumstances. The Supt/Principal reserves the right to make all final decisions related to conflicts due to student make-up work issues.

The student is expected to communicate with each classroom teacher prior to any planned excused absence. In the event of an illness, etc, where the student cannot make prior arrangements, they are to communicate with each teacher regarding make-up work the first day back from the absence(s). To request make-up work parents are encouraged to email their student's teachers.

Section 4 Attendance is Required to Participate in Activities

Full-time students must attend school all day on the day of any scheduled school activity in order to participate in the activity. Part-time eligible students must attend their classes on the day of the school activity in order to participate in the activity. A "school activity" includes athletic contests, practices, and dances. Failure to attend may result in a student being withheld from participation in the activity. The Principal retains the right to grant participation should exceptional circumstances prevail.

Section 5 Truancy

A student who engages in unexcused absences may be considered truant under state law. Truancy is a violation of school rules. The consequence of trancies may include disciplinary action up to expulsion and referral to the county attorney for compulsory attendance violations.

Reporting and Responding to Truant Behavior. Any administrator, teacher, or member of the board of education who knows of any failure on the part of any child aged six (6) to eighteen (18) to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three (3) days report such violation to the Superintendent or designee. The Superintendent or designee shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The Superintendent or designee shall also investigate any case when, based on the Superintendent's personal knowledge or based on a report or complaint from any resident of the district, the Superintendent or designee believes that any child is unlawfully absent from school. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to remediate the child's truant behavior.

Excessive Absenteeism. Parents will be notified periodically as student attendance checks are conducted. Parents are encouraged to closely monitor their students' attendance via Power School or by contacting the office. Students who accumulate ten (10) unexcused absences in a semester shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, the following procedures shall be implemented:

1. One or more meetings shall be held between a school attendance officer, school social worker, or other person designated by the school administration and the

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

parent/guardian and the student to report and attempt to solve the truancy problem. If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting, the principal shall place in the student's attendance records documentation of such refusal.

2. Educational counseling to determine whether curriculum changes, including but not limited to, enrolling the child in an alternative education program that meets the specific educational and behavioral needs of the child.
3. Educational evaluation, which may include a psychological evaluation, to assist in determining the specific condition, if any, contributing to the truancy problem, supplemented by specific efforts by the school to help remedy any condition diagnosed.
4. Investigation of the truancy problem by the school social worker, or if such school does not have a school social worker, another person designated by the administration to identify conditions which may be contributing to the truancy problem. If services for the child and his or her family are determined to be needed, the person performing the investigation shall meet with the parent/guardian and the child to discuss any referral to appropriate community agencies for economic services, family or individual counseling, or other services required to remedy the conditions that are contributing to the truancy problem.

Reporting Habitual Truancy. Students who accumulate twenty (20) unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent per year shall be deemed to be habitually truant. If the student continues to be or becomes habitually truant, the principal shall serve a written notice to the person violating the Nebraska truancy laws (i.e., the person who has legal or active charge or control of the student) warning him or her to comply with the provisions of that law. If within one (1) week after the time the notice is given such person is still violating the school attendance laws or policies, the Principal shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which such person resides.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Article 5 – Scholastic Achievement

Section 1 Grading System

Students will receive letter grades on report cards and transcripts. The following scale will be used to assign letter grades and a grade point average from a percent:

A	93-100
B	92-86
C	85-78
D	77-70
F	69-0

Each teacher will define the grading procedures to be used in their classes. Parents may view their student's grades and progress online at <https://sandhills.powerschool.com/public/>. Usernames and password information is available by contacting the school.

Section 2 High School Yearly Course Requirements

High school students in all grade levels are required to register in the following courses: Math, Social Studies, Science, Health and Physical Education, and Language-Arts and electives as required. The Guidance Counselor, under the direction of the administration, will assist each student in course selection and registration which best suits the student according to available course offerings in alignment with the student's personal plan for high school and beyond. Additionally, there are many online course opportunities in which students can enroll. In order to create equity, the following "online course guidelines" will be used by the administration in determining who is eligible to take courses online:

Online and/or College Course Guidelines - Sandhills High School

Purpose: The purpose of online or college coursework will be to provide educational opportunities for motivated students in addition to regular course offerings in the high school schedule. The purpose of online courses is to enhance, not replace, the typical schedule for a high school student.

Eligibility: Be a junior or senior or be identified as a high ability learner by the high school. Be willing and motivated to be a self-learner and possess a solid work ethic. --- Hold an overall "B" grade point average or higher. Have taken the ACT test or other qualifying placement test, as determined by the credit granting institution. Have the support of the Counselor and Principal. The Principal can make exceptions providing the student has demonstrated the integrity and work ethic to successfully complete an independent online course.

Guidelines/Rationale: Online courses are not meant to replace current courses in the schedule. They are meant to challenge students beyond the regular schedule and further prepare them for the rigors of college. Students enrolling in online courses are expected to complete course

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

~~2025-2026~~ 2026-2027 School Year

requirements during study halls or on their own time. Exceptions to this guideline will only be made under special circumstances (determined by the principal and counselor) where an online course may be taken in place of courses already found in the class schedule. Online course choices must align with student future goals and interests. Online courses will not be approved if the intent is to simply avoid course offerings in the regular high school schedule. Final recommendation of students for online courses is the discretion of the Principal and Guidance Counselor. There is no guarantee the school district will be able to pay for online courses. Funding is subject to availability on a year-to-year basis. If funding is available, courses that are dual credit will be considered for funding. Otherwise, all tuition, fees, and materials will be the responsibility of the student and parent. The school supports the concept of online learning and will assist students with funding whenever possible. Students will be limited to 1 course per semester. If funded by the school district, the student and parent agree to reimburse the school for all tuition, fees, and materials in the event the student does not earn at least a "C" or drops the course before completion. Not all online courses are college credit eligible. The main programs the school will work with to provide online courses are the University of Nebraska System and Mid Plains Community College.

Section 3 Graduation Requirements

To participate in commencement exercises or receive a Sandhills Public Schools' diploma, a student must fully complete all requirements for graduation prior to the official commencement exercises, and complete other administrative requirements or conditions.

To be eligible for graduation from Sandhills High School, a student must have earned a minimum of 240 semester hours credit in grades 9 through 12 inclusive. A minimum of 40 earned semester hours credits must be earned during the school year in which the student intends to graduate. Credit hours will be computed in accordance with the Nebraska Department of Education.

Satisfactory completion of the following courses must be presented in the candidate's record:

English	40 semester hours
Social Sciences	40 semester hours
Science	30 semester hours
Math	40 semester hours
Vocational, Fine Arts, Music, or Art Courses	20 semester hours
P.E. and Health	10 semester hours
Financial Literacy Course	5 semester hours
Speech Fundamentals	5 semester hours
Senior College Prep	5 semester hours
Elective Courses	30 semester hours
Computer Literacy	10 semester hours
Personal Finance	5 semester hours
Computer Science	5 semester hours (Class of 2027)

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

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Exceptions to these requirements may be made by the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent, who will support the recommendation with justifiable reasons. A complete record of the recommendation and of the action taken upon it by the Board shall be included in the minutes. The candidates for graduation shall be presented to the Board of Education for approval.

A student who has not met the requirements for graduation but who has attended school regularly may, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, be granted a Certificate of Attendance. Students receiving a Certificate of Attendance shall not be eligible to participate in graduation exercises.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian. The senior with the highest grade cumulative "percentage" will be named valedictorian for their graduating class. The senior with the second highest cumulative grade "percentage" will be named salutatorian. The cutoff date for grade entries and determination of these honors will be as close to graduation as appropriate to effectively allow for graduation planning and preparation. The Superintendent will make the final decision regarding all logistics and honors associated with Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Students who have equal grade percentages when figured to 2 decimal places will be considered "co-honorees".

Section 4 Promotion and Retention

Students will be placed at the grade level and in the courses best suited to them academically, socially, and emotionally as determined by the school's professional staff. Students will typically progress annually from grade to grade. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program when such is determined in the judgment of the professional staff to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the educational program.

Section 5 Schedule Changes

Students needing schedule changes should notify the Guidance Counselor or Principal. Schedule changes must be initiated by the teachers involved, the Principal or counselor, and the student's parent or guardian. Final approval of all schedule changes will be made by the Principal. In general, all schedule changes must be completed, with required signatures, within the 1st week of each semester. Students will be notified regarding due dates or timelines for schedule/class changes.

Section 6 Interim Reports

Various supplemental reports may be made available to parents throughout the school year concerning student's performance. These reports may describe student work of an exceptional nature or work which needs improving. These reports will be sent as the teacher determines appropriate.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

Included in the *academic improvement report* will be a request from the teacher for parents to contact the teacher by phone to discuss the student's academic progress. Teachers will arrange with the parents for days when the student can meet with the teacher outside the regular class period until the student returns to satisfactory academic standing.

Section 7 Report Cards/Transcripts

Report cards are issued at the end of each semester. The report card is designed to aid the parent in determining the progress of their child. Percentage based grades are used to designate a student's progress. A grade of 69 or below carries no credit. A grade of "I" (incomplete) received at the end of a grading period must be made up within two weeks or missing assignments will receive grades of "0" and those grades will be averaged into the final grade. No incompletes will be given at the end of the second semester, as all course work must be completed by the end of the second semester or fourth quarter.

Section 8 Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held each semester. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Final dates/times for conferences will be set in the best interest of the school, parents, and students. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Conferences with teachers, at any other time, are possible by calling the school office and making arrangements with the teachers.

Section 9 Honor Roll

The purpose of the honor roll is to recognize those students who demonstrate academic excellence. Honor rolls will be determined on a semester basis. Students will be recognized accordingly:

To be eligible for the honor roll a student must be a fulltime student of Sandhills Public School. To be on the High Honor Roll, a student must have a grade point average above 95.0% and no grade below a 93%, students with an average above 93.0% and no grade below an 88% are eligible for Honor Roll. Honor Roll will be determined after the end of each term. Students who have an incomplete at that point will not be eligible for honor roll.

Section 10 National Honor Society

The National Honor Society chapter of Sandhills Public Schools 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.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

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 3.0 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 experience and participation in school or community service is required.

To evaluate a candidate's character, the faculty council uses two (2) 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. 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 (4) 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).

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 (10) calendar days of receipt of the Principal's removal decision. The appeal procedures shall be established at the discretion of the Superintendent 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.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Article 6 - Support Services

Section 1 Special Education Services

What Does Special Education Mean?

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 staff 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 the school's 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.

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 infants and toddlers. Once in place, the IEP is reviewed on an annual basis, or more frequently as needed. Parents will be given a copy of the IEP.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Reevaluation

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

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 will occur 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 at 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.

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.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

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 to 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 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 may include: Temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, 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 information you feel is important for your student's success in the classroom and/or safety at school.

Guidelines for Administering Medication

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

Whenever possible, students should be provided medications outside of school hours. In the event it is necessary that a student take or have medication at school, the parents/guardians must provide a signed written consent for the student to be given medication at school. A consent form is available at the school health office. If a student has asthma or diabetes and is capable of self-managing his or her health condition, the student may coordinate with 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. Medications may require a physician's authorization to be given at school or, for asthma and anaphylaxis, a health care professional who prescribed the medication for treatment of the student's condition. The school nurse may limit medications as the nurse deems appropriate.

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. The screening program also incorporates scoliosis and blood pressure at the sixth and ninth grades. Students with identified health concerns may also be screened. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school screening program must communicate in writing to the school administration at the start of the school year.

Physical and Visual Examination

Evidence of a physical examination and a visual evaluation is required within six (6) months prior to entrance into kindergarten and, in the case of transfer from out of state, to any other grade. A physical examination is also required prior to entrance into the seventh 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 foregoing 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 an affidavit.

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

Child Care and School Immunization Standards can be found at <https://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/Licensed-Child-Care-Immunization.aspx>

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

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.

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.

Section 4 Insurance

Under Nebraska law the District may not use school funds to provide general student accident or athletic insurance. The District requires that all student participants in athletic programs 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. The school furnishes forms that will allow individuals to purchase a Student Accident Insurance Plan if you are interested. These forms will be made available at the beginning of each school year.

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 following rules while riding school buses:

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year
Behavior on School Buses

1. General Conduct Rules Apply: While riding a school bus, a student must follow the same student conduct rules which apply when the student is 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.
2. 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 take 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.
3. 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 in an emergency, take all action needed to safely get the help of the driver.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

4. 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.

Article 7 – Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

Section 1 Drug-Free Schools

The District is a safe and drug-free school zone. Any use, possession, distribution, manufacture, sale, consumption, or ingestion of illicit drugs or tobacco products on school grounds, at a school activity, or in a school vehicle is strictly prohibited.

Section 2 Education and Prevention

The District promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs. The curriculum includes the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades.

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

Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs. Information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs is available to all of the students upon request of the Counselor.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools—Parental Notice. Pursuant to the provisions of federal law, if, upon receipt of information regarding the content of safe and drug free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction, a parent objects to the participation of their child in such programs and activities, then the parent may notify the District of such objection in writing. Upon receipt of such notice, the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

Section 3 Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

The District prohibits the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs (including electronic nicotine delivery systems) and alcohol on school premises, in school vehicles, or as a part of any of the school's activities on or off school premises. The conduct prohibited includes, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of any controlled substance, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

4. Possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
5. Possession, use, or distribution of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
6. Possession, use or distribution of any tobacco product.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Violation of any of the above prohibited conduct will result in student discipline, up to and including expulsion and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution. In particular, students should be aware that:

1. Violation of these standards may result in suspension or expulsion.
2. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and unlawful substances will be turned over to law enforcement authorities.
3. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment.
4. Parents or legal guardians will be notified.
5. Law enforcement will be notified.
6. If it appears there is imminent danger to the student, other students, school personnel, or students involved, emergency medical services will be contacted.

Article 8 – Student Conduct Rules

Section 1 Purpose of Student Conduct Rules

These student conduct rules are established to maintain a school atmosphere which is conducive to learning, to aid student development, to further school purposes, and to prevent interference with the educational process. Violations of these student conduct rules will result in disciplinary action.

Section 2 Forms of School Discipline

Students who violate the student conduct rules may be subject to the following forms of discipline:

1. Short-Term Suspension: Students may be excluded by the Principal or the Principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of up to five (5) school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:
 - a. Conduct that constitutes grounds for expulsion, whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds; or
 - b. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

- a. The Principal or the Principal's designee will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. A short-term suspension will be made upon a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
- b. 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 the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be afforded an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
- c. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, but not more than 48 hours, 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.
- d. 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. The Principal shall document their attempt to make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parent or guardian.
- e. A student on a short-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, no pre-kindergarten through second grade student may be short-term suspended from school, unless the student brings a deadly weapon on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or to a school activity. Instead, the Principal or Principal's designee may implement alternative disciplinary measures on a case-by-case basis if a pre-kindergarten through second grade student engages in misconduct that would otherwise result in a short-term suspension. If a pre-kindergarten through second grade student brings a deadly weapon on school grounds, in a school vehicle, or to a school activity, then the student may be suspended or expelled in accordance with these disciplinary procedures.

2. Long-Term Suspension: A long-term suspension means an exclusion from school and any school functions for a period of more than five (5) school days but less than twenty (20) school days. A student who is on a long-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. Pursuant to the Nebraska Student Discipline Act, a notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends a long-term suspension. The notice will include a description of the procedures for long-term suspension; the procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook 2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

3. Expulsion:
- a. 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 (10) school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten (10) school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. A student who has been expelled shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. A notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends an expulsion. The notice will include a description of the procedures for expulsion; the procedures will be those set forth in the Student Discipline Act.
 - b. Suspension Pending Hearing. 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 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. If the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension. During this period, the student will not be required to attend the alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or homework.
 - c. 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 in accordance with law.
 - d. Alternative Education: Students who are expelled may be offered an alternative education program that will enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. A student will not be required to attend the alternative education program to complete classwork and homework. In the event an alternative education program is not provided, a conference will be held with the parent, student, the Principal, or another school representative assigned by the Principal, and a representative of a community organization that assists young people or that is involved with juvenile justice to develop a plan for the student in accordance with law.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

- e. Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion: Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., “stayed”) if the Superintendent approves the suspension of an expulsion. As a condition of such suspended action, the student and parents will be required to sign a discipline agreement.
 - f. Returning from Expulsion. At the conclusion of an expulsion, the District will reinstate the student and accept nonduplicative, grade-appropriate credits earned by the student during the term of expulsion from any Nebraska accredited institution or institution accredited by one (1) of the six (6) regional accrediting bodies in the United States.
4. Emergency Exclusion: A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:
- a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or
 - b. If the student’s conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

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

If the emergency exclusion will be for five (5) school days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent or designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing may, upon a parent or guardian’s request, be held and a final determination made within ten (10) school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such appeal procedures shall substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this Handbook for a long-term suspension or expulsion and be modified by the Board of Education only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

5. 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 are not 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. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures. A failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

6. Student Conduct Expectations. Students are not to engage in conduct which causes, or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause, a substantial disruption in or material interference with any school function, activity or purpose or interfere with the health, safety, well-being or rights of other students, staff, or visitors.

7. Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment. The following conduct has been determined by the Board of Education to have the potential to seriously affect the health, safety or welfare of students, staff, and other persons or to interfere with the educational process otherwise seriously. Such conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, and any other lesser forms of discipline. The conduct is subject to the consequence of long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event.
 - a. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
 - b. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
 - c. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, repeated damage or theft involving property, or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
 - d. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including any school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision.
 - e. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
 - f. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

- g. Engaging in selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), electronic nicotine delivery systems, alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student’s physician is not a violation. The term “under the influence” 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 or illegal substances 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.
- h. Public indecency or sexual conduct. This includes “deep fakes” or other computer-generated images of other students or staff intended to bully, harass, intimidate, or humiliate another student or staff member.
- i. Engaging in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee’s designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.
- j. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
- k. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if the conduct creates or had the potential to create a substantial interference with school purposes, such as the use of the telephone or internet off-school grounds to threaten.
- l. A repeated violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes, including (but not limited to) a violation of the District’s dress code and electronic communication device rules.
- m. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
- n. 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

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

(including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), gender, disability, national origin, or religion.

- o. Willfully violating behavioral expectations for riding school buses or vehicles.

In addition to the foregoing, a student who engages in the following conduct 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 known and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm. The term “dangerous weapon” includes any personal safety or security device (such as tasers, mace, and pepper spray). If a student desires to carry or possess a personal safety or security device, the student must obtain prior approval from the building principal before bringing such device to school grounds. If a student obtains prior approval from the building principal, the student must store the device during the school day in the student’s locker, in the main office or in another secure location designated by the building principal. A student shall not carry a personal safety or security device during the school day.

Further, a student will be expelled for one (1) calendar year if the student knowingly and intentionally possesses, uses, or transmits a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. The term “firearm” means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. The only exception to this rule is if the student obtains prior written permission to bring the firearm on school grounds by the Superintendent for a school-related purpose.

8. Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline. The following additional student conduct expectations are established. Failure to comply with such rules may be grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including an expulsion.
 - a. Student Appearance: Students are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for the school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is reasonably forecasted to interfere with the learning environment or teaching

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

process in our school. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of attire that are not appropriate at school:

- i. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear; revealing or baggy; tops and bottoms that do not overlap or any material that is sheer or lightweight enough to be seen through, or otherwise deemed inappropriate by the administration. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or
- ii. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
- iii. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage “horseplay” or that would damage property (e.g. cleats).
- iv. Headwear including hats, caps, and bandannas.
- v. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references, or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar double meaning.
- vi. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related.
- vii. Visible body piercing that is determined to be an educational disruption by the administration.
- viii. Any other clothing that the administration deems inappropriate for the school setting.

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.

A student who is a member of an indigenous tribe of the United States or another country may wear tribal regalia in any location where the student is authorized to be on such school grounds or at any school function, as long as the tribal regalia does not interfere with the educational process and does not endanger another person, as determined by the administration. Further, students will also be permitted to wear attire, including religious attire, natural and protective hairstyles, adornments or other characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion, as long as the attire does not interfere with the educational process and does not endanger another person, as determined by the administration.

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

A student dress code violation will be treated as a minor rule violation and may not require the student to miss substantial classroom time, instructional time, or

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook 2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

school activities. However, a repeated violation of school rules may subject the student to further discipline, as outlined in the Student Discipline Policy.

b. Academic Integrity.

- i. 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 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.

- ii. Definitions: The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:

(1) "Cheating" means intentionally misrepresenting 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):

(i) 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.

(ii) Use of Unauthorized Materials: Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formulae in calculators, **electronic devices**, 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.

(iii) 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.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

- (iv) 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.
 - (v) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Test. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid the taking of a test. For example, a 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):
- (i) 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.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) 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.
 - (iv) 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.
 - (v) 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.
 - (vi) Computer Generated Material. The submission of computer generated work and submission as the students original work.
- (c) Alteration of Assigned Grades. Any unauthorized alteration of

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook 2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

assigned grades by a student in the teacher's grade book or the school records is a serious form of cheating.

- (2) "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, or computer generated without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) 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 the use of outside sources. To avoid plagiarism, the student must either place the work in quotations or give a citation to the outside source.
 - (b) 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, or computer generated.
 - (3) "Contributing" to academic integrity violations means to participate in 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 when a student engages in cheating, plagiarism, or contributing to an academic integrity offense:
- (i) Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the academic integrity offense 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 standard, the instructor will assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work.
 - (ii) 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.
 - (iii) 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 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.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

9. Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (IPDA): Students are not to engage in inappropriate public displays of affection on school property or at school activities. Such conduct includes kissing, touching, fondling or other displays of affection that would be reasonably considered to be embarrassing or a distraction to others. IDPA is considered a violation of the student conduct code and is grounds for short-term suspension, long-term suspension, expulsion, mandatory reassignment, or less forms of discipline.
10. Law Violations
Any act of a student which is a basis for expulsion and which the Principal or designee knows or suspects is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code will be reported to law enforcement as soon as possible.
11. Anti-Bullying:
One of the missions of the District is to provide safe and secure environments for all students and staff. Students who are the victim of bullying or harassment or who observe such occurring are to promptly report the problem to their teacher or to the Principal so the problem can be addressed. Students who make reports of bullying activity will not be retaliated against for making the report. The school's anti-bullying policy is available for review on the District's website.
12. Network, E-Mail, Internet, and Other Computer Use Rules:
 - a. General Rules:
 - i. The network is provided to staff and students to conduct research and communicate with others. Access to network services is given to staff and students who have agreed to act in a responsible manner. Access for all staff and students is a privilege and not a right.
 - ii. Individual users of the district network are responsible for their behavior, actions, problems, and communications involving and over the network. Users will comply with district rules and will honor the agreements they have signed. Beyond clarification of such rules, the district is not responsible for restricting, monitoring, editing, or controlling the information, equipment or communications of individuals utilizing the network or the end product or result of such utilization.
 - iii. Network storage areas shall be treated like school lockers for students. Network administrators may review files, information, equipment, messages and communications of staff and students to maintain system integrity and ensure that users are using the network system responsibly. Users should not expect that files or any information stored or otherwise used or retained on the network, district servers, or in computers, will be private. No reasonable expectation of privacy shall exist in relation to network use.
 - iv. Users should not expect, and the district does not warrant, any information or products obtained from the network, that files or information stored, obtained, or used on the network will be private, and use of the network

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

waives and relinquishes all such privacy rights, interests or claims to confidentiality the user may have under state or federal law.

- v. The district will not be liable for, and does not warrant in any way, purchases made by any user over the network. Users shall not make purchases of goods and/or services via the district's network.
- b. Rules for Acceptable Use of Computers and the Network: The following rules for acceptable use of computers and the network, including Internet, shall apply to all students:
- i. Students shall not erase, remake, or make unusable anyone else's computer, information, files, or programs.
 - ii. Students shall not let other people use their name, account, log-on password, or files for any reason (except for authorized staff members).
 - iii. Students shall not use or try to discover another user's account or password.
 - iv. Students shall not use the computer for unlawful purposes, such as illegal copying or installation of unauthorized software.
 - v. Students shall not copy, change, or transfer any software or documentation provided by teachers, or other students without permission from the network administrators.
 - vi. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code, software or information designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of the network or any computer's memory, file system, or software.
 - vii. Students shall not use the computer to annoy or harass others with language, images, or threats. Users shall not access, accept, create, or send any obscene, vulgar, lewd, tasteless, or objectionable messages, information, language, or images.
 - viii. Students shall not damage the network or equipment, damage information belonging to others, misuse network resources, or allow others to misuse network resources.
- c. Penalties for Violation of Rules: All of the policies, rules, and procedures for acceptable use of computers and the network are intended to make the computers and the network more reliable for users. They are also intended to minimize the burden of administering the networks so that more time can be spent on education and enhancing services. Use of the computer and access to telecommunications resources is a privilege and not a right. Violation of the policies, rules, and procedures concerning the use of computers and the network may result in disciplinary action up to, and including, loss of access, suspension and/or expulsion of students from school and loss of access, suspension, termination, non-renewal or cancellation of the contract of administrators, teachers, or other school employees.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

- d. Student and Parent Agreements: Students and parents will be required to sign a computer and network use agreement/lease as a condition of the student being permitted to use equipment associated with the 1 to 1 laptop initiative. Said lease agreement will contain specific expectations and information regarding proper computer use and care. Those who refuse to sign the agreement will not be allowed to personally possess a school issued laptop. They will, however, be provided computer technology in order to complete work in school.
13. Possession and use of Electronic Device:
- a. Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices: Students shall not use electronic devices for:
- i. activities which disrupt the educational environment;
 - ii. illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations;
 - iii. unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests;
 - iv. immoral or pornographic activities;
 - v. activities in violation of Board or school policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment;
 - vi. recording others (photographs, videotaping, sound recording, etc.) without direct administrative approval and consent of the person(s) being recorded, other than recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public;
 - vii. "sexting;" or
 - viii. activities which invade the privacy of others. Such student misuses will be dealt with as serious school violations, and immediate and appropriate disciplinary action will be imposed, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.
- b. Electronic devices used in violation of this policy may be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student or parent/guardian at an appropriate time. If an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the school's main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned to the student and/or the student's parent/guardian in a consistent and orderly way.
14. Risks of Social Media: The purpose of this message is to give our students information about the risks of using social networking sites. These sites are public sources of information. The information may be seen by your school administrators, your parents, and law enforcement. It is also accessible to people who you don't even know now, but may later want to impress-such as university admissions and scholarship officials and prospective employers. In fact, many large companies now search the internet as a means of conducting background checks on job applicants. What you say now on a site, may affect you years later. What you post may affect you right now. Pictures or writings that show that you have violated student conduct rules may result in school discipline. A picture of a student drinking a beer may very well lead to a suspension from activities if the

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

school learns about it. Criminal charges may be filed against you based on information posted on social networking sites.

Parents are encouraged to use the online resources provided by Facebook, and other social networking sites, that teach proper use and warn of the dangers associated with social networking. Our goal, as a school district, is to promote responsible use of technology in a positive and productive manner. School issued laptop computers are to be used for school purposes only. Recreation on social networking sites, games, etc., is not considered appropriate school purposes.

14. Specific Rule Items: The following conduct may result in disciplinary action which, in the repeated violations, may result in discipline up to expulsion.
- a. Students must have a pass when not in class during class time. Students are to use the pass only for the purpose requested. For example if given a pass to use the restroom, the student must promptly proceed to and use the nearest restroom and promptly return to class.
 - b. As a general rule, pop, candy, snack, etc. are not allowed in the classrooms. Individual teachers reserve the right to allow such items, from time to time, providing it does not interfere with the educational process. The pop machine is closed to students during the school day, unless special permission is granted by staff. The administration reserves the right to further restrict the consumption of pop, candy, etc. above and beyond the discretion of the classroom teachers.
 - c. Students are expected to bring all books and necessary materials to class. This includes a study hall and homeroom.
 - d. Assignments for all classes are due as assigned by the teacher.
 - e. Students are not to operate classroom back doors without permission of the teacher.
 - f. Classes are ended by the teacher. Students are not to begin to pack up or leave the class until the dismissal bell has rung or the teacher has dismissed the class.
 - g. Students are to be in the classroom and getting ready for class on the tardy bell.
 - h. Special classes such as Industrial Technology, Art, or P.E. will have other safety or clean-up rules that will be explained to you by that teacher which must be followed.
 - i. Students are not to bring "nuisance items" to school. A nuisance item is something that is not required for educational purposes and which would cause a distraction to the student or others.
 - j. Students are to stand back from the entry steps and doors in the mornings before school and at lunch before the bell so that others may pass in and out of the entry doors.
 - k. Snow handling is prohibited.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Article 9 – Student Fees Policy

The District’s general policy is to provide free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution and state and federal law. This generally means that the District’s policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District has set forth in policy its guidelines 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 specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the current school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics. The District’s entire Student Fees Policy is available on the District’s website.

2025-2026 Student Fees Specification of Required Materials and Fees

Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Elementary Program		
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and socks, running shorts, T-shirt
Art classes and special projects or events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged
Music—Optional band courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drumsticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student. Some rentals are available for a fee to not exceed \$100 per year.
Classroom supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None—necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

		class supply lists which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None—costs of school sponsored; class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to \$5.00 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to \$100.00 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	\$50 per class.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Five cents (.05) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast— \$2.10 \$2.20 Adult Breakfast - \$3.20 Lunch— \$3.35 \$3.45 Adults Lunch— \$4.55 \$4.65 Seconds— \$1.60 \$1.70 A la carte - Extra Milk - \$0.35 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
Secondary Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and socks, running shorts, T-shirt
Art and shop classes and special projects	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; protective clothing for shop classes

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Music—Optional band courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student. Some rentals are available for a fee to not exceed \$100 per year.
Classroom Supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None—necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Refundable damage deposit of \$25 per semester will be required for students who wish to use school calculators outside the classroom. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Five cents (.05) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Breakfast— \$2.10 \$2.20 Adult Breakfast - \$3.20 Lunch— \$3.60 \$3.70 Adults Lunch— \$4.55 \$4.65 Seconds— \$1.60 \$1.70 A la carte—Extra Milk - \$0.35 Prices are maximums based on one meal per day, will vary depending on the number of meals or items purchased by the student, and may be adjusted during the year.
Post-secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit.	See section 5 Scholastic Achievement
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep programs & tests	The school will provide one ACT test in conjunction with state assessments. Costs of college entrance tests or prep courses, such

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

		as ACT preparation tutoring, PSAT test, and ACT test beyond the state assessment, are optional and to be paid directly to the private companies involved by the student or parent.								
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	\$50 per class . Cost varies depending upon course offering.								
Extracurricular and other programs	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required								
Athletic Programs										
Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	\$6.00 per event maximum. For District and Conference events hosted by the School, cost to be set by NSAA								
Athletic Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies; students are responsible for payment directly to student's physician or clinic.								
Athletic Participation Fee	Fee to participate in athletic programs.	In the event an athletic participation fee is charged, the fee will be \$50 per year maximum.								
Equipment and attire	Students are responsible for required equipment and attire appropriate to the sport or activity which are not provided by the school, and are responsible for any optional clothing, equipment, or other items associated with the sport or activity.	Required items include athletic undergarments (supporter, bra, socks, and undershirts), practice attire, including shorts, shirts, socks, and shoes suitable for the activity, and dress attire suitable for team travel. Optional items for which students are responsible include personal athletic bags, hair ties, sweat bands, non-required gloves, swim goggles, towels, forearm pads and personal medical devices (braces, orthopedic inserts, etc.). Additional required items for particular sports or activities include: <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <tr> <td>Basketball</td> <td>No additional</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cross Country</td> <td>No additional</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Football</td> <td>Mouthpiece</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Golf</td> <td>Golf bag & clubs</td> </tr> </table>	Basketball	No additional	Cross Country	No additional	Football	Mouthpiece	Golf	Golf bag & clubs
Basketball	No additional									
Cross Country	No additional									
Football	Mouthpiece									
Golf	Golf bag & clubs									

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

		Speech/Debate	Dress attire; copies of research
		Track	No additional
		Volleyball	Volleyball knee pads
		Wrestling	Wrestling head gear
Travel meals	Meals	Students are responsible for their own meals while traveling.	
Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps or clinics	Students are responsible for the cost of all clinics, camps, and conditioning programs. Any personal items purchased at camps or clinics, such as t-shirts, shall be at the student's expense.	
Clubs/Organizations			
Future Business Leaders (FBLA)	State & national dues, meals, and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.	
Future Farmers (FFA)	State & national dues, meals, and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.	
National Honor Society	State & national dues, meals, and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.	
Student Council	State & national dues, meals, and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.	
Quiz Bowl	State & national dues, meals, and activities	Annual dues not to exceed \$50.00 per club.	

Social & Recognition Activities		
School dances	Admission to prom, homecoming, etc.	Not to exceed \$25.00 per event
Senior recognition assessment	Optional graduation activities	Participation in class activities attending graduation (such as being part of the composite picture, special yearbook pages, etc.) is not required in order for students to receive their high school diploma. Students who choose to participate will be required to pay the cost of the items involved

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

		<p>in the graduation ceremony and attendant class activities. These may include the rental of graduation robes, caps, tassels, class flowers, class gift, yearbook picture page, and class composite picture. A single Senior Class Recognition Assessment, not to exceed \$50, will be assessed to those Seniors who elect to participate in such activities.</p>
Trips	<p>Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.</p>	<p>Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extracurricular activity. The maximum cost of such trips will be \$2,000 per student.</p> <p>If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply.</p> <p>A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does not count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.</p>

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Article 10 – State and Federal Programs

Section 1 Notice of Nondiscrimination

The School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, 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 (including skin color, hair texture and protective hairstyles), 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 Disabilities 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:
 107 Gandy Ave, Sandhills, Nebraska 68833, (308) 538-2224

Section 3 Multicultural

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

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

stereotypes and discrimination, or harassment of others based on ethnicity, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, age, or disability.

Section 4 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 5 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.

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

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 at the time the record was created.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write to 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 or otherwise allowed by law. 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

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook

2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year

Notice Concerning Directory Information

The District may disclose directory information. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the District to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples may include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Under FERPA, "directory information" is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. The types of personally identifiable information that the District has designated as directory information are as follows:

1. Student's Name, address, telephone number, and the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and 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 extra-curricular participation;
6. Student's achievement awards or honors;
7. Student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team; and
8. Student's photograph.

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, or would otherwise not be in a student's best interests.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate information about

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

the student as directory information. Parents or guardians may refuse to allow their student's information to be designated as "directory information" at any time during the school year, so long as the parent or guardian notifies the Superintendent in writing.

Section 6 Military Recruiters

The District will provide military recruiters with access to routine directory information of each high school student unless the student's parent or guardian requests in writing that their student's information not be shared with a military recruiter. Parents and guardians who do not want their student's information to be shared with a military recruiter must notify the high school principal in writing. If a parent or guardian does not notify the high school principal in writing, the District will provide a military recruiter with the student's routine directory information.

Section 7 Combined District and School Title I Parent and Family Involvement

The written District parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly with, updated periodically, and distributed to parents and family members of participating children and the local community in an understandable and uniform format. This policy agreed on by such parents is available for review on the District's website.

Section 8 Student Privacy Protection Policy

1. In the event any parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of a student has a complaint or objection to textbooks, tests, curriculum materials, activities, digital materials, websites or applications used for learning, training materials for teachers, administrators, or staff, and any other instructional materials, the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker may request a personal conference with appropriate school personnel to discuss such concerns. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare a complaint form which may be used by a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker to express objections to any such instructional material. Such complaint forms shall seek information including, but not limited to, the specific instructional material complained of, the reason for the complaint, and a proposed resolution of the complaint by the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker.

2. Upon reasonable advance request, a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker will be permitted to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities unless the school determines that such attendance would substantially interfere with a legitimate school interest, which includes the interests of the parent's child, other students, and the educational staff.

3. Parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers are encouraged to communicate to school staff when the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker believes it to be appropriate for their child to be excused from testing, classroom instruction, learning materials, activities, guest speaker events, and other school experiences that the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker finds objectionable. The Superintendent or designee shall make a provision on the complaint form hereinabove referenced for receiving information from a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker concerning what specific testing, classroom instruction, or

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

other school experience the parent finds objectionable, the basis for the parent's objection, and a proposed solution for dealing with the objection that would be satisfactory to the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker and consistent with the mission of the District and legitimate school interests. Parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers are encouraged to contact the building principal with any questions about any test, curriculum, or surveys.

4. Upon request of a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker the District will provide access to the education records of their child consistent with applicable law. Access will be provided during regular business hours of the school.

5. The District will notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers when their child may be subjected to a standard norm referenced or criterion referenced test or standardized tests. When reasonable to do so or required by law, the parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers will be notified of where a sample of such a test might be observed and the date upon which such test will be administered. As to all testing by the District, experimental evaluation methodologies, experimental testing instruments and any testing instrument which would tend to inquire into the values, beliefs, or privacy rights of any student, or parent, or guardian, or educational decisionmaker of such student shall be prohibited unless a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker requests in writing that such tests be administered to their child.

6. Parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers will be notified in advance of any school-sponsored survey administered to students of the District when the survey concerns one or more of the following areas:

- Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker;
- Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
- Sex behavior or attitudes;
- Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
- Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
- Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
- Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker; or
- Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Any survey administered by the District that asks a student to disclose any of the aforementioned topics, including any non-anonymous survey requesting a student provide information relating to drug, vape, alcohol, or tobacco use, then the District will, at least fifteen

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

days prior to the administration of the survey, notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers that their students will receive the survey. This notice must describe the nature and types of questions included in the survey, the purposes and age-appropriateness of the survey, how information collected by the survey will be used, who will have access to such information, the steps that will be taken to protect student privacy, and whether and how any findings or results of such survey will be disclosed. After receiving such notice, parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers may request a copy of the survey, review the survey, and/or exempt their student from participating in the survey.

No survey requesting sexual information of a student shall be administered to any student in kindergarten through grade six. No personally identifiable information of any student survey shall be disclosed unless permitted or required by state and federal law.

7. As a general matter substantive decision-making processes will be left to the judgment of the professional staff, administration and the Board of Education, subject to an effort to receive information from parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers as to any concerns, objections, or other information such parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers would wish to provide to the school district concerning a parent's, guardian's, or educational decisionmaker's access, involvement, and participation in activities of the school.

Section 9 Homeless Students

The District shall ensure that homeless children and youths shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths. Any person with knowledge of a homeless student in the District should contact the District's Homeless Coordinator. A copy of the District's Homeless Policy is available on the District's website.

Section 10 Breakfast and Lunch Programs

The District has agreed to participate in the National School Lunch Program and accepts responsibility for providing free and reduced priced meals to eligible children in the schools under its jurisdiction. The District provides the United States Department of Agriculture's required nondiscrimination statement:

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, religion, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, or other protected status. To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, One Petting Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (816) 268-0550 (voice), Fax (816) 268-0599, (800) 877-8339 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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 priced meals in all National School Lunch Programs. In fulfilling its responsibilities, the school food authority:

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

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 priced 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 the continued eligibility of any child for free or reduced priced 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 publicly-announced, simple method for making an oral or written request for a hearing.
 - An opportunity to be assisted or represented by an attorney or other person.
 - An opportunity to examine, prior to and during the hearing, the documents and records presented to support the decision under appeal.
 - Reasonable promptness and convenience in scheduling a hearing and adequate notice as to the time and place of the hearing. An opportunity to

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year**

present oral or documentary evidence and arguments supporting a position without undue interference.

- An opportunity to question or refute any testimony or other evidence and to confront and cross-examine any adverse witnesses.
 - 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.
 - 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 priced meals.
9. Agrees to develop and send to each child's parent or guardian a letter as outlined by the State Department of Education including an application form for free or reduced priced 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

USDA Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, 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 USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook **~~2025-2026~~ 2026-2027 School Year**

form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

It is the policy of the Sandhills Public Schools and the Nebraska Department of Education not to discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race, color, religion, marital status, age, national origin, or genetic information in its educational programs, admission policies, employment, or other agency programs. The following person(s) has/have been designated to handle inquiries regarding complaints, grievance and procedures or the application of these policies of nondiscrimination.

Title: Dr. Jamie Isom, Superintendent
Address: 107 Gandy Ave, P.O. Box 29, Dunning, NE 68833
Phone #: (308) 538-2224
Office for Civil Rights
8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO 64114
Phone #: (816)-268-0550 Fax: (816)-823-1404; TDD:800-437-0833

Sandhills Public Schools Student-Parent Handbook
2025-2026 2026-2027 School Year
AVAILABILITY OF HANDBOOKS

The 2025-2026 Student-Parent Handbook of Sandhills Public Schools is available on the internet at <https://www.sandhillsknights.org/documents/forms%2F-handbooks/703955>

Because of the expense of printing the handbooks, we are asking that you consider using the internet to access and review the 2025-2026 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 considering this new use of technology to improve school-home communication.

Please return to the Principal’s Office by **August 22, 2024**. This will allow us time to get the Handbook to all students and parents before school starts while avoiding the necessity of printing more copies of the Handbooks than necessary.

- Thank you for providing the 2025-2026 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

RECEIPT OF 2025-2026 STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

This signed receipt acknowledges receipt of the 2025-2026 Student-Parent Handbook of Sandhills Public Schools. We understand that the handbook contains student conduct and discipline rules and information about Safe and Drug-Free Schools and that we agree to follow such conduct and discipline rules. This receipt also serves to acknowledge that we understand 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.

Date: _____

Date: _____

Student’s Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian’s Signature

Sandhills Public Schools
Extra-Curricular Activities - Rights, Conduct, Rules and Regulations
2026-2027

Section 1 Extracurricular Activity Participation

Extracurricular activity programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Extracurricular activity programs are considered an integral part of the school's program of education that provides experiences that will help students physically, mentally and emotionally.

The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. Participation in activities, both as a competitor and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, community and the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students represent all these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill, and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better individuals and citizens.

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. Every student who participates in an extracurricular activity assumes the risks inherent in such activities.

Section 2 Extracurricular Activity Code of Conduct

Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The privilege carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, and the community. Participants not only represent themselves, but also their school and community in all their actions. Others judge our school on the student participants' conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image. Consequently, participation is dependent upon adherence to this Code of Conduct and the school district's policies, procedures, and rules.

Activities Subject to the Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities mean student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district which do not count toward graduation or grade advancement and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school.

Extracurricular activities include but are not limited to all sports, Pep Band, vocal, band, speech and drama, One-Act, FBLA, FFA, Student Council, Student Advisory Board, National Honor Society, and other school sponsored organizations and activities. The Code of Conduct also applies to participation in school sponsored activities such as school dances and royalty for such activities.

A participant means a student who participates in, has participated in, or will participate in an extracurricular activity.

When: The Code of Conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

The Code of Conduct also applies when a student participates or is scheduled to participate in an extracurricular activity that is held outside the school year or the NSAA season. For example, if an FBLA or ~~FCCLA~~ FFA student plans to participate in a conference in July and commits a Code of Conduct infraction in June, the student may be suspended from participating in the conference. Conduct during the summer months may also affect a student's participation under the team selection and playing time guidelines.

Where: The Code of Conduct rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on and off school grounds. If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct. A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in activities during the period of the suspension or expulsion and may also receive an extended activity suspension.

Grounds for Extracurricular Activity Discipline. The following conduct rules have been determined by the Board of Education to be reasonably necessary to aid students, further school purposes, and prevent interference with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for suspension from participation in extracurricular activities and grounds for other restrictions or disciplinary measures related to extracurricular activity participation:

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, bullying, harassment, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school or extracurricular activity purposes or making any communication that a reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property, repeated damage or theft involving property or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including a school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect another person shall not constitute a violation.
5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from a student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a

- weapon, or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks, on school grounds or at a school function or event, or in a manner that is unlawful or contrary to school activity rules.
7. Selling, using, possessing or dispensing alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. (Note: Refer to “Drug and Alcohol Violations” for further information).
 8. Public indecency. This includes “deep fakes” or other computer-generated images of other students or staff intended to bully, harass, intimidate, or humiliate another student or staff member.
 9. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person. Engaging in sexual conduct, even if consensual, on school grounds or at a school function or event.
 10. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students, interferes with school purposes or an extracurricular activity, or reflects a lack of high ideals.
 11. Repeated violation of any of the school rules, including (but not limited to) a violation of the District’s dress code and electronic communication device rules.
 12. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
 13. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to a school employee, school volunteer, or student. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion.
 14. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding District buses or vehicles used for activity purposes.
 15. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of the season. Reporting for one activity may count as reporting on time if there is a change in activity within the season approved by the coach or the supervisor.
 16. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an extracurricular activity or event.
 17. Failure to attend scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant’s attendance, the validity of the reason will be determined by the coach or sponsor. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or sponsor prior to any missed practice or meeting.
 18. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity shall be followed, if participants shall be advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations by written handouts or posting on bulletin boards prior to the violation of the rule or regulation.
 19. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.

All terms used in the Code of Conduct have a less strict meaning than under criminal law and are subject to reasonable interpretation by school officials.

Consequences.

Students may be suspended from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in co-curricular activities for violations of the Code of Conduct. The period of suspension or other discipline for such offenses shall be determined by the school administration.

The disciplinary consequence will be determined based on consideration of the seriousness of the offense, any prior violations, the student's compliance with the self-reporting obligations, the student's level of cooperation and willingness to resolve the matter, and the student's demonstration of a commitment to not commit future violations.

Section 3 Drug and Alcohol Violations

Students may not use, consume, possess or be under the influence of drugs or alcohol. Any violation (even if off school grounds) shall be subject to the disciplinary consequences outlined below.

Meaning of Terms.

"Use" or "consume" includes any level of consumption or use. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation.

"Under the influence" means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student, or the odor of an illicit drug on the student or being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

"Possession" includes having control of the substance and includes being in the same area where the substance is present, and no responsible adult is present and responsible for the substance. Possession includes situations where, for example,

- (1) Alcohol is in a vehicle in which the student is present. The student is in possession if the student is aware that the alcohol is in the vehicle, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol; and
- (2) Alcohol is present at a party attended by the student. The student is in possession if the student is aware that alcohol is at the party and fails to immediately leave the party, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol.

In these situations, a violation would not exist if the alcohol is in the control of a parent or guardian or other responsible adult (age 21 or older) such that students are not allowed to access the alcohol. A violation would also not exist if the student did not know or have a reasonable basis to know that alcohol would be present, and the student leaves the location where the alcohol is present as soon as the student could safely do so. (Students are expected to leave immediately but are not to do so in a manner that would endanger them.)

Drug and Alcohol Violations and Consequences

Because of the significance of drug and alcohol violations on the student participants, other students and the school, the following consequences are established for such violations:

An activity participant who violates the drug or alcohol rules (other than steroids) shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. First Violation: 20 school days.
2. Second Offense: 40 school days.
3. Third Offense: One calendar year.
4. Reduction for Self-Reporting: If the student has self-reported, the violation shall be reduced to 15 days for the first violation and 35 days for the second violation.
5. Reduction for Participation in Chemical Dependency Program: If the student and parents agree to participate in a school-approved program for chemical dependency, the consequence will be reduced to only the next activity in which the student was to participate (including at least one contest) in the case of a first violation, and to a commensurate reduction (approximately 80%, as determined by the administration, for a second or subsequent violation).
The program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor and be approved by the school authorities. The student will need to successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program. Proof of successful completion of program must be submitted in writing to the Activities Director. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extracurricular activities for one calendar year. All costs associated with the program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian.
6. More Serious Violations: In the event of more serious drug or alcohol violations, such as students engaging in use of especially serious drug offenses (cocaine, meth, etc.) or procuring alcohol for minors, the consequence of the violation is not restricted by the foregoing and may be established in the discretion of the administration.

When Suspensions Begin. All suspensions begin with the next scheduled activity in which the student is a participant, after the determination by school officials of the sanction to be imposed; provided that the school officials shall have the discretion to establish a time for the suspension that makes the suspension have a real consequence for the student. During a suspension, participants may be required or permitted to practice at the ~~sole~~ discretion of the coach or activity sponsor **in conjunction with the administration**. Suspensions in the Spring will be carried over to the Fall when the suspension has not been fully served or when determined appropriate for the suspension to have a real consequence for the student.

Letters and Post-Season Honors. A student who commits a Code of Conduct violation is:

1. Eligible to letter, provided the student meets the criteria of the coach or sponsor.
2. Not eligible to receive honors during the sport or activity in which they are participating at the time of the offense and/or in sports or activities in which they have been suspended due to a Code violation. The coach/sponsor, with the Athletic Director/Principal approval, may make an exception where the student has self-reported or otherwise demonstrated excellence in character allowing for such honors.
3. Coaches will provide their letter requirements, in writing, to all participants/players at the beginning of their respective activity season.

Self-Reporting. A student who violates the Code of Conduct is highly encouraged to self-report. To qualify as a self-reporter, a student must disclose their rule(s) violation to the principal, athletic director, or the head coach or sponsor of an activity in which the student participates. The self-report must be made earlier of: (1) before the end of the next school day after the conduct occurred and (2) before participation in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity.

In making a self-report, the student must be forthright and honest about their conduct and any questions asked by the administration. In the event the student has received a criminal citation, charge, or ticket, and proclaims innocence of a violation, a self-reporting student may be required to self-report such offense and provide information as to why they should be found innocent, not as it relates to the criminal offense, but as it relates to the Code of Conduct.

All students are expected to be honest and forthright with school officials. In the event the coach or activity sponsor or any school administrator asks a student participant for information pertaining to compliance (or lack of compliance) by the student or other student participants with the Code of Conduct or eligibility conditions for participation in activities, the student is expected to provide the information fully, completely, and honestly. Students may be disciplined for a failure to be honest and forthright.

Section 4 Investigation and Appeal

Determining a Violation Has Occurred. A violation of the Code of Conduct will be determined to have occurred based on any of the following criteria:

1. When a student is cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist.
2. When a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a plea of no contest and an adjudication of delinquency by the juvenile court.
3. When a student admits to violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct.
4. When a student is accused by another person of violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct and school officials determine that such information is reliable.
5. When school officials otherwise find sufficient evidence to support a determination that a violation has occurred.

Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline. The following procedures are established for suspensions from participation in extracurricular activities:

1. Investigation. The school official(s) considering the suspension will conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether a Code of Conduct violation occurred and, if so, whether a consequence will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with a school purpose.
2. Meeting. Prior to the implementation of any consequence, the school official considering the suspension, or their designee will provide the student an opportunity to give the student's side of the story. The meeting for this purpose may be held in person, by phone, or by other electronic means.

- a. The student will be given oral or written notice of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the investigation outcome, and the opportunity to explain the student's version. Detail is not required where the activity participant has made a self-report or otherwise admits the conduct. Names of informants may be kept confidential when determined to be appropriate by the school official.
- b. The suspension may be imposed prior to the meeting if the meeting cannot reasonably be held before the suspension is to begin. In that case the meeting will occur as soon as reasonably practicable. The student is responsible for cooperating in the scheduling of the meeting.
3. Notice Letter. Within two school days, or such additional time as is reasonable following the suspension, the **Principal or Athletic Director** ~~or the Athletic Director's designee~~ will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian. The statement will describe the student's conduct violation and the discipline imposed. The student and parents or guardian will be informed of the opportunity to request a hearing.
4. Informal Hearing Before Superintendent. If the student or student's parent/guardian requests an informal hearing before the Superintendent, then the Superintendent may designate the Athletic Director or another administrator not responsible for the suspension decision as the Superintendent's designee to conduct the hearing and decide.
 - a. A request for a hearing must be signed or sent by the parent or guardian.
 - b. If a hearing is requested:
 - i. The hearing will be held within ten calendar days of receipt of the request; subject to extension for good cause as determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
 - ii. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing a reasonable time in advance to allow preparation for the hearing.
 - iii. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days, unless good cause exists to render the decision at a later date. The written decision will be mailed or emailed to the parents or guardian.
5. No Stay of Penalty. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending the hearing process.
6. Opportunity for Informal Resolution. These due process procedures do not prevent the student or parent/guardian from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school officials at any stage.

Section 5 Attendance

Student participants are expected to meet the following attendance expectations:

1. Attend school regularly. Students who have "excessive absences" as determined by the Principal are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests, and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend practice or contests, the participant should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.

3. On the day of a contest, performance, or other activity, be in attendance for the full day. A student who is not in attendance the full day is ineligible for the contest, performance, or activity. Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies. The exception must be approved in advance by the Principal.

Section 6 Academic Standards

A student participating in extracurricular school activities must show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement. To be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities students must:

Maintain passing grades in all courses. A student who is not passing one or more classes at progress reporting times will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances if the grade remains below passing one week after progress reporting time. The student will remain ineligible until the student has passed all classes, as determined by the Principal.

Section 7 “Team Selection” and “Playing Time”

“Team selection” and “playing time” decisions are the responsibility of the individual coach or sponsor of the activity. Consistent, however, with the purposes of the activities program, the coaches and sponsors shall follow the following established guidelines for team selection and playing time decisions, along with such other guidelines as each individual coach and sponsor may develop which are not inconsistent with these established guidelines:

1. School Representative. Student participants must demonstrate that they can and will represent themselves and their school in a manner which reflects the development of high ideals and appropriate values, which shall include good citizenship in the school and in the community.
2. Success. Student participants must demonstrate that they can make the activity program more successful, both from a standpoint of competitive success and success in promoting a positive school spirit. Characteristics for purposes of these criteria include the student’s: (1) talent or skill, (2) desire to improve the student’s own skills or talents as well as those of others in the activity, and (3) attitude of respect towards teammates, the coach/sponsor, the school, and the community.

Section 8 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/or sponsor at the appropriate time and place. Any concerns raised about the coach/sponsor will be redirected to the coach to address directly with the coach/sponsor.

Students and parents are expected to communicate professionally with coaches/sponsors. Any parent who fails to communicate in a professional manner may be asked to leave school grounds.

Communicating with Your Children

- Make sure that your children know that win or lose, scared or heroic, you love them, appreciate their efforts and are not disappointed in them. This will allow them to do their best without fear of failure. Be the person in their life they can look to for constant positive reinforcement.
- Try your best to be completely honest about your child's athletic ability, competitive attitude, sportsmanship and actual skill level.
- Be helpful but don't coach them. It's tough not to, but it is a lot tougher for the child to be flooded with advice and critical instruction. Teach them to enjoy the thrill of competition, to be "out there trying," to be working to improve their skills and attitudes. Help them develop the feeling for competing, for trying hard, for having fun.
- Try not to relive your athletic life through your child in a way that creates pressure. If they are comfortable with you win or lose, then they are on their way to maximum enjoyment.
- Don't compete with the coach. If your child is receiving mixed messages from two different authority figures, he or she will likely become disenchanted.
- Don't compare the skill, courage, or attitude of your child with other members of the team.
- Get to know the coach/**sponsor**. Then you can be assured that his or her philosophy, attitudes, ethics, and knowledge are such that you are happy to have your child under his or her leadership.
- Always remember that children tend to exaggerate, both when praised and when criticized. Temper your reaction and investigate before overreacting.

Communicating with the Coach/**Sponsor**

- Communication you should expect from your child's coach includes:
 - Philosophy of the coach
 - Expectations the coach has for your child
 - Locations and times of all practices and contests
 - Team requirements
 - Procedure should your child be injured
 - Discipline that results in the denial of your child's participation
- Communication coaches expect from parents
 - Concerns expressed directly to the coach/**sponsor**
 - Notification of any schedule conflicts well in advance
 - Specific concerns in regard to a coach/**sponsor** philosophy and/or expectations
- Appropriate concerns to discuss with coaches/**sponsors**
 - The treatment of your child, mentally, and physically
 - Ways to help your child improve
 - Concerns about your child's behavior
 - Injuries or health concerns. Report injuries to the coach/**sponsor** immediately. Tell the coach/**sponsor** 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/**sponsor** is told.
- Appropriate procedures for discussing concerns with the coaches/**sponsors**:
 - ~~Call to set up an appointment with the coach/sponsor~~

- Do not confront a coach/sponsor before or after a contest or practice ((these can be emotional times for all parties involved and do not promote resolution) We strongly encourage communication between parents and coaches, but want to make sure it is as positive an interaction as possible.
- With that in mind, we will follow a “24hr-Cool Down” rule: Parents (or other community members) are NOT allowed to confront a coach/sponsor, team, or player with a complaint or to discuss any “negative” situation immediately after a game/competition or practice and for 24hrs after.
- If parents respect the Cool Down Period, their concerns are MORE likely to be fully addressed in a reasonable discussion, when emotions are not as high. The intent of this rule is to move an emotional and confrontational discussion away from the presence of the players, and to allow the parties to compose themselves and put the situation in proper perspective before meeting.
- Call to set up an appointment with the coach/sponsor.
- What should a parent do if the meeting with the coach did not provide satisfactory resolution?
 - Follow the chain of command. ~~Call the Supt/Principal or Designee to~~ Set up a meeting with the Activities Director or Principal administration, with the coach/sponsor, and parent present.
 - At this meeting, an appropriate next step can be determined, if necessary.
 - If a resolution is not established, a meeting with the superintendent can be held.
 - It is not appropriate to contact individual board members at any time regarding activity concerns. Board members are to only entertain such concerns at board meetings in which said person(s) with the concern have been properly placed on the board meeting agenda. Contact the Superintendent with questions regarding the proper procedure for communicating concerns at board meetings.

Section 9 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.

The administration supervising an activity shall have the authority to implement good sportsmanship expectations. Any participant, parent, or spectator who fails to uphold the good sportsmanship expectations may be removed from an event and banned from returning.

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.
4. Maintain self-control.
5. Do not "boo," ~~stamp~~ stomp feet or make disrespectful remarks toward players or officials.

6. Learn the rules of the game, so that you may understand and appreciate why certain situations take place.
7. Know that noisemakers of any kind are not proper for **indoor** events.
8. Obey and respect officials and faculty supervisors who are responsible for keeping order.
9. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials. Stay off the playing area at all times.
10. Do not disturb others by throwing material onto the playing area.
11. Show respect for officials, coaches, cheerleaders and student-athletes.
12. Pay attention to the half-time program and do not disturb those who are watching.
13. Respect public property by not damaging the equipment or the facility.
14. Know that the school officials reserve the right to refuse attendance of individuals whose conduct is not proper.
15. Refrain from the use of alcohol and drugs on the site of the contest.

Section 10 School Dances

A school sponsored dance is a school activity (not part of the general curriculum or school day), subject to all provisions of the Code of Conduct. Attending a school dance is a privilege (not a right) available to those students who meet all requirements for participation.

General Rules of Student Conduct at Dances. In addition to all rules of student conduct in the Student handbook, students attending dances shall adhere to the following rules of conduct:

1. **Who Can Attend:** Only students from the Sandhills School District **or Thedford School District** and their guests may attend.
 - a. Students currently attending the District's High School, or another Nebraska high school, are generally considered appropriate dates or invited guests. The Principal may prevent a student from attending if the Principal determines that a student may cause a disruption at the dance or would otherwise distract from the dance itself (such as a student who is serving an expulsion).
 - b. Persons who are in a grade level less than 9 or older than 20 years of age and not attending high school are generally considered to not be appropriate dates or invited guests for our school dances. All out of school dates will be approved by the Principal at least 1 day prior to the event.
 - c. Some school dances may be restricted to students attending specified grades levels. For any dances at the middle school level, only students attending Sandhills Public Schools **or Thedford Public Schools** in the grade(s) for which the dance is being held may attend.
 - d. Students who have been suspended from school or from extracurricular activities may not attend.
 - e. The school reserves the right to exclude persons who may or do cause a disruption or detract from the event. Dates or invited guests not attending our school are expected to follow the same rules of conduct which apply to our students.
 - f. No student or guest will be allowed to leave early and be able to return to the dance. Once a student or guest leaves the dance, they are no longer the responsibility of Sandhills Public Schools.
 - g. Students or their guests who engage in inappropriate behavior, whether on or off the dance floor, may be asked to leave.

2. Prohibited Substances: Alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and tobacco are prohibited. Anyone using these or showing the effects of use will not be allowed admission or, if discovered after admission, be removed from the dance. Their parents or guardians may be contacted.
Students and their dates may be required to submit to a breathalyzer prior to gaining entrance. Those who choose not to submit to a breathalyzer will not gain entrance. Law enforcement will be contacted if there is reasonable suspicion that the student or a student's date is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
3. Appropriate Attire: Students and their guests must meet the dress code requirements established for each dance. Teachers or administrators will make the final decision as to whether a student's attire is appropriate. Students will be asked to change unacceptable items, which may mean that the student may have to return home to change the inappropriate clothing.

Homecoming Royalty and Similar Honors: Standards and procedures for homecoming will be revisited annually by the administration in order to provide the most appropriate homecoming experience in the best interest of the students. Both schools will work together to plan a homecoming that best reflects the overall needs of students from both schools. The specific details, pertaining to homecoming, will be communicated to students and parents in a timely manner to allow for proper preparations regarding homecoming.

Junior/Senior Banquet: Any junior or senior in good academic/activity standing from Sandhills or Thedford High schools and their date.

Prom Dance: Any Sandhills or Thedford High School Student (grades 9-12) in good academic standing and his/her date. Out of school the administration or prom sponsors shall approve dates.

Juniors and Seniors May Invite: Any district approved student date. Dates shall not include junior high students. ~~Any adult date that turns 21 years of age up to and including the day of the prom is prohibited.~~ All out of school dates must be registered in the office with the correct name, date, grade, age and address by Wednesday noon of prom week. Any students who are dates of Sandhills or Thedford High School Students are expected to conduct themselves as if they were a Sandhills or Thedford High School student. All students who choose to leave the prom will be considered out and WILL NOT be let back into prom or the After Prom Party.

Section 11 Live Stream of District Activities and Events

Notice is hereby given that district events may be live streamed via available internet or web based technology. The district recognizes the benefit to consider live streaming events for the district's parents, patrons, friends, and relatives. Any official NSAA event, such as district or state contests, may not be live streamed without express permission from the NSAA. Regular season games, contests, events, etc., may be live streamed at the discretion of the district.

**RECEIPT OF Sandhills HIGH SCHOOL
2026-2027 STUDENT-PARENT ACTIVITY HANDBOOK**

We acknowledge receipt of the 2025-2026 Student-Parent Activity Handbook.

We agree to abide by the extracurricular activity code of conduct set forth in the handbook and the other rules and regulations set forth in the handbook.

We agree to read the handbook. In the event we have a question about the meaning of any of the material in the handbook, we understand that we can request a conference with the Principal or the Athletics Director to get an explanation.

Date: _____

Date: _____

Student's Signature

Parent or Legal Guardian's Signature