



COZAD
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL
2023-2024
PARENT-STUDENT
HANDBOOK

Students, their families, and potential employees of Cozad School District are hereby notified that the Cozad High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex, or disability in employment, career and technology programs or activities as set forth in compliance with federal and state statutes and regulations. Any persons having inquiries concerning Cozad High School compliance with Title II, Title VI, Title IX and/or Section 504 may contact: James Ford, Superintendent

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Activities Director/Assistant Principal: Jeremy Yilk
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WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

On behalf of the faculty, administration, and board of education, we welcome you to another school year. We are looking forward to helping your children reach their learning potential and achieve their educational goals in the upcoming year.

Please read this handbook carefully. Students and their parents are responsible for knowing the rules, regulations, and procedures covered in this handbook. The student handbook is an extension of school policies and has the force and effect of board policy when approved by the board of education.

There are several forms at the end of this handbook that you must read, sign, and return no later than September 1.

This handbook contains information of value to every student and parent. It contains explanations of school regulations and procedures necessary for our school to run smoothly and efficiently. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher, speak with the building principal, or contact my office.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Ford
Superintendent

Intent of Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents, and staff as a guide to the rules, procedures, and general information about this school district. Students and their parents must become familiar with the handbook, and parents should use it as a resource and assist their children in following the rules contained in it. The use of the word "parents" refers to any adult who has the responsibility for making education-related decisions about a child, including, but not limited to biological parents, adoptive parents, legal guardians, and adults acting in loco parentis.

Although the information in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, it is not intended to be all-encompassing or to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during a school day or school year. This handbook does not create a "contract" with parents, students, or staff, and the administration may make decisions and rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students. The administration is responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. If a situation or circumstance arises that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based on applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

The school district does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the nondiscrimination policies:

James Ford
Superintendent
1910 Meridian Ave
308-784-2745
James.ford@cozadschools.net

For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, visit <http://wdcrobcolp01.ed.gov/CFAPPS/OCR/contactus.cfm> for the address and phone number of the office that serves your area or call 1-800-421-3481.

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

SECTION ONE

BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES

Attendance

Required Attendance

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

Mandatory Attendance Age

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

Exceptions

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

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

Excused Absences

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

1. Severe weather
2. Medical appointments for the student or for a child whom the student is parenting (with written communication from a medical professional)
3. Death or serious illness of the student's family member
4. Attending a funeral, wedding, or graduation
5. Appearance at court or for other legal matters
6. Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith

7. College planning visits
8. Personal or family vacations

Excessive Absenteeism

When a student receives 5 unexcused (unresolved) absences or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the Attendance Officer will follow the district's policy to address barriers to the student's attendance. School Counselors may also communicate attendance concerns with students throughout the school year.

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

Absences due to illness

The school district will contact parents if a student becomes ill at school. A student who is absent due to illness (or other excusable absences) has two days for every day of absence to complete missed assignments.

Planned absences

Parents who know in advance that a student will be absent must call the school or send a written note at the earliest possible date. Students who will be absent for reasons that can be anticipated, such as routine medical appointments and school activities, must complete any work required by the teacher before the absence. Parents should make every attempt to schedule medical and other appointments after school hours when possible.

Students are obligated to:

- 1) Complete all class work in advance for any absence that can be anticipated.
- 2) Attend school a full day before attending practice or participating in a scheduled student activity except in cases of family emergencies or pre arranged absences.
- 3) Check out of school at the office if leaving school during the school day.
- 4) Make up any and all work that is assigned by teachers as make-up work for the instructional time that has been missed.

Parents are obligated to:

- 1) Call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence.

- 2) Submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness.

Pregnant and Parenting Students

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

Backpacks

Backpacks are not permitted in classrooms. Upon arrival to school, students are expected to immediately place backpacks and/or other personal bags in their school or gym lockers.

Band

Students may participate in the elementary band and begin taking band lessons in the 5th grade. Students in grades 6-8 may participate in the middle school band; grades 9-12 may participate in the high school band. Instruments will be provided by students, or the school as provided by school policy. Fees may be charged as allowed or provided in the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act and the school's student fee policy or other applicable policy.

Bills

Students should pay bills for supplies, fines, shop materials, clothing orders, etc. in the school bookkeeper's office. Any check for these payments should be made out to Cozad Community Schools unless otherwise instructed. Pursuant to board policy, the district will assess an additional penalty of \$30 for any check returned from the bank for insufficient funds.

When students purchase items of significant value, such as class rings and letter jackets, they must make payment at the time of purchase or when the order is placed.

Books and Supplies

Students must take care of books and other supplies provided by the district. The school will assess fines for damage to books and school property.

Students may supply their own consumable items such as pens, pencils, tablets, notebooks, and erasers. Each classroom teacher will prepare a supply list for students at the beginning of the school year.

Breastfeeding and Lactation

In order to accommodate lactating and breastfeeding students, the district will provide reasonable opportunities to express breast milk or breastfeed in a place, other than a bathroom, which is shielded from view and free from intrusion from district students, employees, and the public. The district will also provide a location for students to store expressed breast milk in or near the location designated for students to express milk to create the least amount of disruption to the student's participation in class or activities.

Students who wish or need to express breast milk on a regular schedule must work with school administrators to create a schedule that accommodates the student's needs while facilitating education to the maximum extent possible.

In order to prevent interference with the educational process, no student shall express breast milk within school classrooms or buses. Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the administration to impose consequences consistent with the Student Discipline Act and other state and federal law.

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards are maintained throughout the building to communicate general information, material, and school announcements. Students should check the bulletin boards carefully each school day.

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

1. All postings must be approved by the appropriate building principal or designee. Students may not post any material containing any statement or expression that is libelous, obscene, or vulgar; that would violate board of education policies, including the student code of conduct; or that is otherwise inappropriate for the school environment.
2. All postings must identify the student or the student organization posting or publishing the notice.
3. Material shall be removed after a reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards or electronic publishing media.

Bullying

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as "any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived

power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The District’s administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

The disciplinary consequences for bullying will depend on the severity, frequency, duration, and effect of the behavior and may result in sanctions up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students who believe they are being bullied should immediately inform a teacher or the building principal.

Reporting Bullying

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

Bullying Investigations

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

Cafeteria Rules

1. All food must be consumed in the areas designated by the school.
2. After students have eaten, they must return trays to the kitchen. All straws, papers, milk cartons should be deposited in the trash cans. All leftover food should be scraped off the tray onto the correct container.
3. Students are to use proper manners including eating quietly.
4. Students may not throw food or other items.
5. Second servings are available to those who have made an effort to clean their trays and have requisite funds as required by board policy.
6. Students must treat lunch personnel with respect.
7. Students who violate the above rules will be disciplined.

Candy and Gum

Students may not bring candy or gum to school unless they have prior permission from their classroom teacher or the administration.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while at school, except as permitted in this handbook.

Students may access/use cell phones or other electronic devices in the common areas of the school before, between classes, during lunch, during student lounge (HS) and after school, so long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption. Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while they are in locker rooms or restrooms. Students are expected to comply with the school district's general expectations for cell phone and other electronic device use.

Students may NOT access/use cell phones or other electronic devices during any class. Defined expectations for Middle School and High School are below.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

Students at Cozad Middle School are not permitted to have their cell phone on their person during class session and are expected to keep cell phones in their Middle School locker.

HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS:

Students at Cozad High School are not permitted to have their cell phone on their person during class session and are expected to keep cell phones in their High School locker or placed in designated cell phone pouches/located in the classrooms.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while riding in a school vehicle unless they have express permission to do so from the vehicle's driver or activity sponsor/coach.

Students are personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and other electronic devices. The school district is not responsible for theft, loss, or damage of a cell phone or any messages sent, or calls made on a cell phone.

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

The taking, disseminating, transferring, or sharing of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs, whether by electronic data transfer or otherwise may constitute a crime under state and/or federal law. Any person engaged in these activities while on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity will be subject to the disciplinary procedures of the student code of conduct. Any student found to be in possession of obscene, pornographic, lewd, or otherwise illegal images or photographs will be promptly referred to law enforcement and/or other state or federal agencies, which may result in arrest, criminal prosecution, and possible inclusion on sex offender registries.

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

Students may not cheat, plagiarize, or otherwise participate in any academic dishonesty in any form. Prohibited behavior includes:

- Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or aiding another person to obtain credit for work by any dishonest or deceptive means.
- Lying.
- Copying another person's work or answers.
- Discussing the answers or questions on a test or assignment unless specifically authorized by the teacher.
- Taking or receiving copies of a test without the permission of the teacher.
- Using or displaying notes, "cheat sheets," or other sources of unauthorized information.
- Using the ideas or work of another person as if they were your own without giving proper credit to the source.
- Submitting work or any portion of work completed by another person.
- Failing to give credit for ideas, statements, facts, or conclusions which rightfully belong to another person.
- Failing to use quotation marks or other appropriate means of attribution when quoting directly from another person or source.
- Misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) for cheating and/or plagiarism is prohibited.

A student who cheats, plagiarizes, or otherwise participates in any academic dishonesty is subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion.

Child Abuse and Neglect

School employees will report suspected abuse or neglect of a child as required by state law and school policy. Nebraska law defines abuse or neglect as knowingly, intentionally, or negligently causing or permitting a minor child or an incompetent or disabled person to be (1) placed in a situation that endangers his or her life or physical or mental health; (2) cruelly confined or cruelly punished; (3) deprived of necessary food, clothing, shelter or care; (4) left unattended in a motor vehicle, if such child is six years of age or younger; (5) sexually abused; (6) placed in a situation to be sexually exploited through sex trafficking of a minor as defined in state law or by allowing, encouraging, or forcing such person to engage in debauchery, public indecency, or obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or (7) placed in a situation to be a trafficking victim as defined in state law.

Class Dismissal

Classes are in session from the ringing of the tardy bell until the teacher dismisses the class. The bell at the end of the period is not a dismissal bell, and students may not leave their classrooms until they have been excused by their classroom teacher.

Classroom Behavior

Student behavior in the classroom is expected to be honest, respectful, and accountable. Students are expected to:

- arrive to class on time.
- be prepared to participate in class with all necessary materials.
- be considerate and respectful towards others.
- remain awake and alert (no sleeping or appearance of sleeping)
- respond promptly to all directions of the teacher; and
- take care of school property and the property of others.

Teachers may establish additional classroom conduct rules that students must obey.

Closed Campus

Students may not leave the building or campus without permission from the administration.

Students in grades 9-12 who have a valid driver license may drive off campus for lunch only if they have secured their parents' written permission and submitted it to the office on the required parent signature form. A parent permission/signature form will be available to students at the start of the school year. The completed signature form will be considered written parent permission for the duration of the school year. Parents will not need to provide written permission on a daily basis for the lunch driving privilege.

Driving privilege during lunch is a variation of school policy and is granted only to students with the stipulation that students understand and adhere to the following expectations:

1. Students must have a valid driver's license.
2. Students must be passing all classes as per standard grading practice (69.5% or above or as defined in an IEP).
3. Students must not be in violation of the school's attendance policy (cannot be truant or have excessive unexcused absences).
4. No unexcused tardies upon returning from lunch.
5. Students must travel in their own vehicle and cannot have passengers.
6. Violation of any school policy may result in suspension of this privilege.

7. IF THE STUDENT IS NOT IN GOOD STANDING (1-6 ABOVE) THE STUDENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE CAMPUS FOR LUNCH UNLESS PICKED UP BY A PARENT.

Students and parents must understand that driving off campus during lunch is a privilege and can be revoked at any time for violation of the above stated expectations or for reasons determined by school administration.

Communicable Diseases

Any student who has contracted a contagious disease may be restricted from attendance at school until the student is no longer contagious. The school district uses the Title 173- Nebraska Health and Human Services/Control of Communicable Disease, Chapter 3 of the Nebraska Administrative Code as a "best practice" guideline for contagious and infectious diseases. If there are questions regarding the communicability of your child's health condition or if you know your child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease or condition not otherwise specified in board policy or this handbook, please call the school nurse.

Communicating with Parents

Parents shall be kept informed of student progress, grades, and attendance through report cards, progress reports, and parent/teacher conferences. The school district will notify parents if their students are failing or close to failing. Notifications will be either written or electronic (email and/or text). The school district will endeavor to notify parents of failing students prior to entry of the failing grade on the student's report card. Parents will also be notified of their student's possible failure to meet graduation requirements. Other pertinent information will be communicated to parents by mail or by personal contact. Official transcripts of student progress, grades, and attendance will be sent to other school systems upon being notified that the student has enrolled in another school.

Complaint Procedure

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to board members, patrons, students and school staff, unless the staff member is subject to a different grievance procedure pursuant to policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems. When such efforts do not resolve matters satisfactorily, including matters involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age, a complainant should follow the procedures set forth below.

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

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant to discrimination or harassment.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, Title IX/504 coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
 - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
 - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
 - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted, at any time during the complaint procedure to the School District's Title IX/504 coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or to the Title IX/504 coordinator, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.

- 1) If the complainant has not, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the staff member, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Interview the complainant to determine:
 - 1) All relevant details of the complaint;
 - 2) All witnesses and documents which the complainant believes support the complaint;
 - 3) The action or solution which the complainant seeks.
 - d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator received the complaint.
4. If either the complainant or the accused party is not satisfied with the administrator's or the Title IX/504 coordinator's decision regarding a complaint, he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent.
 - a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than ten (10) business days from the date the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
 - c) The superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.
 - d) Upon completion of this investigation, the superintendent will inform the complainant in writing of his or her decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the

superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal.

5. If either the complainant or the accused party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding a complaint, he or she may appeal the decision to the board.
 - a) This appeal must be in writing.
 - b) This appeal must be received by the board president no later than ten (10) business days from the date the superintendent communicated his/her decision to the complainant.
 - c) This policy allows, but does not require the board to receive statements from interested parties and witnesses relevant to the complaint appeal. However, all matters involving discrimination or harassment shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated.
 - d) The board will notify the complainant in writing of its decision. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the board shall submit its decision within 180 days after it received complainant's written appeal.
 - e) There is no appeal from a decision of the board.

6. When a formal complaint about the superintendent of schools has been filed with the president of the board, the president shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the superintendent, the board president shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.

- c) Determine, in his or her sole discretion, whether to place the matter on the board agenda for consideration at a regular or special meeting.
- d) Respond to the complainant. If the complaint involved discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 days after the president received the complaint.

No Retaliation.

The school district prohibits retaliation against any person for filing a complaint or for participating in the complaint procedure in good faith.

Special Rules Regarding Educational Services and Related Services to Students with Disabilities.

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

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

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

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district's Director of Special Education or to the district's 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student

for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district's refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings.

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

Computer Network Use by Students

Students are expected to use computers and the Internet as an educational resource. The following procedures and guidelines govern the use of computers and the Internet at school.

I. Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet

A. Acceptable Use

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

B. Unacceptable Use

1. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
2. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
3. Students shall not use e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose or in violation of any school policy or directive.

4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in online auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems including, but not limited to Aimster or Freenet and the like.
5. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.
6. Students shall not use school computers for commercial advertising or political advocacy of any kind without the express written permission of the system administrator.
7. Students shall not publish web pages that purport to represent the school district or the work of students at the school district without the express written permission of the system administrator.
8. Students shall not erase, rename, or make unusable anyone else's computer files, programs or disks.
9. Students shall not share their passwords with fellow students, school volunteers or any other individuals, and shall not use, or try to discover, another user's password.
10. Students shall not copy, change or transfer any software or documentation provided by the school district, teachers or another student without permission from the system administrator.
11. Students shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called, but is not limited to, a bug, virus, worm, or Trojan Horse.
12. Students shall not configure or troubleshoot computers, networks, printers or other associated equipment, except as directed by a teacher or the system administrator.
13. Students shall not take home technology equipment (hardware or software) without permission of the system administrator.
14. Students shall not falsify electronic mail messages or web pages.

II. Enforcement

A. Methods of Enforcement

1. The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time.

2. The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in accordance with the policy of the school district. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.
3. Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
4. The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.

B. Consequences for Violation of this Policy

1. Access to the school's computer system and to the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Any violation of school policy and rules may result in:
 - a. Loss of computer privileges;
 - b. Short-term suspension;
 - c. Long-term suspension or expulsion in accordance with the Nebraska Student Discipline Act; and
 - d. Other discipline as school administration and the school board deem appropriate.
2. Students who use school computer systems without permission and for non-school purposes may be guilty of a criminal violation and will be prosecuted.

III. Protection of Students

A. Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

1. The school will not allow companies to collect personal information from children under 13 for commercial purposes. The school will make reasonable efforts to disable advertising in educational computer applications.
2. This policy allows the school to act as an agent for parents in the collection of information within the school context. The school's use of student information is solely for education purposes.

B. Education About Appropriate On-Line Behavior

1. School district staff will educate students about appropriate online behavior, both in specific computer usage units and in the general curriculum.
2. Staff will specifically educate students on
 - a. Appropriate interactions with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms.
 - b. Cyberbullying awareness and response.

3. The School District's technology director shall inform staff of this educational obligation and shall keep records of the instruction which occurs in compliance with this policy.

Conferences

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences during the first quarter and during the third quarter.

In addition to formal conferences, classroom teachers will communicate with parents as necessary. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

Copyright and Fair Use

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

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Students who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their teacher or building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review Copyright for Students found at

<https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site:

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

Damage to School Property

Students who damage school property either intentionally or unintentionally may be required to pay to replace or restore the property, at the discretion of the administration.

Dating Violence:

Cozad Community Schools provides physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all students and staff. Positive behaviors are encouraged in the educational program and are required of all students and staff. Inappropriate behaviors, including but not limited to, dating violence, will not be tolerated and must be avoided by all students and staff.

Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated by the school district. Students who engage in dating violence on school grounds, in a school vehicle or at a school activity or that otherwise violates the Nebraska Student Discipline Act will receive consequences consistent with the Act and the district's student discipline policies.

The school district shall provide dating violence training to staff deemed appropriate by the administration and in accordance with Nebraska law.

Discrimination and Harassment

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects a student's school opportunities. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Superintendent at 308-784-2745, james.ford@cozadschools.net or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent/Activities Director at 308-784-2745, or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the Superintendent at 308-7842745, james.ford@cozadschools.net or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Dress Code

Students must come to school dressed in clean, neat, and appropriate clothing to conform to educational standards. School uniforms worn during the school day must be approved by school administration.

Students are prohibited from wearing the following attire:

1. Clothing and tattoos displaying indecent, sexual, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
2. Clothing and tattoos that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance
3. Caps, hats, hoods and bandannas inside the school buildings during the regular school day.
4. Headphones (including ear buds, air pods, etc.) are allowed in class at the discretion of the classroom teacher

5. Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
6. Hairstyles which distract from the learning process or the health and safety for either the student or others
7. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property (pliers/plier holders, chains, etc.)
8. Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened
9. "Grubby clothes," those which are purposely torn or bedraggled or threadbare, dirty or disheveled (including jeans with excessive holes/rips)
10. Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions
11. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps)
12. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
13. All pants must have a hemline, be worn at the waist in an appropriate manner and must cover all undergarments. The length and/or fit of pants, shorts, skirts, and dresses should be such that they are appropriate and not reflect poorly on the school.

Students who violate dress code guidelines will be required to correct the violation by changing into something appropriate at school or returning home to change. A detention or suspension may be given to make up the time away from school. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.

Students participating in graduation exercises will be expected to dress in a manner that reflects the prestige of the occasion. Blue jeans, T-shirts, shorts, tennis shoes, flip-flops, and slippers are prohibited. Students shall NOT have any symbol or writing on their cap or gown.

The above-mentioned dress code requirements are for the protection of all students attending Cozad Middle and High Schools and to promote a positive learning environment. All concerns brought to the administration will be evaluated and addressed individually. Coaches and other staff members, in areas of public interscholastic and athletic appearance, may specify additional requirements for dress and grooming. The Cozad Middle and High School administration reserves the right to rule on the appropriateness of student dress.

Driving and Parking Personal Vehicles and Reporting Accidents

Students who drive privately owned motor vehicles to school must obey the following rules:

1. Students may not move their vehicles during the school day without the permission of the building principal or superintendent. Students will not be allowed to sit in or be around their vehicles during the school day, without administrative permission.
2. Students must drive with care to ensure the safety of the pedestrians. Students may not drive carelessly or with excessive speed.
3. By driving personal vehicles to school and parking on school grounds, students consent to having that vehicle searched by school officials when they have reasonable suspicion that such a search will reveal a violation of school rules.
4. All accidents on school grounds shall be reported to the office of the principal in a timely manner.

Drug Free Schools

The board of education has adopted policies to comply with the Federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act. Students are prohibited from using, possessing, or selling any drug, alcohol, or tobacco while on school grounds, at a school activity or in a school vehicle. In addition, students who participate in the school's activities program should refer to the Activities Handbook which prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances, and tobacco at all times.

Any student who violates any school policy regarding drug, alcohol, and tobacco use will be disciplined, up to and including short-term suspension, long-term suspension, or expulsion from school and/or referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution.

Emergency Contact Information

Parents must complete an emergency information form for each child enrolled in the district. The form should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions. Parents must promptly inform the school if this contact information changes during the school year.

Evacuations

The school district will hold routine evacuation drills throughout the school year. Classroom teachers will provide students with detailed instructions on building evacuations.

Eye Exams

All students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring into the school district from out of state must undergo a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no

such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. They must provide evidence of the vision examination within six months prior to entrance. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.

Food Service Program

The school district provides a food service program that is designed to provide adequate nutrition and an educational experience for students.

Breakfast

The school will serve breakfast daily from 7:30 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast. The school district charges students \$1.80 and adults \$3.00 for breakfast.

Lunch

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives. Lunch for PK-5 is \$2.90. Lunch for 6-12 is \$3.10 for students and \$5.00 for adults.

Payment for Meals

Students are encouraged to pay for meals several weeks in advance. Payment should be made to the bookkeeper in the office.

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be provided and charged for up to five limited "courtesy meals," such as a plain sandwich. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided.

Students who qualify for free meals will not be denied a reimbursable meal, even if they have accrued a negative balance from other food purchases. School staff may prohibit any students from charging a la carte or extra items if they do not have cash in hand or their account has a negative balance.

If a student repeatedly lacks funds to purchase a meal, has not brought a meal from home, and is not enrolled in a free meal program, the district will use its resources and contacts to protect the health and safety of the student. Failure or refusal of parents or guardians to provide meals for students may require mandatory reporting to child protection agencies as required by law.

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by

telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. Collection efforts may continue into a new school year.

Notice of Non-discrimination

In accordance with federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington,
D.C. 20250-9410
- (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the school district. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

Field Trips

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent, or "caregiver" as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, must authorize a student to participate in a field trip by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

First-Aid

First-aid items may only be used by school staff. Students who need first aid should ask for assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member.

Head Lice

Parents of students with live head lice will be notified and the child will be treated prior to return to school. Nits (eggs) are not a cause for school exclusion but removal is recommended. All family members should be checked, however only persons with active head lice infestation require treatment. Avoid head to head contact, sharing of personal items and sleep overs. Students should not miss valuable school time because of head lice. Treatment of the hair, with careful attention to the environment, should be persistent for several weeks until all evidence of infestation is gone. Contact the school nurse for treatment guidelines and suggestions. Parents should check their children's heads periodically, especially if scalp scratching is evident.

Health Problems Limiting Activities

Parents who do not want their children to play outdoors or participate in physical education for health reasons must send a written request to school. If a student persistently requests to be excused from these activities, the building principal or classroom teacher may require a doctor's verification.

Parents should notify the school nurse, principal, or superintendent if their student has any special health problems such as diabetes, asthma, or the like.

Homebound Instruction

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home and under parental supervision if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes for an extended period of time. Homebound instruction shall be provided when the student's physical and mental condition are such that the student can benefit from instruction and no other provision will meet the student's educational needs. If you believe that homebound instruction is appropriate for your child, please contact the building principal to initiate the appropriate process to determine eligibility.

Homeless Children and Youth

Homeless students generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, as further defined by applicable state and federal law.

It is the school's policy not to stigmatize or segregate homeless students on the basis of their status of being homeless. Transportation for homeless students who enroll in the district shall be furnished by the district under the same guidelines applying to other students or if such transportation is necessary for compliance with federal law.

Each homeless child shall be provided services for which the child is eligible comparable to services provided to other students in the school selected regardless of residency. Homeless children shall be provided access to education and other services that such children need to ensure that they have an opportunity to meet the same student performance standards to which all students are held.

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is the school nurse, who may be contacted at 308-784-3462.

Illness or Injury at School and Reporting Accidents

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary. When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention, but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned, or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital. Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions. Accidents that happen at school shall be reported to the principal's office immediately.

Immunizations

All students must furnish one of the following to school officials:

- proof of adequate immunizations for mumps, measles, rubella; diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus; polio; varicella and hepatitis B series; or
- A statement signed by a medical professional stating that the required immunization would be injurious to the health and well-being of the student or any member of the student's household; or
- An affidavit signed by the student or a legally authorized representative of the student, stating that the immunization conflicts with the student's sincerely held religious beliefs.
- Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

Provisional Enrollment. Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment shall be allowed to attend school.

Students who are excepted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

Initiations and Hazing

Initiations and hazing by members of classes, clubs, athletic teams, or any other organization affiliated with the district are prohibited except as otherwise permitted by this policy. Any student engaging in hazing or nonapproved initiations is subject to discipline as permitted by policy and law.

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person.

Lockers and Other School Property

The school district owns and exercises exclusive control over student lockers, desks, computer equipment, and other such property. Students should not expect privacy regarding usage of or items placed in or on school property, because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of lockers, desks, computers, and other such property may be conducted at the discretion of the administration. The assignment of a locker is on a temporary basis and may be revoked at any time. School officials may inspect student lockers without any particularized suspicion or reasonable cause.

Lost and Found

All lost and found articles are to be taken to the school office. Students may claim lost articles there. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a local charity or otherwise disposed of at the conclusion of each semester.

Medications

Whenever possible, parents should arrange medication schedules to eliminate the need for giving medication during school hours. When it is necessary for school personnel to administer medication to students, the school district will comply with the Nebraska Medication Aide Act, the requirements of Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 59, (promulgated by the Nebraska Department of Education and entitled *Methods of Competency Assessment of School Staff Who Administer Medication*), and all state and federal regulations. Parents and guardians who wish to have their child receive medication from school personnel must comply with the following procedures:

Prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide a physician's written authorization for the administration of the medication. (2) Parents/guardians must provide their own written permission for the administration of the medication. (3) The medication must be brought to school in the prescription container and must be properly labeled with the student's name, the physician's name, and directions for administering the medication.

Non-prescription medication. (1) Parents/guardians must provide written permission for the administration of the medication. (2) The medication must be brought to the school in the manufacturer's container. (3) The container must be labeled with the child's name and with directions for provision or administration of the medication

The district reserves the right to review and decline requests to administer or provide medications that are not consistent with standard pharmacological references, are prescribed in doses that exceed those recommended in standard pharmacological references, or that could be taken in a manner that would eliminate the need for giving them during school hours. The district may request parental authorization to consult with the student's physician regarding any medication prescribed by such physician.

Media Center

Students must check out materials from the librarian on duty. Each borrower is responsible for all books checked out in his/her name. A fine of five cents per day per book may be charged for overdue books. Each student is responsible for any fine that accumulated on a book charged to him/her. If a book is lost and not found by the end of the semester, the student must pay for it. Students must also pay for any damage they cause to library books.

Memorials

Memorials or plaques honoring deceased students are generally not allowed in or on the school grounds unless authorized by board policy. Dedications to students will not be allowed.

Scholarships in the deceased person's name will not be set up by the school. Scholarships set up by outside organizations or individuals, such as a foundation, will be allowed.

Opting Out of Assessments

The Board of Education has adopted a policy on approval and denial of state and federal assessment opt-out requests, which is based on requirements in law. The policy can be requested by contacting the Superintendent of Schools at 308-784-2745.

Parental Involvement

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

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited to inform parents of their school's participation under this part, to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Invitations may take the form of notes sent with students or announcements in the school newsletter. Additional meetings may be scheduled, based upon need and interest for such meetings.
2. An explanation of the details for the child's and parents' participation, including but not limited to: curriculum objectives, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, type and extent of participation, parental input in educational decisions, coordination, and integration with other Federal, State, and district programs, and evaluations of progress.
3. Opportunities for participation in parent involvement activities, such as training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. A goal of these parent activities is to provide parents with opportunities to participate in decisions relating to the education of their students, where appropriate.
4. The district will, to the extent practicable, provide parents of limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents with limited literacy, are economically disadvantaged, are of a racial or minority background or parents of migratory children with opportunities for involvement in the Title I Program.

Communication to parents about student progress and the district's other Title I Program communications will be provided in the language used in the home to the extent practicable. Responses to parent concerns will be provided in a timely manner.

5. Opportunities for parent-teacher conferences, in addition to those regularly scheduled by the school district, if requested by the parents or as deemed necessary by school district staff.
6. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other programs in the community. These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.
7. The district will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

Personal Items and Valuables

Students shall not bring money or valuables to school, as the school is not responsible for lost/stolen/damaged items. The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. Students should not bring items such as athletic equipment, electronic devices, toys, or other similar personal items to school unless they have the prior permission of their classroom teacher or a school administrator. The school is not responsible for damaged or lost personal items or equipment.

Physical Education

The school district requires students to receive physical education to assist them in developing gross and fine motor skills. Students are not required to wear P.E. uniforms, but are encouraged to wear tennis shoes for P.E.

Physical Exam

Students entering kindergarten and the seventh grade, and those entering school from another state, are statutorily required to show evidence that they have had a physical examination within six months prior to the date of entering school.

Pictures

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of the date. Parents who

want pictures of their students may purchase them directly from the photographer.

Police Questioning and Apprehension

Police or other law enforcement officers may be called to the school at the request of school administration, or may initiate contact with the school in connection with a criminal investigation. The school district shall inform parents when law enforcement officers seek access to their student prior to the student being questioned unless the officers are investigating charges that the student has been the victim of abuse or neglect. Members of the school district staff will comply with board policy regarding police questioning of students.

Protection of Student Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

ACT Exam

Students taking the ACT Exam will be prompted to complete a short, optional questionnaire addressing a number of topics. If you wish to review this questionnaire prior to the administration of the exam, please submit a written request to the superintendent.

Public Displays of Affection

Students may not engage in public displays of affection that are disruptive to the school environment or distracting to others. Prohibited conduct includes hugging, kissing, touching or any other display of affection that a staff member determines to be inappropriate.

Reasonable Suspicion Testing

Students may be required to submit to drug or alcohol testing if there is a reasonable suspicion that the student is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

The school district will honor the parental rights of natural and adoptive parents unless those rights have been altered by a court.

The term “custodial parent” refers to a biological or adoptive parent to whom a court has given primary physical and legal custody of a child, and a person such as a caseworker or foster parent to whom a court has given legal custody of a child.

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students’ records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

The district will provide the custodial parent with routine information about his or her child, including notification of conferences. The district will not provide the non-custodial parent with such information on a routine basis, but will provide it upon the non-custodial parent’s request unless it has been denied by the courts.

A non-custodial parent who wishes to attend conferences regarding his or her child will be provided information about conference times so both parents may attend a single conference. The district is not required to schedule separate conferences if both parents have been previously informed of scheduled conference times.

If either or both parents’ behavior is disruptive, staff members may terminate a conference and reschedule it with appropriate modifications or expectations.

Secret Organizations

Secret organizations are prohibited. School officials shall not allow any person or representative of any such organization to enter upon school grounds or school buildings for the purpose of rushing or soliciting students to participate in any secret fraternity, society, or association.

School Day

The school day typically begins at 8:10 a.m. and ends at 3:25 p.m. Students are expected to leave the school grounds after dismissal unless they are engaged in a school activity or are working with a teacher. School staff will provide supervision for students on school grounds 30 minutes before the school day begins and 10 minutes after the school day ends.

All students in grades 9-12 will report to their 8th period Academic Success classroom at the start of 8th period. Senior students who meet academic, attendance and behavior expectations may be dismissed early from their last period. Senior early dismissal time will be determined and communicated by administration.

<u>Regular Daily Schedule</u>	<u>2:00 P.M. Early Dismissal</u>	<u>Late Start Schedule</u>
Period 1 8:10-8:58	Period 1 8:10-8:48	Period 1 10:00-10:39
Period 2 9:01-9:49	Period 2 8:51-9:29	Period 2 10:42-11:21
Period 3 9:52-10:40	Period 3 9:32-10:10	Period 5A 11:24-12:03
Period 4 10:43-11:31	Period 4 10:13-10:50	1 st Lunch 11:21-11:51
Period 5A 11:34-12-22	Period 5A 10:53-11:30	Period 5B 11:54-12:33
1 st Lunch 11:31-12:01	1 st Lunch 10:50-11:20	2 nd Lunch 12:03-12:33
Period 5B 12:04-12:52	Period 5B 11:23-12:00	Period 3 12:36-1:15
2 nd Lunch 12:22-12:52	2 nd Lunch 11:30-12:00	Period 4 1:18-1:57
Period 6 12:55-1:43	Period 6 12:03-12:40	Period 6 2:00-2:39
Period 7 1:46-2:34	Period 7 12:43-1:20	Period 7 2:43-3:25
Period 8 2:37-3:25	Period 8 1:23-2:00	NO 8th PERIOD

Self-Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Subject to school policy, the school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with appropriate medical professionals to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis. Parents desiring to develop such a plan should contact the school nurse.

Smoking and Tobacco

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

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

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

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

Student Assistance

Parents who believe their students have any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that they believe are not being addressed by the school district should contact the student’s teacher. If appropriate, the teacher

may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of the student.

Student Fee Policy

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

Definitions.

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

Listing of Fees Charged by this District.

- 1. Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.** Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses, or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course, or activity.
- 2. Safety Equipment and Attire.** The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students

use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.

- 3. Personal or Consumable Items.** Equipment or supplies, of a specialized nature (such as graphing calculators) for certain courses may be provided to students by the district. Students are encouraged to purchase their own such equipment or supplies for their own use. Students, and their parents or guardian, will be held responsible for damages to school property caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student. A deposit of up to 20% may be required for certain materials and supplies provided by the school for student use.

Teachers may not require students to supply various personal or consumable items for use in courses. The school will supply items required for coursework that is not brought by the students. However, staff may state that students are requested but not required to bring the following items for use in school:

Pencils, erasers, colored pencils, pens, paper, graph paper, tablets, notebooks, activity calendars, organizers, planners, crayons, markers, compass, protractor, calculator, white out, highlighters, scissors. The district may set reasonable general guidelines on the use of consumables to avoid abuse and unnecessary waste of district resources.

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

- b. Some students enroll in post-secondary courses while still enrolled in high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such postsecondary courses.

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

- 5. Technological Devices.** The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects.

To the extent that a student is not required by the district's curriculum to utilize a device off district property, the district may charge students a convenience (take-home) fee to take the device off district property. The maximum dollar amount of this convenience (take-home) fee charged by the district will be \$20.00.

As with all school property, students may be charged for damage to such devices. To protect against such potential losses, students and parents may, but are not required, to purchase insurance coverage for the devices. The maximum dollar amount of this insurance coverage facilitated by the district will be \$20.00.

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

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

- Student Activity Card: \$35 ○ Covers admission to all extracurricular events
- Student Participation Fee: \$35 ○ Required of all students who participate in athletics and/or other extracurricular activities
- National Honor Society: \$40
- Cheer Squad and Dance Team: \$1800 ○ Student must provide uniform, poms, and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group.
- Football: \$300 ○ Students must provide their own football shoes, undergarments, and mouth guards
- Golf: \$500 ○ Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs
- Softball and Basketball: \$300 ○ Students must provide their own shoes, gloves, belt and undergarments
- Track, Volleyball, and Wrestling: \$300 ○ Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments

- Invention Convention/Science Fairs: \$40
- Field Trips: \$40 ○ If curricular in nature, no fees charged. If extra-curricular in nature, fees may be charged.
- FCCLA: \$165
- Pep Club: \$35
- Spirit Club: \$10
- Skills USA: \$25
- High School Honors Art: \$20
- FFA: State and Local dues \$35
 - Jacket \$80 ○ Clothing \$120
- Industrial Technology:
 - High School Woods 1 \$60 ○ High School Woods 2 \$50 ○ Metals Shop \$15
- Family/Consumer Science:
 - FCS 7 Sewing Project \$10 ○ FCS 8 Sewing Project \$10 ○ High School FCS \$30
- Physicals: \$50
 - Students are required to have completed physical to compete in some activities.

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

8. Transportation Costs. The district may charge students reasonable fees for district-provided transportation services to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

9. Copies of Student Files or Records. The school district may charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the student's parents or guardians. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Students' parents have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records

without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

10. Participation in Before-School, After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services. The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-school, after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.

11. Participation in Summer School or Night School. The district may charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses.

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

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

- Breakfast Program – Grades PK-5
 - Regular Price \$1.55
 - Reduced Price \$.30
- Breakfast Program – Grades 6-12
 - Regular Price \$1.80
 - Reduced Price \$.30
- Lunch Program – Grades PK-5
 - Regular Price \$2.90
 - Reduced Price \$.40
- Lunch Program – Grades 6-12
 - Regular Price \$3.10
 - Reduced Price \$.40

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

- Band: \$90 ○ Students must provide their own instruments and marching band shoes. ○ Consumable supplies (oils, reeds): \$20 (Subject to waiver)

- Flag Corps: \$760 ○ Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group.
- Choir:
 - Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be as follows:
 - Concert Polo Shirt: \$25
(waived if student participates in Fall Choir Fundraiser) ▪
 - Robe Cleaning Fee: \$16
 - A Capella Gown/Vest Cleaning Fee: \$16
 - If purchased: \$70
 - T-shirt: \$10

14. Contributions for Class Extracurricular Activities. Students are eligible to participate in a number of extracurricular activities during their years in Junior/ Senior High school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to make a contribution to their class's fund. The dues for the class fund will be as follows:

- Grade 9: \$10
- Grade 10 \$15
- Grade 11 \$20
- Grade 12 \$10

Waiver Policy.

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

Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

When appropriate, the district will request donations of money, materials, equipment, or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to

students. These requests are not requirements, and staff members of the district are directed to communicate that fact clearly to students, parents, and patrons.

Fund-Raising Activities

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

Student Illness

Students who suffer from a significant illness which has an actual or expected duration of six months or more may be eligible for accommodations and supports under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or under the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act. The school will provide accommodations to students who are returning to school after a prolonged absence due to illness, including pediatric cancer, through a 504 plan or an IEP, as appropriate. The student's plan will include informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum and monitoring by medical or academic staff as determined by the student's IEP team or 504 committee. Parents and staff will engage in ongoing communication about the needs of a student who is facing these circumstances.

Students who become ill at school will be sent to the building office where the school nurse or other school employee will determine the appropriate response. When a child is too ill to remain at school, a school employee will contact the child's parent(s) and arrange for the child to be picked up or sent home. If an illness or injury requires immediate medical attention, school officials shall attempt to contact the child's parent(s) regarding treatment for the child. If the parents cannot be contacted, school officials may have the child treated by an available physician. Students who show symptoms of a contagious disease may be sent home, and the district may require a physician's statement before allowing such students to return to school.

Student Government

Students are encouraged to formulate and participate in elective and representative student government activities. The organization, operation, and scope of the student government shall be administered by the superintendent or designee.

Student Records

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within

45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

If parents believe one of their student's records is inaccurate, they should write to the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why they believe it is inaccurate. If the school decides not to amend the record as requested, it will notify the parents of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment.

Directory Information. FERPA and the Nebraska Public Records Law authorize school districts to make "directory information" available for review at the request of non-school individuals. These laws also give parents and guardians a voice in the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of directory information regarding their children. The school district has designated the following as directory information:

name and grade, name of parent and/or guardian, address, telephone number, including the student's cell phone number, email address, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, the image or likeness of students in pictures, videotape, film or other medium, major field of study, participation in activities and sports, degrees and awards received, social media usernames and handles, weight and height of members of athletic teams, most recent previous school attended, certain class work which may be published onto the Internet, classroom assignment and/or home room teacher, student ID number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by the student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems (but only if the identifier cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password, or other factor known or possessed only the authorized user). Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

Directory information about students may be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that market or manufacture class rings, sell student photographs or publish student yearbooks.

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district

in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

Parents who **OBJECT** to the disclosure of any directory information about their student should write a letter to the principal. This letter should specify the particular categories of directory information that the parents do not wish to have released about their child or the particular types of outside organizations to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than September 1st.

Non-Directory Information

All of the other personally identifiable information about students that is maintained in the school district's education records will generally not be disclosed to anyone outside the school system except under one of two circumstances: (1) in accordance with the provisions of the FERPA statutes and related administrative regulations, or (2) in accordance with the parent's written instructions.

One FERPA exception permits disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests without consent. A school official includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, representative of the district's insurance providers, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of the school district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

The district will share information with the Department of Education necessary to comply with the requirement of state law that all third- year high school students take a college entrance exam. Any redisclosure of information related to the administration of this exam shall be governed by the agreement

between the Nebraska Department of Education and the third-party testing company.

Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment

Upon request, the school discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student seeks or intends to enroll. The school is not obligated to inform parents when it makes a disclosure under this provision.

Complaints

Individuals who wish to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA may contact the Office that administers FERPA:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605

Student Schedule Changes

Students are not encouraged to change classes once they have made class choices. Changes will be allowed after following these steps: 1. The student must visit with the class instructor and the Guidance Counselor. 2. The student's parents must visit with the instructor and the Guidance Counselor regarding the proposed change. 3. A change of class is contingent upon space available, permission from the new instructor, parental/guardian approval and the approval of the Guidance Counselor or Principal. 4. Changes will be made only during the first week of each semester. Appropriate documentation (signatures of student, parent/guardian, instructor, Guidance Counselor, or Principal) must accompany these changes. Students are encouraged to complete this process before a new semester begins.

Tardiness

A student who does not have a valid excuse for being tardy to any class may be required to serve detention.

Telephone Calls

The school's telephone may be used only with permission of staff.

Threat Assessment and Response

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to

immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Definitions

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

2. Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such

report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

THREATS OR ASSAULTS WHICH REQUIRE IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION SHOULD BE REPORTED TO THE POLICE AT 911.

3. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of the superintendent of schools, building principal(s), guidance counselor and local law enforcement. Others who may be included, depending on the threat, are: information technology staff, the school nurse, members of the mental health profession who would be willing to work with the school. Not every team member need participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

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

4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

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

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

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;

- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

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

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

5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

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

6. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

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

Transportation Services

The district operates school buses as a convenience for students and parents. They represent a substantial investment, and students are expected to care for and respect them.

Transportation to School

Students who ride the bus to school will arrive in time for them to eat breakfast at school. Parents must contact their bus driver if a student will not ride the bus on a given day. Bus drivers endeavor to adhere to their schedule, and will wait for riders only a short period of time so as not to jeopardize the time remaining for the rest of their schedule.

Non-resident or option enrollment students may ride the buses, but they will be charged a fee to be established by the board of education. The

Superintendent will schedule bus routes, and questions concerning them should be directed to that office.

Bus Regulations

Riding school vehicles is a privilege, not a right. The bus drivers have the same authority as teachers while transporting students. Students must comply with the following rules and all school conduct rules and directives while riding in school vehicles. In addition, students must also comply with the student code of conduct while riding in school vehicles. If misconduct is recurring, the student will not be allowed to ride the bus.

a) **Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:**

- 1) Students must obey the driver promptly.
- 2) Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
- 3) Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment, or horseplay.
- 4) Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.
- 5) Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
- 6) Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.
- 7) Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.
- 8) Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, or animals onto the vehicle.
- 9) Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
- 10) Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
- 11) Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident
- 12) Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
- 13) Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary, and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.

- 14) Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.
- 15) Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

b) **Consequences**

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include a note home to parents, suspension of bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, short term or long term suspension from school, and/or expulsion. These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

c) **Records**

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

Requests to be dropped off at a point **not** on the regular route will not be accommodated, unless extenuating circumstances arise and the request is approved by the transportation director or administration.

Students who are not regular route riders may not ride the bus home with a friend, unless the parent of the non-route student presents written permission to the bus driver ahead of time. The written permission should include the date, the non-route rider's name, the signature of the non-rider's parent, and the place approved for drop off. Such requests may not be granted if they cause overcrowding of the vans or buses (Vans-10 riders only, plus driver).

Transportation to Activities

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. Students who wish to take private transportation home from a school event must submit a release form to the sponsor that has been signed by that student's parent.

Video Surveillance and Photographs

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on school district property to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of all staff, students and visitors, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the Superintendent. If a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state, or federal laws, it may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Unless otherwise authorized by board policy or law, students are prohibited from making audio or video recordings during the school day on school grounds; when being transported to and from school activities or programs in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee; or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event, unless the recording is made in a manner permitted by the school for members of the public. In such an instance, the students remain subject to the district's appropriate use and student discipline policies. For example, students are not prohibited from making recordings of an athletic event for their personal use similar to a parent or other patron are permitted, subject to other applicable board policy. However, this policy generally prohibits students from using smart-speakers or other devices which actively or passively create or transmit audio or video recordings, including Google Home, Amazon Alexa, Apple HomePod, and AngelSense devices.

An exception will be made to this policy if photographs or video recordings are necessary to accommodate a student's disability or are required by the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

In no event shall photographs or video recordings be taken or made in restrooms, locker rooms, or other areas where there is a reasonable expectation of privacy. Students who violate this policy may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Weather-Related School Closing

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow, or ice. School closings will be announced on radio station KRVN and local television stations and school notification system which includes the school website and app. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students home after contacting the district office.

If schools are closed due to severe weather conditions, all after-school activities will be canceled.

Withdrawal From School

Students who are moving from Cozad must withdraw officially from school. The student should report to the office at least one day before the student's last day in school and secure a "Student Transfer" form. This form must be signed by all of the student's teachers and the Librarian. All books must be returned before the teachers can sign the transfer form. Money that is owed, library fines or other fees, must be paid before the student can be cleared and his/her records sent on to his/her new school.

Work Permits

The building principal or other authorized school official shall be responsible for the issuance of work permits for children in accordance with state law.

SECTION TWO ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Class Rank

Student class rank shall be determined by using a numeric grade point average derived from all classes graded on a numeric basis. To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for each core curriculum class in which he/she was enrolled. For the purposes of this policy, core curriculum shall include all courses in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance.

Students who transfer into the school district in middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian and salutatorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

Credit for Non-Academic Work

Credit is not awarded for participation in extracurricular activities such as sports, speech, drama, etc. However, all such activities in which the student participates, as well as honors earned, are noted on the student's permanent record.

Correspondence and Online Courses

Under certain circumstances, the school district will reimburse students for the cost of tuition, textbooks, and other mandatory class materials for high school correspondence or online courses that are not part of the school district's regular curriculum. To receive reimbursement, the student must: 1) pay all initial course costs when he/she registers for the course; 2) select a course that is not available in the school curriculum, nor is any comparable course available; 3) register for the course during a specific school period; 4) have a faculty member designated as course monitor; and 5) complete the course during the regular school semester(s).

The district will not be liable for the costs of such courses until the student has successfully completed the course according to the established timelines. After the student has completed the course and the district has reimbursed the student for these costs, the textbooks and class materials shall become the property of the district.

Grades

Students will receive letter grades for their academic core classes.

The middle and high school grading system is as follows:

<u>General Grade Scale</u>		<u>Honors Grade Scale</u> (value added 10-point scale)	
A+	98.5 and above	A+	96.7 and above
A	94.5 - 98.4	A	93.3 - 96.6
A-	92.5 - 94.4	A-	90.0 - 93.2
B+	90.5 - 92.4	B+	86.7 - 89.9
B	86.5 - 90.4	B	83.3 - 86.6
B-	84.5 - 86.4	B-	80.0 - 83.2
C+	82.5 - 84.4	C+	76.7 - 79.9
C	79.5 - 82.4	C	73.3 - 76.6
C-	76.5 - 79.4	C-	70.0 - 73.2
D+	73.5 - 76.4	D+	66.7 - 69.9
D	71.5 - 73.4	D	63.3 - 66.6
D-	69.5 - 71.4	D-	60.0 - 63.2
F	0 - 69.4	F	0 - 59.9

A student may earn an incomplete when he or she fails to complete classroom assignments. Any student in grades 7-11 who receives an incomplete will have this grade recorded on his/her permanent record until the required work is completed to the teacher's satisfaction. If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the minimum classroom assignments, the incomplete will be calculated as a failing grade in determining the student's grade point average.

If a student does not remove an incomplete by completing the necessary work within two weeks of the end of the grading period, the incomplete will become a failing grade that the student may make up only by taking the entire course again. The two-week period may be extended by mutual agreement of the teacher, principal, and student.

A student who receives an incomplete during his/her senior year must satisfactorily complete the classroom assignments to participate in the graduation ceremony. Seniors with incompletes will not be dismissed from school attendance until the classroom assignments are completed to the teacher's satisfaction.

The school has the authority to promote or retain students based on academic progress.

Graduation

The three students with the highest GPA will be the graduation speakers. In case of ties for the top three spots, all students tied for the top three will be given the right to speak at graduation.

High School Seniors who have completed the necessary graduation requirements for Cozad Community Schools and are eligible for May graduation are permitted to participate in the graduation ceremony. These students are required to attend all practices and must be present at the ceremony. Mid-term graduates and Alternative Education graduates may not participate in the ceremony.

Students must earn 240 total credit hours in order to graduate from high school.

Required courses and credit hours that students must complete in order to qualify for the Cozad High School Diploma are:

COURSE REQUIREMENTS	CREDIT HOURS
Language/Arts	40 credits
Social Studies	35 credits
including 5 credits American Government and 5 credits Economics	
Math	30 credits
Science	30 credits
Physical Education (5) Health (5)	10 credits
Electives	95 credits

Transfer students must meet the minimum hour requirement for graduation both in terms of total number and specific subject areas. Substitutions may be made for deficiencies in required courses, provided that it was not possible to include the courses on the student's schedule while enrolled at this school district.

Students who receive special education services are mainstreamed into the regular education curriculum when appropriate. The curriculum content of regular education classes may be modified to accommodate the individual needs and abilities of verified special education students. Each curriculum modification will be included on the student's Individual Education Plan by the Multi-Disciplinary Team and/or school staffing teams composed of special and regular education staff. Hours in special education will be counted toward a high school diploma.

Parents of students who may not qualify for their high school diploma because of academic deficiencies will be notified of this possibility by the beginning of the second semester of the student's senior year.

Homework

Classroom teachers will often assign homework. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should contact the teacher. Questions not resolved by the teacher should be referred to the administration.

Each student is expected to spend some time preparing for studies outside of school hours. The amount of time that is needed will depend upon each student. Normally, at least an hour a day should be spent in preparing for an average assignment.

Students who struggle to complete assignments or who must spend an inordinate amount of time completing an assignment should seek the help and advice of their teachers and consult with the principal and/or the guidance counselor.

Academic Eligibility

In order for students to be eligible to compete, perform, or participate in all or any extra co-curricular activities as identified in the Cozad High School Activity Handbook they must meet the following criteria:

1. Any student who is failing in two or more classes will be placed on a WARNING LIST FOR ONE WEEK. During this week they are still eligible to participate.
2. The following week, any student who was on the warning list and is still failing two or more classes, will be ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities during that week.
3. A student will remain ineligible for participation in extracurricular activities until they are no longer failing two or more classes.

Eligibility lists are created on Friday and apply to the following week's activities. Students will remain ineligible for the duration of that time. Eligibility is based on semester grades.

AFTER SCHOOL ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAM

The Cozad High School After School Academic Support Program is intended to provide time and support to students who are failing one or more classes or who may have missing assignments. Students who are failing in one or more classes on a given Friday may be required to attend the After School Academic Support Program the following week. Most often the After School Academic Support Program will be held on Wednesday. Students shall be informed if they are expected to attend, and session dates and times will also be announced to students each week.

MIDDLE SCHOOL HOMEWORK CENTER:

If your son/daughter did not complete an assignment for class your child may receive a Homework Center:

- (1) A student is assigned a Homework Center (after school) and will receive a slip to take home to their parents;
 - (a). Because the assignment was turned in late, they will receive a 15% reduction in their grade (b) Students will be allowed to leave the Homework Center as soon as the assignment is completed and turned into the supervising instructor.
- (2) **If the student fails to attend Homework Center after school he/she will have one day of in school suspension the following day and receive a 0% for the incomplete assignment.**
- (3) Students who attend Homework Center, but did not finish their assignment have until 8:05 a.m. the following morning to hand in their assignment to the Middle School Office and will receive a 25% reduction in their grade.
- (4) If a student fails to complete the assignment by 8:05 they will receive a 0% Once a student reaches 5 Homework Centers in a given academic quarter, that student will be deemed "mandatory" for the remainder of the quarter. In this context, mandatory means that the student has proven that they are unreliable in getting their assignments turned in on time and therefore they will be required to attend Homework Center after school each day they receive a Homework Center. In addition, they will be required to stay until 4:00 (2:30 on Wednesday) each Homework Center they receive for the remainder of the quarter.

Honor Roll

MIDDLE SCHOOL HONOR ROLL: The purpose of the honor roll is to recognize those students who demonstrate academic excellence. Honor rolls will be determined for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters as well as first and second semester. Students will be recognized accordingly: Honor Roll will be awarded quarterly (all our exploratory classes are quarter classes in grades 6-7-8. Students in grades 6-7-8 will be named to honor roll if they have a 3.25 combined GPA. Students who fail a class are not eligible for the honor roll, regardless of their overall GPA.

HIGH SCHOOL HONOR ROLL: High school students who achieve all "A s" (4.0) on their report card at the end of each semester will be so recognized; "High Honors": refers to students who maintain an average of 3.7 to 3.99; "Honors" refers to students with an average of 3.4 to 3.69. The numerical value given letter grades are as follows:

A = 4 points B = 3 points C = 2 points D = 1 point

Mid-Term Graduation

Students are generally required to attend four years of high school (minimum of seven semesters) to be eligible to receive a diploma from the school district.

The Board of Education, upon receiving administrative recommendation, may grant mid-term exit from high school to students who have completed the requirements for graduation. To be considered for mid-term exit from high school, the student and his/her parents or guardian should apply during the first quarter of the student's senior year. The Board of Education will act on all requests. Any student who is granted mid-term exit from high school forfeits all privileges of high school enrollment.

Report Cards

Report cards are sent home the week following the end of the nine-week reporting period. Mid-quarter reports are also sent to parents of students who are having difficulty in an academic subject.

SECTION THREE STUDENT DISCIPLINE

General Discipline Philosophy

The school district has the authority to discipline students who behave inappropriately on the way to school, at school, during lunch, on the way home, and at all school activities (home and away or any time while on school or district property).

The school district's discipline is guided by the following principles:

1. The school district's discipline policy is intended to ensure that students take responsibility for their behavior.
2. Behavior expectations and the consequences for failing to meet those expectations will be clearly communicated to all students and their parents.
3. The severity of consequences for violating behavior expectations will generally be progressive in nature. That is, sanctions will increase with each instance of misconduct; however, each instance will be assessed on its own facts, and sanctions will be imposed based on the severity of the misconduct.
4. Parents play a vital role in supporting and reinforcing the school district's expectations of their students.
5. Behavior expectations apply to all students; consequences are enforced consistently without regard to a student's academic record or achievement.

Extracurricular activities including athletics, cheerleading, band, chorus, and club activities, are governed by the Student Activity Handbook. Students who are involved in extracurricular activities may face consequences related to the activity in addition to the consequences discussed in this handbook.

The school district reserves the right to refer to the appropriate non-school agency any act or conduct of its students which may constitute a crime under federal, state, county, or local law. The administration will cooperate with these agencies in their investigations.

Forms of School Discipline

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

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

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

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

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

After School Sessions and Detentions

Teachers and administrators may require students to stay after school or to serve a detention when the student violates any of the rules contained in this handbook or violates classroom-specific conduct rules set by individual teachers.

Students who ride the bus home from school will be given a 24-hour notice of after-school time or a detention so that the parents may make plans to pick up the student the following day.

- After-school sessions and/or detentions will not exceed 30 minutes and are to be served in the teacher's room. A student who fails to attend an after school session may be given a detention by the teacher or may face additional disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension and/or expulsion. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students

placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Emergency Exclusion

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

Short-Term Suspension

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

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

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

1. The Principal shall make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. Short-term suspension shall be imposed only after a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
2. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral or written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what he/she is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and an opportunity to explain his/her version of the facts.
3. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Principal will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian, describing the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard and the reasons for the action taken. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal shall determine who, in addition to the parent or guardian, is to attend the conference.
4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork, including but not limited to examinations, under the

following conditions: all assignments must be completed upon return to school; students will receive a zero for incomplete assignments.

Weapons and/or Firearms

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

Long-Term Suspension

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

Expulsion

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

3. **Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion:** Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., "stayed") for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect, and as a condition of such suspended action, the student may be assigned to a school, class, or program/plan and to such other consequences which the school district deems appropriate.
4. **Alternative School or Pre-expulsion Procedures.** The school shall provide either an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-266.

Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment:

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

1. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes;
2. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, or repeated damage or theft involving property;
3. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, to a school volunteer, or to any student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision;
4. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student;
5. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (*see also board policy on weapons and firearms*);
6. Engaging in the unlawful possession, selling, dispensing, or use of a controlled substance or an imitation controlled substance, as defined in section 28-401, a substance represented to be a controlled substance, or alcoholic liquor as defined in section 53-103.02 or being under the influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol*).

on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant);

7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults that occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules, or a single violation if the conduct amounts to a criminal act, if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
 - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, sex, national origin, or religion;
 - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
 - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
 - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation, or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;

- e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
- f. Possession of pornography;
- g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
- h. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent;
- i. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
- j. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further

contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;

- k. Violation of the district's computer acceptable computer use policy are subject to discipline, up to and including expulsion;
- l. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a simulated or "look-a-like" weapon;
- m. Using any object to simulate possession of a weapon;
- n. Knowingly making a false statement or knowingly submitting false information during the Title IX grievance process or any other school investigation or making a materially false statement in bad faith in the course of a Title IX grievance proceeding or any other school investigation; and
- o. Any other violation of a rule or regulation established by a school district staff member pursuant to authority delegated by the board.

The length of any suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment shall be as provided or allowed by law.

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

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

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

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

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

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

3. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if no hearing is requested or, if a hearing is requested, the date the hearing examiner makes the report of his or her findings and a recommendation of the action to be taken to the superintendent, if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers.
4. Nothing in this policy shall preclude the student, student's parents, guardian, or representative from discussing and settling the matter with appropriate school personnel prior to the hearing stage.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below.
6. If a hearing is requested more than five school days following the receipt of the written notice, but not more than thirty calendar days after receipt, the Superintendent shall appoint a hearing officer who shall follow the "hearing procedures" outlined below, except that the time constraints set forth may differ as provided by law and this policy. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
7. If a request for hearing is not received within thirty calendar days following the mailing or delivery of the written notice, the student shall not be entitled to a hearing.

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

Middle School/High School Student Code of Conduct Outline of Offenses and Consequences

GROUP A

Being in an unauthorized area
Graffiti on body or clothing
PDA (Public Display of Affection)

- *Improper care of school equipment
- **Tardy
- ***Wearing inappropriate clothes (hats, caps, other headwear, alcohol/drug related clothing, and obscene clothing) or violation of backpack expectations
- ****Theft under \$5.00
- *****Food/drink outside authorized areas ~ Food/drink brought in from outside the school without proper permission
- *****Traffic Violation

GROUP A CONSEQUENCES

1st offense - Verbal Warning

2nd offense - Contact with parents

3rd offense - Detention

4th offense and beyond - One or more of the following options (detention, work with school personnel, ISS STOSS, LTOSS, parent conference, parent visitation) **Special circumstances:**

*Tardiness handled according to stated policy

**Tardiness handled according to stated policy

***Students will remove inappropriate clothing, and parent/guardian must pick up the inappropriate clothing. (Time will be made up equal to the time out of class.)

****Replace item and detention

*****Confiscation of food/drink, or taken to the commons, or take to the nearest trash receptacle.

*****Prevent students from driving on school property, and possibly contacting appropriate law enforcement agencies.

GROUP B

Lying to school personnel

Disrespectful/Rude/Insubordinate/Defiant attitude directed toward a staff member Disturbance of a school function

In an unauthorized vehicle during lunch

Leaving school grounds without permission

Obscene language or gestures

Tampering with school records, bogus pass

Threatening to do bodily injury to someone other than school employee

Graffiti on school property

*Cheating

** Theft over \$5.00

***Inappropriate use of the computer

GROUP B CONSEQUENCES

1st offense - detention

2nd offense and beyond - one or more of the following consequences (detention, work with school personnel, removal from class via ISS during the problem class or lunch time, ISS, STOSS, LTOSS, parent/guardian conference, parent/guardian visitation) Special circumstance:

* Cheating-Student receives a 0% on the assignment

**ISS

***Lose the right to use computers for internet/e-mail purposes

GROUP C

Repeated violation of the rules above

Hazing

Fighting

Inappropriate racial remarks

Truant (missing all day)

Skiping (missing less than all day)

*Use/Possession of Tobacco

*Use/Possession of Tobacco

**Sexual Harassment Policy #5026

GROUP C CONSEQUENCES

One or more of the following consequences (ISS, STOSS, LTOSS, expulsion recommendation, parent/guardian conference, contact appropriate law enforcement agency when applicable, parent visitation)

*Refer to Tobacco Section

**To be handled in accordance with Board Policy 5035

**To be handled in accordance with Board Policy 5035

GROUP D

Physical assault on school personnel

Verbal assault/obscene language directed toward school personnel

Bomb threats

Damage to school or private property

Major injury to any student caused by a student

Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, substantial interference with school purposes Stealing or

threat to obtain money or anything of value

False fire alarms

Causing fires

Engaging in activity forbidden by law

*Possessing a weapon Policy 5049

GROUP D CONSEQUENCES

One or more of the following consequences (STOSS, LTOSS, Recommendation for expulsion, Notification of appropriate Law Enforcement agency, parent/guardian conference, parent visitation)

*Handled according to State/Federal Law (refer to Board Policy 5049)

GROUP E

Possession/consumption of any drug, alcohol, or look alike drug at school

GROUP E CONSEQUENCES

First offense: Refer to Board Policy 5035

Second offense: Refer to Board Policy 5035

Third offense: Refer to Board Policy 5035

SECTION FOUR Title IX Policy

It is the policy of the school district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any of the school district's programs or activities. The district is required by Title IX (20 U.S.C. § 1681) and 34 C.F.R. part 106 to not discriminate in such a manner.

1. Title IX Coordinator

1.1. **Designation.** The district will designate and authorize at least one employee to coordinate its efforts to comply with its responsibilities under this policy, who will be referred to as the "**Title IX Coordinator.**" The district will notify applicants for admission and employment, students, parents or legal guardians of students, employees, and all unions or professional organizations holding collective bargaining or professional agreements with the district, of the name or title, office address, electronic mail address, and telephone number of the Title IX Coordinator. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment (whether or not the person reporting is the person alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sex discrimination or sexual harassment). This report may be made by any means, including but not limited to, in person, by mail, by telephone, or by electronic mail, using the contact information listed for the Title IX Coordinator, or by any other means that results in the Title IX Coordinator receiving the person's verbal or written report. Such a report may be made at any time (including during non-business hours).

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

2.1. **Actual knowledge** means notice of sexual harassment or allegations of sexual harassment to any district employee. Imputation of knowledge based solely on vicarious liability or constructive notice is insufficient to constitute actual knowledge. This standard is not met when the only district employee with actual knowledge is the respondent (as that term is defined below). "Notice" as used in this paragraph includes, but is not limited to, a report of sexual harassment to the Title IX Coordinator as described in subsection 1.1 above.

2.2. **Complainant** means an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

2.3. **Formal complaint** means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a respondent and requesting that the district investigate the allegation of sexual harassment. The only district official who is authorized to initiate the Grievance Process for Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment against a respondent is the Title IX Coordinator (by signing a formal complaint). At the time of filing a formal complaint with the district, a complainant must be participating in or attempting to participate in the district's education program or activity. A formal complaint may be filed with the Title IX Coordinator in person, by mail, or by electronic mail, by using the contact information required to be listed for the Title IX Coordinator under subsection 1.1 above, and by any additional method designated by the district. As used in this paragraph, the phrase "document filed by a complainant" means a document or electronic submission (such as by electronic mail or through an online portal provided for this purpose by the district) that contains the complainant's physical or digital signature, or otherwise indicates that the complainant is the person filing the formal complaint. Where the Title IX Coordinator signs a formal complaint, the Title IX Coordinator is not a complainant or otherwise a party under this policy or under 34 C.F.R. part 106, and will comply with the requirements of this policy and 34 C.F.R. part 106, including subsections 5.1.3–5.1.4 and 34 C.F.R. § 106.45(b)(1)(iii).

2.4. **Respondent** means an individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.

2.5. **Consent** for purposes of this policy means the willingness in fact for conduct to occur. An individual may, as a result of age, incapacity, disability, lack of information, or other circumstances be incapable of providing consent to some or all sexual conduct or activity. Neither verbal nor physical resistance is required to establish that an individual did not consent. District officials will consider the totality of the circumstances in determining whether there was consent for any specific conduct. Consent may be revoked or withdrawn at any time.

2.6. **Sexual harassment** means conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

- 2.6.1. An employee of the district conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the district on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
- 2.6.2. Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it

effectively denies a person equal access to the district's education program or activity;

2.6.3. **Sexual assault**, as defined in 20 U.S.C. § 1092(f)(6)(A)(v), which means an offense classified as a forcible or nonforcible sex offense under the uniform crime reporting system of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

2.6.3.1. **Sex Offenses, Forcible**—Any sexual act directed against another person, without the consent of the victim including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent.

2.6.3.1.1. **Rape**—(Except Statutory Rape) The carnal knowledge of a person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity.

2.6.3.1.2. **Sodomy**—Oral or anal sexual intercourse with another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity

2.6.3.1.3. **Sexual Assault With An Object**—To use an object or instrument to unlawfully penetrate, however slightly, the genital or anal opening of the body of another person, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity

2.6.3.1.4. **Fondling**—The touching of the private body parts of another person for the purpose of sexual gratification, without the consent of the victim, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of his/her age or because of his/her temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity

2.6.3.2. **Sex Offenses, Non-forcible**—(Except Prostitution Offenses) Unlawful, non-forcible sexual intercourse.

2.6.3.2.1. **Incest**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law

2.6.3.2.2. **Statutory Rape**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent

2.6.4. **Dating violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a), which means violence committed by a person—

2.6.4.1. who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and

2.6.4.2. where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:

2.6.4.2.1. The length of the relationship.

2.6.4.2.2. The type of relationship.

2.6.4.2.3. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

2.6.5. **Domestic violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a), which includes felony or misdemeanor crimes committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant funding and, in the case of victim services, includes the use or attempted use of physical abuse or sexual abuse, or a pattern of any other coercive behavior committed, enabled, or solicited to gain or maintain power and control over a victim, including verbal, psychological, economic, or technological abuse that may or may not constitute criminal behavior, by a person who—

2.6.5.1. is a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, or person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim;

2.6.5.2. is cohabitating, or has cohabitated, with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner;

2.6.5.3. shares a child in common with the victim; or

2.6.5.4. commits acts against a youth or adult victim who is protected from those acts under the family or domestic violence laws of the jurisdiction.

2.6.6. **Stalking**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a), which means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—

2.6.6.1. fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or

2.6.6.2. suffer substantial emotional distress.

2.7. **Supportive measures** means non-disciplinary, non-punitive individualized services offered as appropriate, as reasonably available, and without fee or charge to the complainant or the respondent before or after the filing of a formal complaint or where no formal complaint has been filed. Such measures are designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity without unreasonably burdening the other party, including measures designed to protect the safety of all parties or the district's educational environment, or deter sexual harassment. Supportive measures may include counseling, extensions of deadlines or other course-related adjustments, modifications of work or class schedules, campus escort services, mutual restrictions on contact between the parties, changes in work or housing locations, leaves of absence, increased security and monitoring of certain areas of the campus, and other similar measures. The district will maintain as confidential any supportive measures provided to the complainant or respondent, to the extent that maintaining such confidentiality would not impair the ability of the district to provide the supportive measures. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for coordinating the effective implementation of supportive measures.

3. **Discrimination Not Involving Sexual Harassment.**

3.1. **General Prohibition.** Except as provided elsewhere in Title IX, 34 C.F.R. part 106, or this policy, no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic, extracurricular,

research, occupational training, or other education program or activity operated by the district.

3.2. Specific Prohibitions. Except as provided elsewhere in Title IX, 34 C.F.R. part 106, or this policy, in providing any aid, benefit, or service to a student, the district will not on the basis of sex:

- 3.2.1. Treat one person differently from another in determining whether such person satisfies any requirement or condition for the provision of such aid, benefit, or service;
- 3.2.2. Provide different aid, benefits, or services or provide aid, benefits, or services in a different manner;
- 3.2.3. Deny any person any such aid, benefit, or service;
- 3.2.4. Subject any person to separate or different rules of behavior, sanctions, or other treatment;
- 3.2.5. Apply any rule concerning the domicile or residence of a student or applicant;
- 3.2.6. Aid or perpetuate discrimination against any person by providing significant assistance to any agency, organization, or person which discriminates on the basis of sex in providing any aid, benefit or service to students or employees;
- 3.2.7. Otherwise limit any person in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity.

3.3. Complaint Procedure. All complaints regarding any alleged discrimination on the basis of sex, including without limitation violations of this policy, 34 C.F.R. part 106, Title IX, Title VII, or other state or federal law—when the alleged discrimination does not arise from or relate to an allegation of sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6 above—shall be addressed pursuant to the district’s general complaint procedure found in Board Policy.

4. Response to Sexual Harassment

4.1. Reporting Sexual Harassment. Any person who witnesses an act of unlawful sexual harassment is encouraged to report it to the District’s

Title IX Coordinator. No person will be retaliated against based on any report of suspected sexual harassment or retaliation. Any District employee who receives a report of sexual harassment or has actual knowledge of sexual harassment must convey that information to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no case later than the end of the following school day.

4.2. General Response to Sexual Harassment. When the district has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, the district will respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. The district will be deemed to be deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. For the purposes of this policy "education program or activity" includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the district exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs. The district's response will treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures as defined in subsection 2.7 above to a complainant, and by following the grievance process described in section 5 below before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures, against a respondent. The Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

4.3. Emergency Removal. Nothing in this policy precludes the district from removing a respondent from the district's education program or activity on an emergency basis, provided that the district undertakes an individualized safety and risk analysis, and determines that an immediate threat to the physical health or safety of any student or other individual arising from the allegations of sexual harassment justifies removal. In the event that the district so removes a respondent on an emergency basis, then the district will provide the respondent with notice and an opportunity to challenge the decision immediately following the removal. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

4.4. Administrative Leave. Nothing in this policy precludes the district from placing a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process that complies with

section 5 below. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

4.5. General Response Not Conditioned on Formal Complaint. With or without a formal complaint, the district will comply with the obligations and procedures described in this section 4.

5. Grievance Process for Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment.

5.1. General Requirements.

- 5.1.1. **Equitable Treatment.** The district will treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent, and by following the grievance process described in this section 5 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent. Remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity. Remedies may include the same individualized services described in subsection 2.7 as "supportive measures"; however, remedies need not be non-disciplinary or non-punitive and need not avoid burdening the respondent.
- 5.1.2. **Objective Evaluation.** This grievance process requires an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence—including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations may not be based on a person's status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.
- 5.1.3. **Absence of Conflicts of Interest or Bias.** The district will require that any individual designated by a recipient as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated by a recipient to facilitate an informal resolution process, not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.
- 5.1.4. **Training.** The district will ensure that all individuals or entities described in this Training section 5.1.4 receive training as provided below. Any materials used to train these individuals will not rely on sex stereotypes and will

promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of sexual harassment.

- 5.1.4.1. **All District Employees and Board Members.** All district employees and board members will be trained on how to identify and report sexual harassment.
- 5.1.4.2. **Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Decision Makers, or Informal Resolution Facilitators.** The district will ensure that Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, or any person designated by the district to facilitate an informal resolution process receive training on:
 - 5.1.4.2.1. The definition of sexual harassment in subsection 2.6;
 - 5.1.4.2.2. The scope of the district's education program or activity;
 - 5.1.4.2.3. How to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable; and
 - 5.1.4.2.4. How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudgment of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.
- 5.1.4.3. **Decision-Makers.** The district will ensure that decision-makers receive training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, as set forth in subsection 5.6.
- 5.1.4.4. **Investigators.** The district will also ensure that investigators receive training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence, as set forth in subsection 5.5.8.
- 5.1.5. **Presumption.** It is presumed that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.

- 5.1.6. **Reasonably Prompt Time Frames.** This grievance process shall include reasonably prompt time frames for conclusion of the grievance process, including reasonably prompt time frames for filing and resolving appeals and informal resolution processes if the district offers informal resolution processes. The process shall also allow for the temporary delay of the grievance process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the complainant and the respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.
- 5.1.7. **Range of Possible Sanctions and Remedies.** Following a determination of responsibility, the district may impose disciplinary sanctions and remedies in conformance with this and the district's student discipline policy, and other state and federal laws. Depending upon the circumstances, these policies provide for disciplinary sanctions and remedies up to and including expulsion.
- 5.1.8. **Range of Supportive Measures.** The range of supportive measures available to complainants and respondents include those listed in subsection 2.7.
- 5.1.9. **Respect for Privileged Information.** The district will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

5.2. **Notice of Allegations.**

- 5.2.1. **Initial Notice.** Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the district will provide the following written notice to the parties who are known:
 - 5.2.1.1. A copy of this policy.
 - 5.2.1.2. Notice of the allegations of sexual harassment potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6, including sufficient details known at

the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice will include a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process. The written notice will inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, under subsection 5.5.5, and may inspect and review evidence under subsection 5.5.5. The written notice will inform the parties of any provision in the district's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

- 5.2.2. **Supplemental Notice.** If, in the course of an investigation, the district decides to investigate allegations about the complainant or respondent that are not included in the Initial Notice described above, the district will provide notice of the additional allegations to the parties whose identities are known.

5.3. Dismissal of Formal Complaint.

- 5.3.1. The district will investigate the allegations in a formal complaint.
- 5.3.2. **Mandatory Dismissals.** The district **must** dismiss a formal complaint if the conduct alleged in the formal complaint:
- 5.3.2.1. Would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6 even if proved;
 - 5.3.2.2. Did not occur in the district's education program or activity; or
 - 5.3.2.3. Did not occur against a person in the United States.

- 5.3.3. **Discretionary Dismissals.** The district **may** dismiss the formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation or hearing:
- 5.3.3.1. The complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein;
 - 5.3.3.2. The respondent is no longer enrolled in or employed by the district; or
 - 5.3.3.3. Specific circumstances prevent the district from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.
- 5.3.4. Upon a dismissal required or permitted pursuant to subsections 5.3.2 or 5.3.3 above, the district will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and an explanation of that action simultaneously to the parties.
- 5.3.5. Dismissal of a formal complaint under this policy does not preclude the district from taking action under another provision of the district's code of conduct or pursuant to another district policy.
- 5.4. **Consolidation of Formal Complaints.** The district may consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. Where a grievance process involves more than one complainant or more than one respondent, references in this policy to the singular "party," "complainant," or "respondent" include the plural, as applicable.
- 5.5. **Investigation of Formal Complaint.** When investigating a formal complaint and throughout the grievance process, the district will:
- 5.5.1. Designate and authorize one or more persons (which need not be district employees) as investigator(s) to conduct the district's investigation of a formal complaint;

- 5.5.2. Ensure that the burden of proof and the burden of gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination regarding responsibility rest on the district and not on the parties provided that the district cannot access, consider, disclose, or otherwise use a party's records that are made or maintained by a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or other recognized professional or paraprofessional acting in the professional's or paraprofessional's capacity, or assisting in that capacity, and which are made and maintained in connection with the provision of treatment to the party, unless the district obtains that party's voluntary, written consent to do so for a grievance process under this section (if a party is not an "eligible student," as defined in 34 CFR 99.3, then the district will obtain the voluntary, written consent of a "parent," as defined in 34 CFR 99.3);
- 5.5.3. Provide an equal opportunity for the parties to present witnesses, including fact and expert witnesses, and other inculpatory and exculpatory evidence;
- 5.5.4. Not restrict the ability of either party to discuss the allegations under investigation or to gather and present relevant evidence;
- 5.5.5. Provide the parties with the same opportunities to have others present during any grievance proceeding, including the opportunity to be accompanied to any related meeting or proceeding by the advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, and not limit the choice or presence of advisor for either the complainant or respondent in any meeting or grievance proceeding; however, the district may establish restrictions regarding the extent to which the advisor may participate in the proceedings, as long as the restrictions apply equally to both parties;
- 5.5.6. Provide, to a party whose participation is invited or expected, written notice of the date, time, location, participants, and purpose of all hearings, investigative interviews, or other meetings, with sufficient time for the party to prepare to participate;
- 5.5.7. Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a formal

complaint, including the evidence upon which the district does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation. Prior to completion of the investigative report, the district will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have at least 10 calendar days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report; and

- 5.5.8. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least 10 calendar days prior to the time of determination regarding responsibility, send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response.

5.6. **Determination Regarding Responsibility**

- 5.6.1. **Decision-Maker(s).** The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s).
- 5.6.2. **Exchange of Written Questions.** After the district has sent the investigative report to the parties pursuant to subsection 5.5.8, but before reaching a determination regarding responsibility, the decision-maker(s) will afford each party the opportunity to submit written, relevant questions that a party wants asked of any party or witness, provide each party with the answers, and allow for additional, limited follow-up questions from each party. Questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, unless such questions and evidence about the complainant's prior sexual behavior are offered to prove that someone other than the respondent committed the conduct alleged by the complainant, or if the questions and evidence concern specific incidents of the complainant's prior sexual behavior with respect to the respondent and are offered to prove consent. The decision-maker(s) will explain to the party proposing the questions any decision to exclude a question as not relevant.

5.6.3. Written Determination. The decision-maker(s) will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this determination, the decision-maker(s) will apply the preponderance of the evidence standard. The written determination will include:

- 5.6.3.1. Identification of the allegations potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6;
 - 5.6.3.2. A description of the procedural steps taken from the receipt of the formal complaint through the determination, including any notifications to the parties, interviews with parties and witnesses, site visits, methods used to gather other evidence, and hearings held;
 - 5.6.3.3. Findings of fact supporting the determination;
 - 5.6.3.4. Conclusions regarding the application of the district's code of conduct to the facts;
 - 5.6.3.5. A statement of, and rationale for, the result as to each allegation, including a determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions the district imposes on the respondent, and whether remedies designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity will be provided by the district to the complainant; and
 - 5.6.3.6. The district's procedures and permissible bases for the complainant and respondent to appeal.
- 5.6.4. The district will provide the written determination to the parties simultaneously. The determination regarding responsibility becomes final either on the date that the district provides the parties with the written determination of the result of the appeal, if an appeal is filed, or if an appeal is not filed, the date on which an appeal would no longer be considered timely.
- 5.6.5. The Title IX Coordinator is responsible for effective implementation of any remedies.

5.7. Appeals. The district will offer both parties the opportunity to appeal from a determination regarding responsibility, and from the district's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, on the grounds identified below.

5.7.1. Time for Appeal. Appeals may only be initiated by submitting a written Notice of Appeal to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools within ten (10) calendar days of the date of the respective written determination of responsibility or dismissal from which the appeal is taken. The Notice of Appeal must include (a) the name of the party or parties making the appeal, (b) the determination, dismissal, or portion thereof being appealed, and (c) a concise statement of the specific grounds (from subsection 5.8.2 below) upon which the appeal is based. A party's failure to timely submit a Notice of Appeal will be deemed a waiver of the party's right to appeal under this policy, 34 C.F.R. part, 106, and Title IX.

5.7.2. Grounds for Appeal. Appeals from a determination regarding responsibility, and from the district's dismissal of a formal complaint or any allegations therein, are limited to the following grounds:

5.7.2.1. Procedural irregularity that affected the outcome of the matter;

5.7.2.2. New evidence that was not reasonably available at the time the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal was made, that could affect the outcome of the matter; and

5.7.2.3. The Title IX Coordinator, investigator(s), or decisionmaker(s) had a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or the individual complainant or respondent that affected the outcome of the matter.

5.7.3. As to all appeals, the district will:

5.7.3.1. Notify the other party in writing when an appeal is filed and implement appeal procedures equally for both parties;

- 5.7.3.2. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator;
- 5.7.3.3. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal complies with the standards set forth in subsections 5.1.3–5.1.4.
- 5.7.3.4. Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
- 5.7.3.5. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and
- 5.7.3.6. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

5.8. Informal Resolution. The district will not require as a condition of enrollment or continuing enrollment, or employment or continuing employment, or enjoyment of any other right, waiver of the right to an investigation and adjudication of formal complaints of sexual harassment consistent with this section. Similarly, the district will not require the parties to participate in an informal resolution process under this section and may not offer an informal resolution process unless a formal complaint is filed. However, at any time prior to reaching a determination regarding responsibility the district may facilitate an informal resolution process, such as mediation, that does not involve a full investigation and adjudication, provided that the district:

5.8.1. Provides to the parties a written notice disclosing:

- 5.8.1.1. The allegations;
- 5.8.1.2. The requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations;
- 5.8.1.3. That at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint; and

- 5.8.1.4. Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared;
- 5.8.2. Obtains the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process; and
- 5.8.3. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

5.9. Recordkeeping.

- 5.9.1. The district will maintain for a period of seven years records of:
 - 5.9.1.1. Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity;
 - 5.9.1.2. Any appeal and the result therefrom;
 - 5.9.1.3. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and
 - 5.9.1.4. All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The district will make these training materials publicly available on its website, or if the district does not maintain a website then the district will make these materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.
- 5.9.2. For each response required under section 4, the district will create, and maintain for a period of seven years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, the district will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity. If the district does not

provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the district will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the district in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

6. Superintendent Authorized to Contract. The board authorizes the Superintendent to contract for, designate, and appoint individuals to serve in the roles of the district's investigator(s), decision-maker(s), informal resolution facilitator(s), or appellate decision-maker(s) as contemplated by this policy.

7. Access to Classes and Schools.

7.1. General Standard. Except as provided in this section or otherwise in 34 C.F.R. part 106, the district will not provide or otherwise carry out any of its education programs or activities separately on the basis of sex, or require or refuse participation therein by any of its students on the basis of sex.

7.1.1. Contact sports in physical education classes. This section does not prohibit separation of students by sex within physical education classes or activities during participation in wrestling, boxing, rugby, ice hockey, football, basketball, and other sports the purpose or major activity of which involves bodily contact.

7.1.2. Ability grouping in physical education classes. This section does not prohibit grouping of students in physical education classes and activities by ability as assessed by objective standards of individual performance developed and applied without regard to sex.

7.1.3. Human sexuality classes. Classes or portions of classes that deal primarily with human sexuality may be conducted in separate sessions for boys and girls.

7.1.4. Choruses. The district may make requirements based on vocal range or quality that may result in a chorus or choruses of one or predominantly one sex.

- 7.2. **Classes and Extracurricular Activities.** The district may provide nonvocational single-sex classes or extracurricular activities as permitted by 34 C.F.R. part 106.
8. **Athletics.** It is the policy of the district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another person or otherwise be discriminated against in any interscholastic, club, or intramural athletics offered by the district, and that the district will not provide any such athletics separately on such basis.
- 8.1. **Separate Teams.** Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph, the district may operate or sponsor separate teams for members of each sex where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport.
- 8.2. **Equal opportunity.** The district will provide equal athletic opportunity for members of both sexes. Unequal aggregate expenditures for members of each sex or unequal expenditures for male and female teams will not constitute noncompliance with this section.
9. **Certain Different Treatment on the Basis of Sex Permitted.** Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the district from treating persons differently on the basis of sex as permitted by Title IX or 34 C.F.R. part 106. For example, and without limiting the foregoing, the district may provide separate toilet, locker room, and shower facilities on the basis of sex, but such facilities provided for students of one sex shall be comparable to such facilities provided for students of the other sex.
10. **Retaliation Prohibited.** Neither the district nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, 34 C.F.R. part 106, or this policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. The district will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the FERPA statute, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 C.F.R. part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 C.F.R. part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder. Complaints alleging

retaliation may be filed according to shall be addressed pursuant to Board Policy 2006 (Complaint Procedure).

10.1. Specific Circumstances.

10.1.1. The exercise of rights protected under the First Amendment does not constitute retaliation prohibited by this section.

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

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

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

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

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

STAFF DIRECTORY

Member of the Board of Education:

Michele Starman	President
Joel Carlson	Vice-President
Ann Burkholder	Secretary
Will Geiger	Member
Kiley Goff	Member
John Peden	Member

Administrative Staff:

Corey Fisher	High School Principal, HS Behavior Point of Contact
Brian Regelin	Middle School Principal, MS Behavior Point of Contact
Jeremy Yilk	Activities Director/Assistant Principal
Jessica Edeal	Special Education Director

Teaching Staff ~ Middle School

Trysta Asche	Language Arts/Reading
Nick Broz	Physical Education
Kylie Corkern	Art
Samantha Crick	Computers
Brent Dinslage	Language Arts/Reading
Valeria Estrada	Spanish/ELL
Dave Evertson	Science
Alisa Favinger	Math
Ashley Ford	Language Arts/Reading
Brent Frauen	Social Studies
Stacy Hickenbottom	Special Education
Dillon Higgins	Math
Kaleen Hodge	Special Ed/TLC
Amanda Kidder	Vocal Music
Lyndee Koch	Life Skills
DeVere Larington	Band/Instrumental Music
Barry Mraz	Social Studies
Arika Russell	Special Education
Shavonne Schacher	Science

Support Staff ~ Middle School

Amy Buss	Para-Professional
Selina Finnegan	Para-Professional
Michelle Gibson	Para-Professional
Bethany Hyatt	School Psychologist
Christie Irish	LAN Technology Support
Deb Klein	Para-Professional

Bill Shaffer
Sera Shoemaker
Lisa Smith
Jennifer Walls
Jenny Wichelt
Patty Wolfe
TBA

Guidance Counselor
School Nurse
Middle School Secretary
Media Specialist
Para-Professional
Technology Director
Speech & Language Pathologist/ESU

Teaching Staff ~ High School

Josh Asche
Nick Auwerda
Dawn Beans
Paul Besong
Woody Blackmore
Trey Botts
Jacob Brummer
Sandra Burke
Marissa Campbell
Brian Cargill
Katelyn Day
Jessica De La Torre
Jayce Dueland
Tessa Eldridge
Ethan Haarberg
Derek Hammerlun
Amanda Kidder
Marcie Kostrunek
DeVere Larington
Amanda Rossell
Heather Schultz
Chris Tvrdy
Kyle Vincent
Seth Vlasak
Kristen Wilkins

Math
Science/Physics
Business/Accounting/Vision Specialist
Science/Biology
English
Art
Science/Chemistry
Alternate Education
English
Physical Education/Weight Training
Agricultural Education
Family Consumer Science
Trades & Technical Education (Woods)
Special Education
Special Education
Social Studies
Vocal Music
Spanish/ELL
Band/Instrumental Music
Social Studies
English/Journalism
Math
Social Studies
Information Technology/Business
Math/Health

Support Staff ~ High School

Rebecca Galyas
Shelli Gill
Jordan Haarberg
Bethany Hyatt
Christie Irish
Daniel Revelo
Roxanne Reyes
Sera Shoemaker
Kristy Strohmyer
Patty Wolfe
Cheri Ziebel
TBA

Para-Professional
Library Aide
Guidance Counselor
School Psychologist
LAN Technology Support
Guidance Counselor
Activities Director Secretary
School Nurse
High School Secretary
Technology Director
Para-Professional
Speech & Language Pathologist/ESU

2023-2024
Student Council Members

Student Council President: Ben Yocom

12th Grade:

Class President: Makaia Baker

Class Reps: Blair Brennan

Wyatt Hosick

Kooper Pohl

Makenzie Smock

Makenna Wilkinson

11th Grade:

Class President: McKenzie Munster

Class Reps: Mara Stubbs

Mason Fales

Brock Malcom

Jorja Yocom

10th Grade:

Class President: Layla Leahy

Class Reps: Daygn Buss

Greeley Cargill

Destiny McFall

Tayln Propp

Camryn Yilk

9th Grade:

Class President: Morgan Mraz

Class Reps: Ethan Atchison

Myles Ide

Courtney Jensen

Owen Ross

SECTION FIVE

FORMS

This section contains forms that students and their parents must complete and return to the school office.

COZAD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS 2023 – 2024

School Year

0 No School
 0 No School for Students
 0 Last Day of Quarter/Semester
 0 No School, PTC, 8 am to 8 pm
 0 First & Last Days
 0 2:00 pm Early Dismissal, PK-12

	AUGUST 2023	JANUARY 2024	
8 New Teachers	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6	1-3 No School
9-11 Teacher Prof Development	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 Start of Second Semester
14 Teacher Prof Development	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	17 Early Dismissal, 2pm
15 First Day of School	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	
	27 28 29 30 31	28 29 30 31	
	31		
	SEPTEMBER 2023	FEBRUARY 2024	
4 No School	S M T W T F S 1 2	S M T W T F S 1 2 3	1 No school for Students
6 Early Dismissal, 2pm	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	2 No School
20 Early Dismissal, 2pm	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	7 Early Dismissal, 2pm
	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	21 Early Dismissal, 2pm
	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	25 26 27 28 29	22 Parent Teacher Conferences 8am-8pm
		30	23 No School
		31	
	OCTOBER 2023	MARCH 2024	
4 Early Dismissal, 2pm	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7	S M T W T F S 1 2	6 Early Dismissal, 2pm
No School, PTC 8 am to 8 pm	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	8 No School
6 No School	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	13 End of Qtr 3
18 Early Dismissal, 2pm	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	20 Early Dismissal, 2pm
End of Qtr 1	29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	28 No School for Students
23 No school for Students		31	29 No School
	NOVEMBER 2023	APRIL 2024	
1 Early Dismissal, 2pm	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6	1 No School
15 Early Dismissal, 2pm	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	3 Early Dismissal, 2pm
22-24 No School	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	17 Early Dismissal, 2pm
	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	
	26 27 28 29 30	28 29 30	
	DECEMBER 2023	MAY 2024	
6 Early Dismissal, 2pm	S M T W T F S 1 2	S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4	1 Early Dismissal, 2pm
20 Early Dismissal, 2pm	3 4 5 6 7 8 9	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	11 Commencement
25-29 No School	10 11 12 13 14 15 16	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	16 Last Day of School
	17 18 19 20 21 22 23	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	
	24 25 26 27 28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	
	31		
	Certified Staff Days	Student Days	
	Aug 17 Jan 20	Aug 13 Jan 20	
	Sept 20 Feb 19.5	Sept 20 Feb 17	
	Oct 21.5 Mar 19	Oct 19 Mar 18	
	Nov 19 Apr 21	Nov 19 Apr 21	
	Dec 16 May 12	Dec 16 May 12	
	Total Staff Days 185	Total Student Days 175	

NAME: _____



Class of: _____

**Student and Staff RESPONSIBLE USE AGREEMENT
2023-2024**

Cozad Community Schools' information technology resources, including school-owned devices, email and Internet access, are provided for educational purposes. Cozad Community School provides computer, network, e-mail, and Internet access to individuals as part of the learning environment. The use of these resources is a privilege and not a right. While these systems have the power to deliver a vast number of resources to classrooms and enhance education, their effectiveness depends on the responsible and ethical use by every individual. Users of the Cozad Community School network and devices are required to adhere to state and federal law and board policy. The following Student/Staff Responsible Use Agreement is based on district policy and regulations. Adherence to the following policy, both at school and in online activities which relate to school, is necessary for continued access to the school's technological resources:

Staff/Students must

1. **Respect and protect the privacy of others.**
 - Use only assigned accounts.
 - Not view, use, copy or distribute passwords or data belonging to others without their permission, or without authorization of appropriate school personnel.
 - Not distribute private information about others or themselves.
 - Not record or share photos, videos or other representations of others without their permission.
 - Not use devices assigned to other students unless specifically instructed to do so by the teacher or other school official.

2. **Respect and protect the integrity, availability, and security of all electronic resources.**
 - Observe all network security practices, as posted.
 - Ensure that personal devices are secure when using school resources and the network. All personal devices (ex: personal computers) should be approved by the technology department to access our network
 - Use personal or school owned devices in the classroom only if authorized to do so by the teacher.
 - Use personal or school owned devices only in appropriate and professional manners.
 - Not use the school network, accounts or devices to access materials or participate in inappropriate activities which violate student behavior policies or acceptable professional conduct.
 - Report security risks or violations to a teacher or network administrator.
 - Not destroy, damage or alter data, devices or equipment that do not belong to them.
 - Conserve, protect, and share these resources with other students and Internet users.
 - Not intentionally attempt to avoid or bypass content filtering.

3. **Respect and protect the intellectual property of others.**
 - Be informed and follow correct and legal copyright rules and practices.
 - Be ethical in citing sources and not plagiarize, cheat or copy the work of others
 - Misuse of artificial intelligence (AI) for cheating and plagiarism is prohibited, as it undermines the principles of academic integrity, fairness, and personal growth that are fundamental to our high school community.

4. **Respect and practice the principles of community.**
 - Communicate only in ways that are kind and respectful.
 - Report threatening or discomfoting materials to a teacher or school official.
 - Not intentionally access, transmit, copy, or create material that violates the school's code of conduct (such as messages that are pornographic, threatening, rude, discriminatory, or meant to harass).
 - Not intentionally access, transmit, copy, or create material that is illegal (such as obscenity, stolen materials, or illegal copies of copyrighted works).
 - Not through intended action or inaction further other acts that are criminal or violate the school's code of conduct.
 - Not send spam, phishing emails, or other mass unsolicited mailings.
 - Not buy, sell, advertise, or otherwise conduct business, unless approved as a school project.

Social Media and Digital Citizenship:

- Social networking sites and resources (Facebook, YouTube, SnapChat, Twitter, Instagram, etc) can be useful tools in the educational environment. Students and staff may make use of social networking tools in or outside of the classroom, provided classroom rules, district policies, and the school's code of conduct are followed. **Student or staff online activity which interferes with or hinders the educational process is subject to school policies, even if no school accounts or resources are used!**
- At Cozad Community Schools we strive to teach and model positive online activity and responsible digital citizenship. This includes:
 - Stressing the importance to staff and students of building a positive online presence.
 - Integrating digital citizenship instruction and modeling across the curriculum.
 - Using social media in the classroom and as a district to promote learning and engagement.

NO EXPECTATION OF PRIVACY

Because the District owns the device, students have no expectation of confidentiality or privacy with respect to the device. The District may, without prior notice or consent, log into, view, monitor, collect or record the use of the device and any corresponding technology tools at any time for any reason or no reason at all. Administrators reserve the right to examine, use, and disclose any data found on the school's information networks and school-owned devices in order to further the health, safety, discipline, or security of any student or other person, or to protect property.

Under the provisions of this Policy, parents or guardians who allow students to use personal technology, and students who elect to use personal technology, do so knowing that it diminishes any expectation of privacy with regard to the personal technology. The school may search privately-owned, personal technology if there is a reasonable suspicion that a student has violated the school's policies, agreements, rules, or directives while using the personal technology.

VIOLATION OF EXPECTATIONS

Any student who fails to abide by the rules specified by District staff, Board policies, Student Handbook, and the terms of this Agreement may immediately lose technology privileges. A student who loses technology privileges will be required to complete coursework in another manner (such as hard copies). If a student loses his or her technology privileges, that decision shall be final and not subject to appeal.

DAMAGE TO OR LOSS OF DEVICE

By signing this Agreement, the parent and student understand, acknowledge, and agree that they are responsible for any damage, theft or loss of the device, other than normal wear and tear. The parent and student hereby acknowledge and agree that they will be financially responsible for any damage beyond normal wear and tear as determined by the District, in the District's sole and absolute discretion. Further, the parent and student hereby acknowledge and agree that they are solely responsible for the risk of loss of the device and will be financially responsible for the replacement cost, as determined by the District, for any device that is lost or stolen.

I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT AND AGREE TO COMPLY WITH ALL OF ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

Date: _____

Date: _____

Parent Name

Student Name

Parent Signature

Student Signature

PARENTS, PLEASE DISCUSS THESE RULES WITH YOUR STUDENT TO ENSURE HE OR SHE UNDERSTANDS THEM.

**Cozad High School
Student Profile Information
School Year 2023-2024**

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Preferred Phone Number: _____

Parent's Email addresses: _____

Home Address: _____

Father's Name: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Phone: _____

Father's Cellphone: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Employer: _____

Employer Phone: _____

Mother's Cellphone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Emergency Contact Phone: _____

Physician's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

**COZAD HIGH SCHOOL
PARENT/STUDENT SIGN-OFF SHEET
2023-2024**

Student's Name _____ Grade _____

Parent or Guardian's Name _____

A. Cozad Middle School/High School Parent and Student Handbook

This handbook is intended to be used by students, parents and staff as a guide to the rules, regulations, and general information about Cozad Community 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.

_____ I have reviewed and understand the policies set forth by the district.
Student's Initials

_____ I have read the Parent/Student Handbook and reviewed it with my child.
Parent's Initials

B. Cozad Community Schools Haymakers Activity Handbook

The Cozad Activities Department will provide a positive, life changing experience to our students to maximize their potential and represent the community of Cozad in a first class manner.

_____ I have reviewed and understand the policies set forth by the district.
Student's Initials

_____ I have read the Parent/Student Handbook and reviewed it with my child.
Parent's Initials

C. Responsible Use Agreement

Cozad Community Schools' information technology resources, including school-owned devices, email and Internet access, are provided for educational purposes. Students will adhere to the following policy at school, at home, and any online activities.

_____ I have reviewed and understand the policies set forth by the district.
Student's Initials

_____ I have read the Parent/Student Handbook and reviewed it with my child.
Parent's Initials

FINAL SIGNATURES FOR SIGN OFF FORM

Student's Signature _____ **Date**

Parent's Signature _____ **Date**

STUDENT NAME _____ GRADE _____

EMERGENCY MEDICAL (RELEASE) INFORMATION SIGN-OFF SHEET

- 1. I/we have read the policies concerning activities found in the Activities Handbook and understand them fully. I/we agree that my/our son/daughter will abide by these policies while he/she is involved in activities of Cozad Middle School and/or High School and that the school and its sponsors/coaches will follow these policies.
- 2. I/we further understand that should there ever be a time whereby I/we have a question regarding these policies or if my/our son/daughter has not been in accordance with these policies, a conference may be requested with school personnel - Principal, Activities Director and/or Coach/Sponsor - to discuss the matter further. Complete due process procedure for NSAA policies are available from the Activities Director.
- 3. I/we understand the **school carries NO insurance** of any kind to cover medical expenses incurred while participating, and I/we will assume all such expenses personally.
(Please examine your insurance policies carefully to make sure they cover interscholastic athletic participation and if they do not, the school has information on special insurance policies for athletic participation.)
- 4. I/we hereby give my/our consent for our son/daughter to accompany any school group of which he/she is a member on any of its local or out of town trips. I/we authorize the school to obtain, through a physician of it's own choice, any emergency medical care that may become reasonably necessary for the student in the course of such activities or such travel.



Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

MEDICAL INFORMATION SIGN-OFF
Please complete the following Emergency
Information

Parent's Address _____

Home Phone # _____

Mother's Work Phone # _____ Father's Work Phone # _____

If no answer, call in case of emergency (include name and phone #)

Physician's Name _____ Phone # _____

Hospitalization Insurance (Type, Group and ID#)

History of Diabetes YES NO History of Epilepsy YES NO

Please List Any Allergies to Sulfa, Penicillin, etc...

Parent /Guardian gives permission to administer anesthetic and/or emergency treatment as required:



Parent/guardian Signature _____ Date _____

My child's medical history from school records may be shared with supervising coaches & staff members



2023-2024 Cozad High School Counseling Informed Consent

Introduction:

Cozad Community Schools are committed to providing quality education to its students. In an effort to achieve this goal, parents/guardians or school staff may refer students for counseling, or students may request counseling. The focus of the counseling program is to help students better navigate their social, emotional, academic, and professional lives. There is no cost for counseling services provided at Cozad High School.

Provisions of Services:

It is a goal of the Cozad High School Counselors to obtain parent/guardian written permission for all students in order to make our services available to them. Services include intake assessment, short-term counseling, individual counseling, crisis intervention, group counseling, and referrals as needed. School counseling services are aimed to be most effective in the students' education and socialization within the school community. These services are not intended as a substitute for psychological counseling, diagnosis, or medication treatment, which are not the responsibility or liability of the school counselor. As school counselors, there may come a time where our services may not be sufficient for a child. At this point, referring a student to a Clinical Mental Health

Counselor is best. At that time, parents will be called to discuss this transition. **Benefits:**

Utilizing the school counselors at Cozad High School can help improve a student's ability to relate with others, provide a clear understanding of themselves, in addition to identifying values, goals, and an ability to deal with everyday stress. The counselors also help students prepare for plans after high school, rather it be continuing their education, entering the workforce, or beginning a military career.

Confidentiality:

In order to build trust with the child, the school counselor will keep information confidential with some possible exceptions. The counselor is required by law to share information with the appropriate authorities, given the circumstance at hand:

- Presenting a serious danger to self or another person
- Evidence or disclosure of abuse (physically or sexually) or neglect
- Threats to school security
- Criminal or delinquency proceedings are pending

The counselor will make the child aware of these limits of confidentiality. If you would like the counselor to share information with a third party, such as a community counselor, psychiatrist, social services worker, or pediatrician, you will need to sign an additional release of information form.



Contact Information:

Jordan Haarberg:	jordan.haarberg@cozadschools.net	(308)784-2744
Daniel Revelo:	daniel.revelo@cozadschools.net	(308)784-2744

-----**Cut on this Line and Turn In**-----

Cozad High School Counselor Consent

Students Name: _____

Parents/Guardians Name: _____ I,

_____, am the legal parent/guardian of _____.

I have read and understand the terms of the Cozad High School Counselors Informed Consent.

Please Check One:

I give permission for my student to receive individual and/or group counseling services while attending Cozad High School. (If your child is invited to join a recurring group, you will receive additional information at that time.)

I choose to decline school counseling services for my child at this time.

Please Initial Below:

I understand that myself or my student may withdraw or request counseling from the school counselors at any time with parent/guardian consent.

Custodial Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Daytime Phone: _____ **Cell Phone:** _____

Email Address: _____

Cozad Community Schools Mobile Device Responsibilities and Rules

As your child's parent or guardian, you have been loaned a Chromebook mobile device to improve and personalize your child's education. It is essential that the Cozad Community Schools **Responsible Use Agreement (RUA)** be followed by your child in ALL use of the Chromebook and student online activities to ensure the safe, efficient and ethical use of technology in your child's education. Violations of the Cozad Community Schools RUA or other electronic device policies in the student handbook by your child may result in the loss of student device take-home privileges. In addition, ANY online activity on the part of the student which violates district policy or the student code of conduct may be grounds for the revocation of student device take-home privileges. Such activity may include but is not limited to:

- Mis-using social media or communication tools, including but not limited to bullying, threatening or harassing others.
- Unauthorized transmission or recording of audio or video images of any other student.
- Using the district-owned device or using district-owned or managed accounts or networks in the possession or distribution of inappropriate or pornographic electronic content.
- Using communication software, social networks, playing games or otherwise violating classroom rules while attending class, unless authorized by the instructor or school administrator.

In order for your child to use the Chromebook in class and/or to take it home (take-home only available for 6th-12th graders), you must be willing to accept these responsibilities and terms. In addition, if your child will be taking the device home, we require a \$20 annual take-home use fee, payable to Cozad Community Schools. This fee contributes to repair and maintenance costs for student take-home devices and is not used for any other purpose. Until the fee is paid in full, the student may use the device only while at school.

If the mobile device is lost or damaged, school technology personnel must be informed at the earliest opportunity during normal school hours. Cozad Community Schools is the sole agent authorized to undertake repair or replacement of the device. At the time of notification, the school will repair or provide a suitable replacement device to the student.

Most common repairs are approximately \$45. The **first** such required repair of the year (up to \$45) will be done free of charge. Subsequent repairs or repairs in excess of \$45 in the same year will be billed to the student. Please note that loss of the charger and intentional damage is **NOT** covered by the protection fee.

In the case of loss, theft, or extensive damage from abuse or negligence which require replacement of the device, the cost may be up to \$220. Such incidents will **NOT** be covered by the take-home fee and will require that the parent or student pay the full cost of repair or replacement. Please note that damaged or lost chargers are **NOT** covered by the take home fee. Take-home privileges are only allowed for students with no outstanding fees or repair charges.

Parent Responsibilities and Terms:

As the child's parent or guardian, I agree that I...

- Will read the Responsible Use Policy and discuss it with my child.
- Will supervise my child's use of the device at home.
- Will make sure my child charges the device nightly and begins the school day with a fully charged battery.
- Will make sure my child brings the device to school each day and keeps it locked in their locker when not using it for a class.
- Will discuss appropriate use of the Internet and supervise my child's use of the Internet outside of school.
- Will not attempt to repair the device.
- Will report any problems or damage to the device to the building administrator or member of the technology staff.
- Will report loss/theft of the device to school and proper authorities (police) within 24

hours.

- Will not remove any apps or certificates from the device which were provided or distributed by Cozad Community Schools, unless directed to do so by school officials or technology staff.
- Will provide the school with current contact information, including email and phone number(s).
- Will not alter or remove the school device management certificates at any time.
- Will allow the school administration and faculty to inspect and examine the device, apps and content at any time.
- Will make sure that the device is returned to the school when requested and upon my son's/daughter's withdrawal from Cozad Community Schools.

Student Responsibilities and Terms:

As a student attending Cozad Community Schools, I agree that I...

- Will read the Responsible Use Policy and discuss it with my parent/guardian.
- Will adhere to the terms of the Cozad Community Schools Responsible Use Policy and school and district rules and guidelines each time the device is used, at home or at school.
- Will recharge the device nightly and begin the school day with a fully charged battery.
- Will bring the device to school each day and keep it locked in my locker when not using it for a class.
- Will make the device available for inspection by a teacher, administrator or other staff member upon request.
- Will use appropriate language in all communications.
- Will abide by copyright laws.
- Will not use or attempt to use another student's assigned hardware, subscriptions, logins, files, or personal information.
- Will follow the practices I am taught to keep myself and my information safe and secure online.
- Will report loss/theft of the device to parents, school and proper authorities (police) within 24 hours.
- Will not use the device to record (audio or visual) others without their permission.
- Will not change or attempt to change the configuration or settings of management certificates.
- Will not attempt to repair, alter or make additions to the device.
- Will report all problems and damage immediately to an administrator or technology staff.
- Will not remove or attempt to remove identification tags on the device or deface with permanent stickers, marking pens, etc.