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SCHOOL, HOME, AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

6.1—COMMUNICATION GOALS

The single most significant factor in student achievement is the teacher. The teacher's effectiveness is greatly enhanced when supported by the school community as a whole, the student's home, and the community at large. The Arkansas General Assembly and the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education have demonstrated their understanding of the importance of involving such groups by repeatedly mandating their inclusion in the educational system and process. Communication with staff, parents, grandparents, legal guardians, business, and community members is fundamental to increasing their concern for, and involvement in, raising student achievement.

Communication should be two-way between the District and the public. The communications program shall strive to:

1. Increase mutual understanding, trust, and support between the District and parents, business, and the community as a whole;
2. Keep District staff regularly informed of upcoming District programs and events as well as noteworthy staff and student accomplishments to enable all the staff to help promote positive public relations;
3. Create and disseminate brochures, flyers, and fact sheets that will help parents and community members better understand school policies and procedures and acquaint them with areas where their volunteer services are most needed;
4. Inform legislators of the accomplishments of the District's students and staff, as well as how proposed legislation could affect the District;
5. Maintain good relations with the news media and provide the media with pertinent news releases; and
6. Increase the participation of parents, grandparents, legal guardians, business, and community members in school activities and programs.

The Board will appoint committees, when appropriate, to help the District examine issues. Such committees may include members of the public, students, parents, and school employees, as well as members of the Board. Members may serve until the committee makes its non-binding recommendations to the Board.

Any committee, which includes among its members a member of the School Board, shall operate according to the requirements of the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act.

The District's Board of Directors shall hold a meeting annually to provide a report that systematically explains the District's policies, programs, and goals to the community. The District's report shall detail the progress of the District and the District's schools toward accomplishing program goals, accreditation standards, and proposals to correct any deficiencies. The report shall be made available

to the public, including by posting a copy on the District's website under State-Required Information no later than ten (10) days following the meeting, with the most recent annual report posted by August 1 of each year. The meeting shall provide parents and other members of the community the opportunity to ask questions and make suggestions concerning the District's program.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-15-1005(c), (f)(1)(2)
 A.C.A. § 6-16-603 (a) (3)
 A.C.A. § 6-18-2003
 A.C.A. § 25-19-106
 Standards for Accreditation: 3-B.1, 3-B.2, 3-B.2.1, 5-A.1
 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Gifted and
 Talented Program Approval Standards: 4.0; 10.03
 DESE Rules Governing Documents Posted to School District and Education
 Service Cooperative Websites

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 20, 2022

6.1.1—SCHOOL DISTRICT WEBSITES AND SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES

The Bryant School District and its school campuses often use District and school website and social media pages to communicate with parents, students, and the community regarding school activities. The District welcomes feedback from the community as a way of fostering open and honest communication.

The following rules apply to employees, parents, students, and other members of the public who use District websites and social media pages (users) to comment on, or post messages related to, matters on District websites or social media pages:

1. Commenters or posters should stay on topic. Comments not related to the subject matter will be deleted.
2. No spam. District websites and social media pages shall not be used as a means of selling a product or service.
3. Be courteous. The District welcomes constructive criticism and welcomes honest discussion on areas of disagreement. However, users must refrain from personal attacks or being disrespectful of others.
4. Keep it legal. Users are responsible for following all laws that govern use of copyrights, trade secrets, individual privacy, etc.
5. Use appropriate language. Profane or provocative language, hateful, racially or ethnically offensive or derogatory content, threats, obscene or sexually explicit language will be immediately removed.

The Bryant School District reserves the right, but is not obligated, to block users who violate the above rules. The District reserves the right, but is not obligated, to or remove from our websites and social media pages any comments that violate the above rules.

Date Adopted: April 18, 2018

Last Revised:

6.2—RELATIONS WITH SCHOOL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board recognizes and values the many contributions support organizations make to the District's schools. Parent/teacher organizations and booster clubs work to augment and strengthen the District's educational and extracurricular objectives through the goods and services they provide.

Groups wishing to be recognized as a support organization must have open membership and have their by-laws reviewed by the school principal or Superintendent. School personnel should assist approved booster organizations in their efforts to the extent practicable. Meetings of such organizations, cleared through the principal, shall not be subject to school use fees. School staff members are encouraged to attend and participate.

School support organizations are not official school district entities. School support organizations are funded and governed separate and apart from official school district entities/activities.

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: April 18, 2018

6.3—PUBLIC GIFTS AND DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOLS

The District may receive monetary gifts or donations of goods or services that serve to improve or enhance the goals of the District. Any gifts to the District become the property of the District and are subject to the same regulations as any other District owned property.

It is a breach of ethical standards and a violation of Arkansas law for any Board member, administrator, or District employee to receive a gift of any kind in return for employment with the District or to influence the award of any contract or transaction with the District. All personnel shall examine the “reasonableness” of any gift or donation against its potential for real or perceived violation of the aforementioned ethical standards before accepting any gift or donation in the name of a school or the District.

The Board reserves the right to not accept any gift or donation that would not contribute to the attainment of District goals or that would obligate the District to unacceptable outlays of District resources. The administration shall present for Board consideration and approval any gifts or donations the administration deems could so obligate the District.

The Board will strive to honor the donor’s intent regarding gifts earmarked for a specific purpose; however, laws and District’s needs change with time and the District reserves the right to adjust the use of any gift to meet current needs of the educational program.

The Board authorizes the superintendent, or the superintendent’s designee, to act as the District’s official representative for all school-affiliated online fundraisers.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-24-110
 A.C.A. § 6-24-112
 A.C.A. § 6-24-113

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 22, 2017

6.4—VOLUNTEERS

Enlisting the support of volunteers is a way in which the District can expand the scope of resources and knowledge available to enrich the students' educational experiences, while strengthening the relationship between the school and the community. Volunteers can also perform non-instructional tasks that allow licensed personnel more time to devote to instruction.

The Superintendent shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining a program to coordinate the services volunteers are willing and able to contribute with the needs of District personnel. The program shall establish guidelines to ensure volunteers are aware of pertinent District policies and rules. Volunteers who violate school policies or rules, or knowingly allow students to violate school rules, may be asked to leave the school campus. The guidelines should also include provision for evaluation of the volunteer program and a method for soliciting suggestions from both the volunteers and staff for its improvement.

All volunteers who intend to act as head coaches or assistant coaches must:

1. Be at least twenty-two (22) years of age; and
2. Meet the requirements adopted by the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) to volunteer for any athletics program for grades seven (7) through – twelve (12).

A member of the board of directors of the District or the spouse of a member of the board of directors of the District may not be a registered volunteer for the District unless a majority of the disinterested members of the Board of Directors approves a resolution for the board member or board member's spouse to be a registered volunteer. The resolution approving the board member or board member's spouse to be a registered volunteer shall be effective for only one (1) school year.

A volunteer may act as a head coach in all varsity junior and senior high sports administered by the AAA except in the following sports:

- Football;
- Basketball; and
- Track and field.

Background Checks for Volunteers

For the purposes of this policy, "clear background check" means that:

- A background check was performed on the potential school volunteer in accordance with A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1601 et seq.;
- The potential school volunteer has not committed any of the crimes or offenses contained in A.C.A. §§ 6-17-410, 6-17-411 or 6-17-414 according to both the National and Arkansas background checks; and
- The potential school volunteer's name was not found on the Child Abuse Central Registry; and
- The Arkansas Educator Licensure System does not indicate the potential volunteer to:
 - Have a currently suspended or revoked educator's license; or
 - Be the recipient of a current Level 3 or Level 4 public notification of ethics violation.

A person wishing to volunteer in a capacity that requires a background check may not perform volunteer services requiring a background check until a clear background check is received by the District. Once received, a clear background check is good for 3 years; a background check renewal must be applied for and a clear background check received prior to the time of renewal or an interruption of permitted volunteer service could occur. A clear background check will be accepted of any individual wishing to volunteer provided it was conducted within the timeframe provided for in this policy.

The Application for an initial background check may be made through the District administrative office. The District may charge the potential volunteer the same fee charged by the State of Arkansas for performing the check.

A person who failed a previous background check may petition the Board for a waiver from this policy's requirement. The petition shall be accompanied by a signed authorization for disclosure of his or her entire criminal and child abuse registry history. In deciding whether to grant a waiver, the board may take into consideration: the circumstance or circumstances surrounding the act or omission that lead to the conviction, Child Abuse Registry true finding, or the receipt of the Level 3 or Level 4 Public Notification of Ethics Violation; the age of the person at the time of the act or omission; the length of time that has passed without reoffending; and other relevant circumstances. If the Superintendent recommends a waiver be granted, the Board may adopt a resolution by majority vote providing an exception to this policy's requirement for a time period not to exceed five (5) years. The board must consider this matter in open session, and may not confer or deliberate in closed or executive session.

The board shall not have the authority to waive the application of this policy to any potential volunteer who is a Registered Sex Offender whose educator license has been revoked or is currently suspended.

Clear background checks for school volunteers are only required for those individuals who are required to be or who seek to become Registered Volunteers, as defined in A.C. A. § 6-22-102 et seq.

No information relating to the application for or receipt of a criminal background check, including that a background check has or has not been applied for, shall be subject to disclosure under the Arkansas Freedom of Information Act, as provided by A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1601 et seq. Requests for background checks and reports on background checks obtained under this policy shall be retained by the district for a minimum of three years.

The superintendent or a third-party vendor shall report to the state board the name of any person working as a registered volunteer in an athletic coaching capacity who:

1. Has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to or has been found guilty of any felony or misdemeanor listed in A.C.A. § 6-17-410(b);
2. Has been arrested or charged with any felony or misdemeanor listed in A.C.A. § 6-17-410(b);
3. Has intentionally compromised the validity or security of any student test or testing program administered or required by the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE);
4. Has knowingly submitted falsified information or failed to submit information requested or required by law to DESE, the State Board, or Arkansas Legislative Audit; or
5. Has a true report in the Child Maltreatment Central Registry.

The District shall maintain the following information on volunteers:

- a) The total number, location, and duties of all volunteers;
- b) The total number of annual hours of service provided by volunteers; and
- c) Any reimbursements made to volunteers for expenses, transportation, or other costs incurred in connection with volunteer services.

Volunteers who are mandated reporters will be made aware of their status as mandated reporters of child maltreatment and will receive training on the responsibilities of a mandated reporter.

Registered volunteers who will be working with students in an athletic coaching capacity or are in the process of obtaining a coaching certificate through the Arkansas Activities Association shall be informed that they are bound by the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators and shall receive training on the Code of Ethics.

Legal References: A.C.A. §§ 6-17-301
 A.C.A. § 6-17-410
 A.C.A. § 6-17-411
 A.C.A. 6-17-414
 A.C.A. § 6-17-428
 A.C.A. § 6-18-110
 A.C.A. § 6-22-101 et seq.
 A.C.A. §§ 12-12-1601 et seq.
 A.C.A. § 12-18-402
 A.C.A. § 12-18-909(g)(21)
 A.C.A. § 21-13-101 et seq.
 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing Background Checks
 Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules Governing the Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 15, 2023

6.5—VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS

Parents, grandparents, legal guardians, business, and community members are welcome and encouraged to visit District schools. To minimize the potential for disruption of the learning environment, visitors, for a purpose other than to attend an activity open to the general public, are required to first report to the school's main office. No one shall be exempt from this requirement. Visitors who are Level 3 or Level 4 sex offenders may only enter a school campus under the provisions listed in Policy 6.10.

Parents and legal guardians are encouraged to participate in regularly scheduled visitation events such as school open houses and parent/teacher conferences. Additional conferences are best when scheduled in advance. Conferences shall be scheduled at a time and place to accommodate those participating in the conference. Visits to individual classrooms during class-time are permitted on a limited basis with the principal's prior approval and the teacher's knowledge.

Visitors, including parents wishing to speak with students during the school day shall register first with the office.

Visitors under the age of 18 who are not parents or guardians may not be allowed in classrooms, school parties, and/or field trips without prior permission of the teacher or building principal.

In order to maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and to avoid disruptions in the learning environment, visitors should follow the guidelines listed below:

- Classroom observation – Parents/guardians must schedule classroom observations in advance with the teacher and principal. The parent/guardian will be provided an unobtrusive seat in the classroom area. Interaction is not allowed with students during observation. Classroom observations by parents or guardians will be approved at the discretion of the principal and teacher. Due to the potential disruption of the learning environment and the need to maintain the privacy of other students' educational progress, teachers and principals have the authority to determine the duration and frequency of all classroom observations. Parents and guardians shall not live stream (or otherwise transmit), make photographs, or make audio or video recordings during any classroom observation without the prior approval of the teacher or principal.

- Teacher conference – Parents/guardians may contact their child's teacher to schedule a teacher conference at any time during the school year. Conferences should be scheduled in advance and will be held in an area away from the students. Parents and guardians shall not live stream (or otherwise transmit), make photographs, or make audio or video recordings during any teacher conference without the prior approval of the teacher or principal.

- Lunch or Breakfast – Parents may only bring food or drinks for their own child. Parents wishing to purchase a school lunch prepared by the school cafeteria must notify the school prior to 8:30 a.m. on that day.

- Deliveries - All deliveries of personal items such as forgotten homework, lunches, etc. will be made to the school office. Classes will not be interrupted for deliveries.

The District has the right to ask disruptive visitors to leave its school campuses. Principals are authorized to seek the assistance of law enforcement officers in removing any disruptive visitors who refuse to leave school property when requested to do so.

No person may use any cell phone or electronic device to live stream (or otherwise transmit), photograph, audio record, or video record the words, likeness, image or actions of any other person on school grounds during school hours unless such activities are approved in advance by the school principal or a Bryant School District administrator. This policy does not apply to a parent, guardian, or family member who photographs or records their own child, ward, or family member during a public, school-sponsored event.

Specifically, visitors to the school are directed to not use a device to:

- Record audio or video or to take photographs in areas where a general expectation of personal privacy exists, including but not limited to locker rooms and bathrooms; or
- Create, send, share, capture, or post audio, video, or photographs of District students unless the visitor:
 - Has received permission to do so by someone authorized to grant such permission on behalf of the student or the student if the student is eighteen (18 years old);
 - Received authorization from the District to do so on behalf of the District; or
 - Is required to do so as part of the individual's job duties, including as a member of the media.

Employees are protected from abusive language and conduct by state law. An employee may report to the police any language which is calculated to:

1. Cause a breach of the peace;
2. Materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school; and/or
3. Arouse the person to whom the language is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation.

Cross References: Policy 4.16—STUDENT VISITORS
For Level 3 and Level 4 sex offenders see Policy 6.10—SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS (MEGAN'S LAW)

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-21-606
A.C.A. § 6-21-607

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 15, 2023

6.6—FUNDRAISING

All fundraising activities held in the District or in the name of the District must be pre-approved in writing by the Superintendent or designee and the affected school principal. Approval will be predicated on the potential for return relative to the time and energy to be invested in the fundraising. Fundraising that conflicts excessively with and/or detracts from student or teacher instructional time in either the planning or the execution of the activity will not be approved.

Neither an individual school nor the District shall be liable for any contract between clubs or organizations and third parties.

Professional fundraisers (businesses or individuals, including mail order companies, that assist schools in raising funds in return for a share of all money taken in) must register with the central administration office to receive approval to work with principals and teachers. Registration will include their name, contact number, company name, address and telephone number. Failure to register will make them ineligible to work in the Bryant School District.

Student participation in any fundraising activity shall:

- 1) Be voluntary. Students who choose not to participate shall not forfeit any school privileges. It shall not be considered discriminatory to reward those who participate; and
- 2) Not influence or affect the student's grade.

Each organization in the District may have only two fundraisers per year which involve student participation. Regardless of the number of organizational memberships, students may participate in no more than two fundraisers per semester conducted during the school week. Fundraisers are limited to a sales period of two weeks each unless the Principal grants an exception for unusual circumstances. All fundraising events must receive approval by the principal. There is no restriction on parents holding fundraising events that do not involve students as workers/salespersons.

Secondary Schools

Fundraising in the secondary schools may only be done by officially sanctioned student clubs, spirit groups, school PTAs, or parent booster clubs. Student clubs and spirit groups must receive written approval from their sponsor and the school principal before submitting the fundraising proposal to the Superintendent or designee.

Door to door fundraising activities are generally discouraged. If approved, students wishing to participate who are under the age of eighteen (18) must return to their sponsor a signed parental notification and permission form.

Elementary Schools (K-6)

Fundraising in the elementary schools may only be done by the school or a school sponsored organization. Door to door fundraising activities are generally discouraged, but there shall be no more than one such activity per school per school year.

For purposes of this policy, “Door-to-door sales” means the selling of merchandise outside of the child's home and off the school grounds.

Schools must provide written notification of the following to parents or legal guardians of elementary students who participate in fund raising programs.

- 1) Student participation in fundraising programs is voluntary;
- 2) Students who do not participate will not forfeit any school privileges;
- 3) Students may not participate in fundraising programs without written parental permission returned to school authorities;
- 4) An elementary student who sells fundraising merchandise door to door must be accompanied by a parent or an adult; and
- 5) Unless the school provides supervision, parents must accept responsibility for appropriate adult supervision.

These regulations are presented to prevent fundraising activities that might put students in unsafe situations.

Crowdfunding and Other Fundraising Activities by Employees

Subject to the limitations below, Bryant School District employees are free to conduct “crowdfunding” or other fundraisers on their personal time, outside of school hours.

- 1) If an employee intends to refer to the Bryant School District or his or her status as an employee of the Bryant School District in any crowdfunding or other fundraising activities, such fundraising activities must be approved in advance by the employee’s supervisor or building principal.
- 2) Without prior approval from the Bryant School District Technology Director, employee crowdfunding or other fundraising activities shall not be used to purchase electronic devices for students that will require resources, repair, or servicing by the Bryant School District Technology Department.
- 3) If an employee refers to the Bryant School District or his or her status as an employee of the Bryant School District in any crowdfunding or other fundraising activities, any funds or property received through the crowdfunding or other fundraising activities for use at school shall become the property of the Bryant School District.

4) All crowdfunding or other fundraising activities must be conducted in accordance with applicable financial procedures of the Bryant School District Business Office.

Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-18-1102
 A.C.A. § 6-18-1104

Cross Reference: Guidelines for Affiliated Support Organizations
 Bryant School District Board Policy 7.6.1

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 22, 2017

6.7—COMPLAINTS/CONCERNS

It is a goal of the Board and the District to be responsive to the community it serves and to continuously improve the educational program offered in its schools. The Board or the District welcomes constructive criticism when it is offered with the intent of improving the quality of the system's educational program or the delivery of the District's services.

The Board formulates and adopts policies to achieve the District's vision and elects a Superintendent to implement its policies. The administrative functions of the District are delegated to the Superintendent, who is responsible for the effective administration and supervision of the District. Individuals with complaints/concerns concerning personnel, curriculum, discipline (including specific discipline policies), coaching, or the day to day management of the schools need to address those complaints/concerns according to the following sequence:

1. Teacher, coach, or other staff member against whom the complaint/concern is directed
2. Principal
3. Deputy Superintendent
4. Superintendent

Other than in the few instances where statutorily allowed or required, student discipline and personnel matters may not be discussed in Board meetings. Individuals with complaints/concerns regarding such matters need to follow the sequence outlined above. Individuals with complaints/concerns who have exhausted the sequence above may present their complaints/concerns to the Board only as outlined in Policy #1.14 – MEETING AGENDA.

Unless authorized by the Board as a whole for a specific purpose, no individual Board member has any authority when acting alone. District constituents are reminded that the Board serves as a finder of fact, not unlike a jury, in matters such as student suspensions initiated by the Superintendent, expulsions, and personnel discipline. For this reason, the board may not be involved or informed prior to a board hearing on particular student or personnel disciplinary matters.

Complaints/concerns related to District use or administration of federal funds generated through specific programs identified by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) and authorized in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act may be taken directly from a patron or by referral from the ADE. If taken directly from a patron, the complaint/concern may be submitted by either a signed statement or by a certified, recorded deposition or statement in which the complainant is identified. The complaints/concerns shall be addressed in the following manner:

1. The complaint/concern shall be referred to the federal programs director, who shall assemble a team of at least two (2) people to investigate the complaint/concern.
2. Throughout the investigation, sufficient notes and records will be taken and maintained to substantiate the position of the findings of the investigation.

3. The team will interview the complainant and others as necessary to enable the team to make a determination of the validity of the complaint. The team may consult with individuals with knowledge or expertise in the matter which is the subject of the complaint/concern, including legal counsel.
4. The investigation of complaints referred by the ADE shall be completed within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the complaint, unless a longer time period has been approved by the ADE.
5. The investigation of complaints made directly to the district shall be completed within forty (40) calendar days unless there are extenuating circumstances; in such a case, a preliminary report shall be made within forty (40) calendar days of receipt of the complaint, which shall include an explanation of the unusual circumstances requiring additional time to complete the investigation.
6. The report of the conclusions of the investigation shall be given to the complainant. It shall contain:
 - a. A summary of the allegations of the complaint;
 - b. A summary of the investigative actions taken by the team;
 - c. A summary of the findings concerning each alleged violation or implied violation; and
 - d. A statement of corrective actions needed to resolve the issues involved in each allegation and finding of the complaint.

Legal Reference: ADE Rules Governing Federal Program Complaint Resolution

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 20, 2019

6.8—DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS AND PUBLICATIONS

Subject to the requirements below, the District shall devise and maintain a system for distributing District communications and other printed materials between the Administration and the schools. Use of the system by employees or employee organizations shall be with prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Subject to the requirements below, the distribution of printed materials, flyers, photographs, or other visual or auditory materials not originating within District schools to students or staff shall have prior approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

The District finds that the demand for distribution of printed materials and publications from outside groups by District staff through student backpacks and other District communication channels has become overly burdensome and detracts from the primary mission of the District. It is the intent of the District to operate a nonpublic forum and, except as allowed in this policy, the distribution of printed materials and publications from outside groups is prohibited on District property, to include District websites. This policy does not prohibit speech in circumstances where such speech is protected by law.

General Requirements for Printed Materials and Publications

The District will only distribute printed materials and publications from the following groups or organizations:

1. District-sponsored materials and publications or other materials and publications that originate from within the District.
2. Groups affiliated with the District, to include parent-teacher organizations, booster clubs, academic and extra-curricular clubs, and nonprofit organizations created for the sole or primary purpose of supporting the District, District programs, District personnel, or District students.
3. Groups recognized by the Board for longstanding support of the District, including without limitation the City of Bryant and other county and municipal governments within the borders of the District, the Bryant Chamber of Commerce, the Boys and Girls Club of Bryant, Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America.
4. Curriculum-related materials and publications regarding programs, events, contests and other activities that are not sponsored by the District when those events are consistent with and related to the District's curriculum.
5. Groups and their affiliates who meet in District facilities in accordance with District policies may distribute printed materials and publications during such meetings.
6. Printed materials and publications solicited or accepted by the District as advertising on the District's website, gymnasiums, athletic fields and other facilities primarily used for extracurricular activities.

District Website

As set forth below, the District will post approved informational flyers from Arkansas not-for-profit organizations on the District's website. By posting this information on the website, organizations will have the opportunity to reach families of elementary school, middle school, junior high school, and high school students without the time and expense of printing thousands of pre-sorted flyers. The superintendent or his or her designee will establish and publish requirements for posting materials and other publications from outside groups on the District's website. The District reserves the right to deny requests that contain unacceptable content, are seen as a conflict of interest or are in conflict with the District's mission and values.

Materials distributed by the District through student backpacks and other District communication channels, including the District website, may not be:

1. Obscene to minors.
2. Libelous.
3. Pervasively indecent or vulgar and/or contain indecent or vulgar language.
4. Advertise any product or service not permitted to minors by law.
5. Constitute insulting or fighting words, the very expression of which injures or harasses other people (e.g. threats of violence, defamation of character or of a person's race, religion, or ethnic origin).
6. Present a clear and present likelihood that, either because of their content or their manner of distribution, they will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities or will cause the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful school procedures.
7. Promote or exhibit excessive or explicit violence (including weblinks).

All printed materials and other publications from outside groups, including those on the District website, will contain the following disclaimer: "Disclaimer: This information is being distributed as a community service. Bryant Public Schools is not a sponsoring organization for this activity."

Exceptions to this policy will be granted only for unusual and limited circumstances, and only with the approval of the Superintendent or his or her designee.

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 20, 2019

6.9—MEDIA RELATIONS AND NEWS RELEASES

It is important that the District maintain good relations with the media. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall devise and implement a plan for the release of pertinent information to the media regarding educational programs, awards, or other student and staff achievements, and special events.

The District shall attempt, within reason, to accommodate media requests for interviews and shall endeavor to be fair and impartial in its treatment of media representatives. Media representatives wishing to be on district property shall have prior approval by the Central Office, shall sign-in at the school office, and be accompanied by a district administrator.

The release of information to the media shall be done in a timely manner, either by written releases or by telephone interviews, to keep patrons abreast of newsworthy District achievements.

The District encourages students and staff to participate in academic competitions and programs. Awards earned in such endeavors shall be communicated to the media. Award recipients may also be recognized at Board meetings.

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised:

6.10—SEX OFFENDERS ON CAMPUS (MEGAN’S LAW)

The Bryant School District shall work with area law enforcement in a manner consistent with applicable state law and Division of Elementary and Secondary Education Rules to communicate the presence of a sexual offender. When necessary, law enforcement may contact building principals to provide information concerning registered sex offenders. The decision regarding the school principals to be notified rests solely with law enforcement officials; law enforcement officials use a rating system to determine who needs to be notified, which is according to the sex offender’s dangerousness to the community.

In turn, building principals should notify any employee who is regularly in a position to observe unauthorized persons on or near the school’s property in the ordinary course of their employment. Employees notified could include any of the following: aides, bus drivers, coaches, maintenance staff, professional support staff, school level administrative staff, security personnel, teachers’ assistants, and teachers.

It is important that school personnel who receive sex offender notifications understand that they are receiving the sex offender notifications in their official capacity and are **not** to disseminate information about an offender to anyone outside the school. If school personnel are asked about notification information by an organization using school facilities, the organization should be referred to the area law enforcement agency that issued the notice.

Persons **not** to be notified, except at the specific discretion of area law enforcement officials, include: members of parent-teacher organizations, other schools, organizations using school facilities, students, parents or guardians of students, and the press. District personnel may inform the press about procedures that have been put in place and other general topics, but may not reveal the name or any other specifics regarding an offender.

A parent or guardian who is a Level 1 or Level 2 sex offender shall be allowed to enter the school campus to attend parent-teacher conferences or any other activity that is appropriate for a parent, guardian, or community member.

Level 3 and Level 4 sex offenders may only enter the school campus in the following instances:

1. The offender is a student attending school in the district;
2. To attend a graduation or baccalaureate ceremony;
3. It is a non-student contact day according to the school calendar or no school-sponsored event is taking place on campus;
4. The offender is a parent or guardian of a student enrolled in the district and goes directly to the school office to have school personnel deliver medicine, food, or personal items for the student;
5. The offender is a parent or guardian of a student and enters the school campus where the student is enrolled to attend a scheduled parent-teacher conference **and** the offender is escorted to and from the conference by a designated school official or employee.

A Level 3, but not a Level 4, sex offender may attend a school sponsored event for which an admission fee is charged or tickets are sold or distributed if the sex offender:

- Is the parent, guardian, great-grandparent, of or is related by blood or marriage within the second (2nd) degree of consanguinity to a student enrolled in the public school; and
- Notifies the administration of the school in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours before the start of the event that he or she will be attending the event.

A Level 3 and Level 4 sex offender who is the parent or guardian of a child enrolled in the District and who wishes to enter the school campus in which the student is enrolled for any other purpose than those listed above, must give reasonable notice to the school principal or his/her designee. The principal or designee may allow the sex offender to enter upon the campus provided there is a designated school official or employee to escort and supervise the sex offender while they remain on campus. The sex offender shall not enter upon the school campus until such time as a designated school official or employee is available.

Copies of the notification from law enforcement should be kept in a secure place accessible to teachers and staff, but should not be posted on school bulletin boards or made available to students or members of the community at large.

Legal References: Division of Elementary and Secondary Education
 Guidelines for “Megan’s Law”
 A.C.A. § 5-14-132
 A.C.A. § 12-12-913 (g)(3)
 A.C.A. § 28-9-212

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 20, 2019

6.11—PARENT, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - DISTRICT

The Bryant School District understands the importance of involving parents, families, and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the district and those it serves. Therefore, the district shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parent, family, and community engagement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, families, and the community. To achieve such ends, the district shall work to:

1. Involve parents, families, and the community in the development of the long-range planning of the District;
2. Give the support necessary to enable them to plan and implement effective parent, family, and community engagement activities;
3. Have a coordinated engagement program where the engagement activities of the District enhance the involvement strategies of other programs, such as Head Start, HIPPIY, area Pre-K programs, and other programs;
4. Explain to parents, families and the community the state's academic and achievement standards, state and local student assessments, and how the District's curriculum is aligned with the state's academic standards and assessments and how parents, families, and the community can work with the District/school to improve students' academic achievement;
5. Provide parents and families with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The District may use parent resource centers or other community-based organizations to foster parent and family engagement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
6. Educate District staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent, family, and community engagement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents, families, and the community;
7. Keep parents, families, and the community informed about parent, family and community engagement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand;
8. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents and families from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
9. Find and modify other successful parent, family and community engagement programs to suit the needs of our District;

10. Train parents, families, and the community to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents, families, and members of the community;
11. Provide reasonable support for other parent, family, and community engagement activities as parents, families and the community may reasonably request.

The District's military liaison must be involved in the development of the district's parent, family, and community engagement plan.

To ensure the continued improvement of the District's parent, family, and community engagement program, the District will conduct an annual review of its parent, family, and community engagement policies to examine their effect on promoting higher student achievement. The review shall be done by a committee consisting of parents and other community members, certified and classified staff, and member(s) of the administration.

This policy shall be part of the school's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1702
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1703
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1704
 A.C.A. § 6-28-116
 Division of Elementary and Secondary Rules Governing Parental Involvement
 Plans and Family and Community Engagement
 Commissioner's Memo COM-20-021

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 15, 2023

6.12—PARENT, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT - SCHOOL

Every school in the Bryant School District understands the importance of involving parents, families, and the community as a whole in promoting higher student achievement and general good will between the school and those it serves. Therefore, every school in the Bryant School District shall strive to develop and maintain the capacity for meaningful and productive parent, family, and community engagement that will result in partnerships that are mutually beneficial to the school, students, parents, families, and the community. To achieve such ends, the school shall work to:

1. Involve parents, families, and the community in the development and improvement of Title I programs for the school;
2. Have a coordinated engagement program where the engagement activities of the school enhance the involvement strategies of other programs such as Head Start, HIPPIY, area Pre-K programs, and other programs;
3. Explain to parents, families, and the community the State's academic and achievement standards, State and local student assessments and how the school's curriculum is aligned with the state's academic standards and assessments and how parents, families, and the community can work with the school to improve students' academic achievement;
4. Provide parents and families with the materials and training they need to be better able to help their child achieve. The school may use parent resource centers or other community-based organizations to foster parent and family engagement and provide literacy and technology training to parents.
5. Educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in ways to work and communicate with parents and to know how to implement parent, family, and community engagement programs that will promote positive partnerships between the school and parents, families, and the community;
6. Keep parents, families, and the community informed about parental, family, and community engagement programs, meetings, and other activities they could be involved in. Such communication shall be, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand;
7. Find ways to eliminate barriers that work to keep parents and families from being involved in their child's education. This may include providing transportation and child care to enable parents to participate, arranging meetings at a variety of times, and being creative with parent/teacher conferences;
8. Find and modify other successful parent, family, and community engagement programs to suit the needs of our school;
9. Train parents, families, and the community to enhance and promote the involvement of other parents, families, and members of the community;

10. Provide reasonable support for other parent, family, and community engagement activities as parents, families, and the community may reasonably request.

The District's military liaison must be involved in the development of the school's parent, family, and community engagement plan.

To help promote an understanding of each party's role in improving student learning, every school in the Bryant School District shall develop a compact that outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, and the school staff in raising student academic achievement and in building the partnerships that will enable students to meet the State's academic standards.

Every school in the Bryant School District shall convene an annual meeting, or several meetings at varying times if necessary to adequately reach parents and families of participating students, to inform parents and families of the school's participation in Title I, its requirements regarding parent, family, and community engagement, and the parents right to be involved in the education of their child.

Every school in the Bryant School District shall, at least annually, involve parents, families, and the community in reviewing the school's Title I program and parent, family, and community engagement policy in order to help ensure their continued improvement.

This policy shall be part of the school's Title I plan and shall be distributed to parents of the district's students and provided, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. § 6318
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1702
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1703
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1704
 A.C.A. § 6-28-116
 Division of Elementary and Secondary Rules Governing Parental Involvement
 Plans and Family and Community Engagement
 Commissioner's Memo COM-20-021

Date Adopted: July 19, 2018

Last Revised: June 15, 2023

6.13– SOLICITATION

Solicitation of school employees or students during school hours may only be conducted with prior approval of a district or school level administrator and shall be scheduled during non-instructional time. Exceptions may be approved by the Central Office.

No employee of the school district is permitted to use his/her position in soliciting children or parents in projects which involve the expectation of personal gain.

Cross Reference: Code of Ethics for Arkansas Educators

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised:

6.14 – ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOLS

Commercial advertising in the schools shall only be allowed with the approval of the Superintendent or designee.

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised:

6.15 – INCLEMENT WEATHER

The Superintendent will make the decision to close schools when inclement weather makes it inadvisable to operate school buses. Announcements will be made on television stations, the district website and social media, and the district parent notification system to advise the public that our schools will be closed. All days missed due to inclement weather will impact the published school calendar.

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised:

6.16—DISTRICT WEBSITE

The Bryant School District shall maintain a web page to provide information about its schools, students, and activities to the community. This policy is adopted to promote continuity between the different pages on the district website by establishing guidelines for their construction and operation.

The Bryant School District website shall be used for educational purposes only. It shall not create either a public or a limited public forum. Any link from any page on the District's site may only be to another educational site. The website shall not use "cookies" to collect or retain identifying information about visitors to its website nor shall any such information be given to "third parties." Any data collected shall be used solely for the purpose of monitoring site activity to help the district improve the usefulness of the site to its visitors.

Each school's web page shall be under the supervision of the school's web content designee and the District's website shall be under the supervision of the District's web content designee and Director of Communication. They shall have the responsibility for ensuring that web pages meet appropriate levels of academic standards and are in compliance with these guidelines and any additional administrative regulations. To this end, the District's web content designee and Director of Communication shall have the authority to review and edit any proposed changes to web pages to ensure their compliance with this policy. All such editing shall be viewpoint neutral.

District and school web pages shall also conform to the following guidelines:

- A. The District's home page shall contain links to existing individual school's web pages and the school home pages shall link back to the District's home page. The District's home page may also include links to educational extracurricular organization's web pages, which shall also link back to the District's home page.
- B. Photos along with the student's name shall only be posted on web pages if the student's parents, or the student if the student is over the age of eighteen (18), have not opted out of such use in writing.
- C. No web page on the District website may contain public message boards or chat rooms.
- D. All web pages on the District website shall be constructed to download in a reasonable length of time.
- E. The District's home page shall contain a link to a privacy policy notice, which must be placed in a clear and prominent place and manner.
- F. With the exception of students who may retain the copyright of material they have created that is displayed on a District web page, all materials displayed on the District web site are owned by the Bryant School District.
- G. Included on the District's web site shall be:
 - 1. Administrator and teacher salary and benefit expenditure data;
 - 2. District balances, including legal balances and building fund balances;
 - 3. Minutes of regular and special meetings of the school board;
 - 4. The district's budget for the ensuing year;
 - 5. A financial breakdown of monthly expenditures of the district;

6. The salary schedule for all employees including extended contract and supplementary pay amounts;
7. Current contract information (not including social security numbers, telephone numbers, personal addresses or signatures) for all district employees;
8. The district's annual budget;
9. The annual statistical report of the district;
10. The district's personnel policies; and
11. The annual School Performance Report;

The information and data required for items A through K in 9 above shall be the actual data for the previous two (2) school-years and the projected data for the current school-year.

Before July 15 of each year, the District shall post on its website the following information:

- The dyslexia intervention programs used during the previous school year that were specifically responsive to assisting students with dyslexia;
- The number of students during the previous school year who received dyslexia intervention; and
- The total number of students identified with dyslexia during the previous school year.

The District and school webmasters are responsible for ensuring all District webpages meet required standards to be accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-11-129
 A.C.A. § 6-15-1402
 A.C.A. § 6-15-2006
 A.C.A. § 6-15-2101
 A.C.A. § 6-41-606
 A.C.A. § 6-41-611
 20 U.S.C. § 1232 g
 15 U.S.C. § 6501 (COPPA)

Date Adopted: June 22, 2017

Last Revised:

6.17—WEBSITE PRIVACY POLICY

The Bryant School District operates and maintains a website for the purpose of educating the citizens of the District about its activities. The website does not collect or retain personally identifying information about visitors to its website nor is any such information given to “third parties.” Any data collected is used solely for the purpose of monitoring site activity to help the District improve the usefulness of the site to its visitors.

The site serves no commercial purpose and does not collect any information from individuals for such purpose.

Photographs of students, when associated with the student’s name, shall not be displayed on any page of the District’s website if the student’s parent (or the student if 18 or older) opts out of such a display.

The site provides for email communication between the District and individuals for the purpose of exchanging information regarding the District and its activities or between teachers and their students. The site may also provide for password-protected communication between the District and its staff.

Legal Reference: 15 U.S.C. § 6501 (COPPA)

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 22, 2017

6.18 – POLITICAL ACTIVITY

No individual may engage in political activity, including distributing, posting, or displaying political materials or making contact with students or staff members for the purpose of campaigning or otherwise influencing political outcomes, on the property of the Bryant School District during the school day.

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: June 22, 2017

6.19 – PETITIONS

A petition for any cause may not be circulated on school property, on school grounds, or at any school-related activity.

Date Adopted: February 16, 2015

Last Revised: