

# MENA

## HIGH

# 2018



# 2019

### **A Division of T.E.A.M. Mena**

Mena High School is accredited by AdvancED.

#### **MENA HIGH SCHOOL ALMA MATER**

**Mena High, Our Alma Mater,  
'Tis the school we love.  
Blessed pine trees on the hillside,  
Rocks, and fields and skies above.  
'Til one day the sun shall vanish  
And no more these grounds we'll roam,  
But our place at Mena High School  
Will e're be called our home.**

#### **TO: INSTRUCTORS, STAFF, AND STUDENTS** **FROM: SUPERINTENDENT**

In keeping with the guidelines of Title VI, Section 601, Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX, Section 901, Education Amendments of 1972; and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; Mena School District assures that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation or handicap, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.

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Any person having inquiries concerning compliance with Title VI (Race), Title IX (Sex), or Section 504 (Handicap) is directed to contact the above coordinators.

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### **MHS 2018-2019 BELL SCHEDULE**

<b>First Bell</b>	<b>7:56</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> period	8:00 – 8:50
2 <sup>nd</sup> period	8:54 – 9:44
3 <sup>rd</sup> period	9:48 – 10:38
<b>ENRICHMENT</b>	<b>10:42 – 11:12</b>
Lunch A	11:12 – 11:42
4 <sup>th</sup> period	11:46 – 12:36
OR	
4 <sup>th</sup> period	11:16 – 12:06
Lunch B	12:06 – 12:36
5 <sup>th</sup> period	12:40 – 1:30
6 <sup>th</sup> period	1:34 – 2:24
7 <sup>th</sup> period	2:28 – 3:18
<b>Last Bell</b>	<b>3:18</b>

### **CLOSED CAMPUS**

Checking out for the purpose of eating lunch off campus is not permitted. Parents are permitted to bring food to campus for their children only.

After you arrive on campus by bus, vehicle, or walking, you are not to leave the campus under any circumstances unless you have checked out through the principal's office.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.10**

### **CHECKING IN TO SCHOOL PROCEDURE**

Students arriving late to school will sign the Tardy Sheet in the office. Upon returning to school after checking out, students will sign the Check-In Sheet in the office.

### **CHECKING OUT OF SCHOOL PROCEDURE**

After having arrived on school property should an emergency arise which makes it necessary for a student to leave campus, the following procedure will be followed:

A student may check out only if a parent/guardian comes to the office and signs the student out. (A Check-Out Signature Card is provided at the beginning of each year to verify who has permission to check out the student. An MHS student—no matter his or her age—cannot be listed on a check-out card.)

One exception is if a student has a doctor or dental appointment, the parent can call to allow the student to check out. Then the student can sign out in the school office for the medical appointment, however, upon return to school, the student must bring to the school office a written verification from the medical office stating the date and time of the appointment.

Excused reasons for checking out include illness, funeral, or family emergency. Reasons that are not excusable for checking out of school include going out to eat lunch, going shopping, or running errands.

In case of an emergency, the principal or assistant may elect to suspend the procedure and check the student out.

Students who leave the campus without checking out will be considered truant and will be dealt with as truants.

## **ABSENCES**

If any student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

Education is more than the grades students receive in their courses. Important as that is, students' regular attendance at schools is essential to their social and cultural development and helps prepare them to accept responsibilities they will face as an adult. Interactions with other students and participation in the instruction within the classroom enrich the learning environment and promote a continuity of instruction that results in higher student achievement.

Students with excessive consecutive absences may receive ISS in order to help the student complete make-up assignments as per recommendations from the student's teachers and/or administration.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.7 and 4.44**

## **VISITORS TO CAMPUS**

Visitors are permitted on campus only to transact official school business. All visitors are required to register in the principal's office to gain permission to remain on campus, and they must get a visitor's badge to wear.

Arkansas law provides for prosecution of any person loitering on school grounds. Any unauthorized person shall be asked to leave; and if he or she refuses, law enforcement authorities shall be summoned.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.16**

## **TARDINESS**

Promptness is expected of all students. Any student not in his or her proper room when the tardy bell rings is tardy.

1. If you arrive at school late at any time during the day, report to the office to sign in on the Tardy Sheet.
2. If you are late to a class and you do not have a note from the office or a teacher, it will be an unexcused tardy. So, if you have been detained by a teacher, ask for a note before going to your next class.
3. If you are running in the halls to class, you may be given an unexcused tardy.
4. If you are tardy and do not go to that class, you must sign the Tardy Sheet in the office. Failure to do so will result in an unexcused absence in that class and may result in being assigned to ISS.
5. Tardies are recorded per nine weeks.
6. Five (5) tardies will result in you being assigned to a day of In-School Suspension (ISS). Continued tardies on a regular basis will result in severe disciplinary action.
7. You are recorded as absent in a class period if you are not in attendance for at least 30 minutes of that class. If this is an unexcused absence, it may result in a day of ISS.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.9**

## **WITHDRAWING/TRANSFERRING PROCEDURE**

- Parent or guardian must come to the office to sign withdrawal form.
- Student will have withdrawal form filled out by each teacher.
- Student will return all school books and property.
- Student will get signatures of librarian, counselor, and principal for final clearance
- Student must pay all fees and textbook and/or library fines before records can be released.



## **EARLY DISMISSAL FOR SENIORS DURING SCHOOL DAY**

If a student is dismissed early every school day for reasons such as being in college classes or JAG, he or she immediately needs to leave the high school campus and not return that school day. If he or she leaves after fourth period, he or she may eat lunch before leaving.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGES**

Schedule changes including dropping sports cannot be made after the end of the first week of the semester unless the schedule change is signed by the principal. Once you are officially registered for the next year, schedule changes will not be made unless there is a direct conflict. If any course is dropped, an "F" will be recorded on your transcript.

## **ALTERNATIVE ENVIRONMENT(AE)/MENA HUB**

AE/MENA HUB is designed for those students who are not successfully functioning in the regular classroom setting. Unacceptable behavior in classes or at school in general, failing grades in several classes, and/or excessive absences or tardies may result in being assigned to AE. Once a student is assigned to AE, he or she will finish out that semester at AE. At that time, an evaluation will be made to see if he or she may return to regular classes. The evaluation will take into consideration such things as the student's behavior, attendance, and academic efforts.

Students who enroll or return to MHS from a facility within a semester will be placed in AE for the remainder of the semester. If a student ends up at the end of a semester in AE with less than 20 days left, he or she must return the entire following semester to AE.

AE students are eligible to participate in prom activities and graduation if they have met all requirements.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 5.25**

## **GRADE LEVEL BY NUMBER OF UNITS**

<b>Freshman:</b>	promoted from 8th grade to 9th grade
<b>Sophomore:</b>	5 units
<b>Junior:</b>	10 units
<b>Senior:</b>	17 units

## **GRADING**

The purpose of grading is to indicate the student's progress in learning, the teacher's suggestions for improvement, and to assist in promotion and grade placement.

Grades given reflect only the achievement of the expressed academic objectives of the course.

The grade earned by a student at the end of a semester is a cumulative grade for that semester and is the grade that is recorded on the transcript. It is the student's responsibility to know his or her grades at all times. A report card is distributed at the end of each 9-weeks grading period.

Parents and students can view grades on the MHS Home Access Center by using the assigned username and password. The username and password may be obtained from a school secretary.

Beginning with the 2005-06 year, the letter grade earned in Algebra I when taken in the eighth grade will count in the student's GPA.

Students who have grades earned in college will be assigned the following numeric values when such courses are used to compute student grade point averages: A-4, B-3, C-2, D-1, F-0.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 5.15**

## **PROMOTION**

Promotion or retention of students, or their required retaking of a course shall be primarily based on the following criteria. Promotion in senior high school is accomplished by subject on a semester basis. All required courses or prerequisite courses failed must be repeated.

Failure to complete or participate in the student's AIP will result in loss of credit for the course in which the AIP was assigned.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT**

Mena High School students who register for Advanced Placement (AP) courses approved by the Arkansas Department of Education are required to participate in the state-funded Advanced Placement exam as a part of the course requirements. Students who complete the course and take the AP exam receive weighted unit with the following numeric values for the purpose of determining grade point averages: A-5, B-4, C-3, D-2, F-0. The weighted unit is not an option, nor is participation in the AP exam. If a student does not take the AP exam, he or she may be charged with the price of the exam.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 5.21**

## **MENA HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY SERVICE PLAN**

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

### **75 Pre-approved Community Service Hours are needed for 1 Graduation Credit [DOES NOT CALCULATE TOWARDS GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA)]**

- The community service project must be pre-approved by your counselor **BEFORE** you begin your hours, and **IT MUST address a social problem or concern.**
- Community service projects will not be accepted if they were completed:
  - For a family member
  - Prior to the summer before entering Grade 9, unless pre-approved
- Please follow these guidelines to earn credit for your hours.

### **Guidelines for Students:**

1. Obtain the required forms from the school website or your school counselor.
2. Develop a written community service plan which **addresses a social problem or concern.**
3. Submit the plan to your counselor for approval **BEFORE** you begin your community service
4. All community service will begin the summer prior to entering high school.
5. Submit community service documentation to your counselor upon completion of the approved activity.

### **Suggested Categories of Service**

- **Service for Youth:** Provide leadership, guidance, and activities for the youth in our community. Ex: Collection of Toys for Holidays
- **Quality of Life:** Work towards improving the standard of living for the residents of our community. Ex: Food Collection Drives; Humane Society help; etc..
- **Service to Senior Citizens:** Provide opportunities for senior citizens to enhance independent living or assist with promoting a quality of life.
- **Health/Safety:** Volunteer services to promote the health, welfare and safety of the residents on our community.
- **Developmentally Disabled and/or Physically Disabled:** Volunteer your services in an effort to improve and enrich the lives of the mentally and physically disabled. Ex: Special Olympics or Project Unify.
- **Environment/Historical Preservations:** Volunteer your services to promote and encourage the preservations of the environment and/or the protection of historical sites. Ex: Community Beautification Projects; Trash Pick-up; Cemetery Beautification.
- **Arts/Culture:** Volunteer your services to encourage the growth of the arts in our community.

### **EXAMPLES OF VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES (DO NOT Count as Community Service Hours)**

- Washing your elderly Neighbor's car or mowing their lawns.
- School/Clubs group car washes or fund raisers
- Babysitting for your neighbor
- Working at parent's store or business
- Helping your pastor at your church with personal errands
- Church activities that benefit only the members of the church

### **DOCUMENTATION NEEDED FOR A CREDIT**

- **Service Learning Log:** Pre-approved weekly logs/time sheet in which the community service hours involved are noted
- **Service Learning Educational Log:** How is this valuable to language/content development.
- **Community Service Verification:** Supervisor of the community service program.
- **Community Service Volunteer Evaluation Form:** Supervisor will fill out upon completion of services performed.
- **Service Learning Analysis:** Summary of learning through the community service process

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

**Twenty-three (23) total units required**

4 Units of English (8 semesters)

3 Units of Social Studies  
 World History (1 unit)  
 U.S. History (1 unit)  
 Civics (1/2 unit) -  
 Economics (1/2 unit Social Studies)

4 Units of Math

3 Units of Science

½ Unit of Physical Activity (Selected from ½ Unit of physical education. or ½ unit of athletics)

½ Unit of Health

½ Unit of Oral Communication (Speech)

½ Unit of Fine Art (Selected from Art, Concert Band, Concert Choir, Advanced Music, or Theater Arts)

7 elective units

Your curriculum will be adjusted according to various criteria such as test scores, teachers' recommendations, counselors' recommendations and evidence of personal commitment.

- **It is the responsibility of the student and parent to be sure that all graduation requirements are being met.**
- Graduation supplies cannot be ordered through the school until a student has 19.5 units.
- A student must have completed all requirements for a diploma or IEP in order to participate in the graduation ceremony.
- All requirements including correspondence courses, college courses, etc. must be completed and grades turned in by the last day seniors are on campus.
- Any student who is enrolled in a public high school in Arkansas and has earned the number of units required by the local school district for graduation shall be eligible to graduate from the high school without regard to the grade level the student is enrolled in at the time such units are earned.
- Diplomas will be awarded after a student has completed all academic requirements and fulfilled all disciplinary and monetary obligations to the school.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.45**

### EARLY GRADUATES

If students complete their educational requirements to graduate from MHS any time prior to their scheduled graduation date, they **are allowed** to return to MHS and participate in MHS graduation ceremonies. These students are not able to participate in any other school related activity, such as prom and extra curricular, that take place after their graduation requirements have been met.

### HONOR ROLL AND MERIT LIST

Students on the honor roll shall have all A's.

Students on the merit list shall have all A's and B's.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 5.7**

### **ACADEMIC LETTER REQUIREMENTS**

The Mena School System encourages academic excellence by recognizing and honoring students who demonstrate commitment to a high level of achievement, and these students will be awarded an Academic Letter.

The following scale will determine eligibility:

Freshman -- 4.00 GPA

Sophomore -- 3.75 GPA

Junior -- 3.50 GPA

Senior -- 3.25 GPA

These are based on student's grades at the end of the first semester each year and are presented at the annual Honor Assembly.

### **CORRESPONDENCE COURSES**

- Correspondence courses made available through accredited colleges may be considered as an option for a student who needs to make up unit(s) during his or her years at MHS or who fails to complete the graduation requirements within the academic year of his/her graduating class.
- In order to be eligible for a diploma from Mena High School, the student and principal will determine the course(s) that must be completed with a passing grade in order for all graduation requirements to be met and a diploma issued.
- All exams for correspondence courses or computer-based concurrent courses must be monitored by an authorized test administrator.
- All transcripts for correspondence courses must be postmarked no later than December 31 of the year in which the student was originally scheduled to graduate.

### **ARKANSAS GOVERNOR'S RECEPTION**

The Arkansas Governor's Reception invites only two top academic students to. If Mena High has more than two top students, the students with the top GPAs will draw for those two positions along with one alternate.

### **ARKANSAS ACADEMIC CHALLENGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

The Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship Program (AACSP) is a guaranteed college scholarship plan to promote academic achievement and encourage academically prepared Arkansas high school graduates to enroll in Arkansas' colleges and universities in a program that leads to an associate, associate of applied science or baccalaureate degree or a nursing school diploma. Requirements include a 19 on the ACT.

### **SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

**English:** four (4) units— 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12<sup>th</sup>

**Oral Communication:** one-half (1/2) unit

**Mathematics:** four (4) units (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.)

- Algebra I or Algebra A & B\* which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9
- Geometry or Geometry A & B\* which may be taken in grades 8-9 or 9-10
- A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the **graduation** requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the **Smart Core** requirement.
- Algebra II
- Choice of: Pre-AP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus, Algebra III, or an Advanced Placement mathematics (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable)

**Natural Science:** three (3) units with lab experience chosen from

- Physical Science
- Biology - required
- Chemistry
- Physics

**Social Studies:** three (3) units

- Civics (1/2 unit)

- World History
- American History

**Physical Education:** one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

**Note:** While one-half (1/2) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

**Health and Safety:** one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

**Economics:** one-half (1/2) unit (may be counted toward Social Studies or Career Focus)

**Fine Arts:** one-half (1/2) unit (1/2 year)

**CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units –**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations.

Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

The Core and career focus units must total at least twenty-two (22) units\* to graduate. Additionally, the district requires an additional unit for a total of 23 units to graduate which may be taken from any electives offered by the district.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.45**

### **HONOR GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS**

Candidates for honor graduate status must meet the criteria below. General Requirements are as follows:

1. Honors: Minimum of 3.2500 GPA (Silver Stole) & 19 on the ACT
2. No course may be repeated for the purpose of improving a student's GPA.
3. A student must complete at least sixteen (16) units selected from the honor core which is equivalent to the Smart Core curriculum. The subjects are marked with either a full or half unit.
4. Students must maintain a 3.2500 or better cumulative GPA for eight (8) consecutive semesters during grades 9-12 and meet Smart Core Curriculum.

**English: Need eight (8) semesters from the following list:**

- English 9 (1 unit)
- English 10 (1 unit)
- English 11 (1 unit)
- English 12 (1 unit)
- AP Language (1 unit)
- AP Literature (1 unit)
- English Composition I (1 unit)
- English Composition II (1 unit)

**Math: Need four (4) units from the following list:–**

- Algebra I (1 unit) – this can be taken in 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
*\*1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> part Algebra count as 1 unit*
- Geometry (1 unit)  
*\*1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> part Geometry count as 1 unit*
- Algebra II (1 unit)
- Algebra III (1 unit) – *Honors level only*
- Pre-AP Pre-Calculus (1 unit)
- AP Calculus (1 unit)
- College Algebra (1 unit)

**Science: Need three (3) units from the following list:**

- Physical Science (1 unit)
- Biology (1 unit)
- Chemistry (1 unit)
- AP Chemistry (1 unit)
- Physics (1 unit)
- Physical Science – concurrent (1 unit)

*1 unit must be from Biology. 2 units must be from Physical Science, Chemistry or Physics; only one unit from each category may be used to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> unit requirements*

**Social Studies: Need three (3) units from the following list:**

- World History (1 unit)
- U.S. History (1 unit)
- Civics/ Economics (1 unit)
- American National Government (1 unit)
- AP U.S. Government and Politics (1 unit)

**\*\*Completing ½ unit of Oral Communications, ½ unit of PE, ½ unit of Health and ½ unit of Fine Arts make up the rest of the required 16 units**

**HIGH AND DISTINGUISHED HONOR GRADUATE REQUIREMENTS**

Recognition will be earned as follows for High and Distinguished Honors:

1. **Distinguished Honors:** Minimum of 3.9200 GPA including designated courses (Gold Stole and Cord)
2. **High Honors:** Minimum of 3.7600 GPA including designated courses (Gold Stole)
3. All requirements listed above for Honors must be met with the following additional requirements:
  - a. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of four (4) units of academic core classes from the honor core during their senior year and meet Smart Core Curriculum.
  - b. **ENGLISH:** Courses must include:  
AP Concurrent Credit Literature OR English Comp I and II.
  - c. **MATH: \*8 SEMESTERS\*** and courses must include:  
Pre-AP Pre-Calculus OR College Algebra/College Trigonometry OR AP Calculus  
*\*Algebra I taken in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade counts for 2 semesters*  
*\*Algebra 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> part cannot be substituted for Algebra I*  
*\*Geometry 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> part cannot be substituted for Geometry*  
*\*Algebra III does not count towards the 8 semester Math requirement but can be used as a core course during senior year if 8 semester requirement has already been met.*
  - d. **SCIENCE: \*4 UNITS\*** and courses must include:  
AP Chemistry OR Physics OR Concurrent credit Physical Science
  - e. **SOCIAL STUDIES: \*4 UNITS\*** and courses must include:  
AP U.S. Government and Politics OR American National Government.
  - f. **FOREIGN LANGUAGE: Need two (2) courses from the following:**
    - Spanish I (1 unit)
    - Spanish II (1 unit)
    - Spanish III (1 unit)
    - College Elementary Spanish I (1 unit)
    - College Elementary Spanish II (1unit)

*Parents or guardians of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, who choose to not have the student publicly identified as an honor roll or honor graduate student must submit a written request that the student not be so identified.*

**GRADUATION SPEECH**

There will be senior student speaker(s) at graduation. All seniors are eligible to audition in the Spring semester. A committee of teachers will choose who will speak during the ceremony.

**CONCURRENT CREDIT**

Students must have consultation from the principal or counselor before enrolling in college courses for dual unit.

Students taking summer classes must have an approved course code number before the course will be counted as high school credit. ***Exception: Concurrent credit courses offered by MHS may not be taken in the summer.***

Mena High School will offer the following concurrent credit courses on campus in a traditional classroom setting:  
\*AP Concurrent Credit English Language (Composition I)

- \*AP Concurrent Credit English Literature (Composition II)
- \* Concurrent Credit Oral Communication
- \* AP Concurrent Credit Chemistry (Chemistry I & II)
- \* Concurrent Credit Physical Science
- \* Pre -AP Concurrent Credit Calculus (College Algebra/College Trigonometry)
- \* AP Concurrent Credit Calculus
- \***Concurrent Credit Accounting I**

\*Students must meet UARM course requirements to enroll in these courses.

\***Please refer to District Policy 5.22**

### **UARM CLASSES** **DURING SCHOOL-DAY RELEASE TIME**

Any student who is taking a UARM class in release time during the school day will be responsible for paying for the UARM class if he or she drops out of the UARM class. If a student is failing the UARM class at 9-weeks, he or she will be required to transfer back to a class on the MHS campus.

If a student misses 12 days in a semester they will be placed back at Mena High School into a credit recovery class.

### **TESTING AND ASSESSMENTS**

The testing program at Mena High School is conducted in the following manner:

**Freshmen:** ACT Aspire (no charge)

**Sophomore:** ACT Aspire (no charge)

**Juniors:** ACT (no charge); ASVAB Tests (no charge); PSAT Tests are given to students on a voluntary basis during the school day (the student may be required to pay a minimum charge to take this test)

**Seniors:** The ACT Test is scheduled Saturdays with a specific charge for the test. There could be other tests necessary for their specific schools or fields of training.

**Other:** Any other test (Psychometric Instrument) may be suggested for proper placement and for enhancing progress of an individual student.

### **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

A club or organization may have requirements that exceed the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) requirements in order to be eligible.

**If a student owes \$5.00 or more at Mena High School for anything such as club fundraisers, library fines, athletic costs, etc., he or she cannot participate in any extracurricular activity during or after the school day, until the money has been paid in full.**

All extracurricular activities are to be held after 3:30 p.m. if scheduled on a regular school day.

**If a student is serving an out-of-school or an in-school suspension, the student will not be permitted to participate in any extracurricular activities and cannot attend any extracurricular activities during the time of the suspension.**

**A student must be in attendance at least 1/2 of the school day in order to participate in any school sponsored activity or practice on that date. Half of the school day is equivalent to four (4) full class periods.**

\***Please refer to District Policy 4.56**

### **PROM**

Students classified as a Junior or a Senior and who currently attend Mena High School are welcome to participate in MHS Prom. MHS Juniors are responsible for choosing a theme and decorating for prom each year. There is a one-time fee that is due prior to attending MHS Prom.

### **CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Honor clubs will meet on a scheduled basis. To be in the honor clubs (FFA, FCCLA, JAG, FBLA, NHS, NEHS), you will have to meet certain requirements. Clubs will meet during the enrichment period.

Other optional, interest-related clubs are available and will meet regularly during the school year.

New clubs may be formed providing they meet the following requirements:

- A. Have a sponsor (faculty member)
- B. Show a purpose and interest for forming
- C. Enough interested students to form and maintain a club

Note: Clubs officers may be selected by various methods including, but not limited to, appointment or selection by club advisor or by election.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.12**

### **JAG PROGRAM**

Jobs for Arkansas Graduates (JAG) are a program designed to help prepare the student for employment and/or post secondary training in a chosen career field. It provides an opportunity for the students to develop the knowledge, attitude, and skills needed for success in their chosen occupation. Some of the elements of JAG are on-the-job training, related classroom instruction and follow-up services after graduation. For information or to apply for the program contact the JAG Coordinator, Karen Purvis.

### **NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY**

The National Honor Society is sponsored by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Candidates for membership shall be members of the junior or senior class. Members of the Mena National Honor Society are chosen by selected members of the faculty. Selection is based on scholastic average, leadership, character, and service. Candidates must be enrolled at Mena High School for at least one semester prior to application.

To be chosen and remain as a member throughout their junior and senior years, students must display outstanding abilities in the following areas:

- Scholarship -- a 3.25 or above scholastic average in the required core of classes.
- Leadership -- active involvement in school or community activities.
- Character -- outstanding behavior at school, home, and community.
- Service -- Evidence of time in service to school and community

### **BEARCAT (YEARBOOK)**

A student can reserve a BEARCAT by ordering and paying for it through the mail or online. This insures that you will get a BEARCAT when they arrive at the end of the school year. The order form will be distributed to students during the fall semester. If you fail to order and pay for a BEARCAT during yearbook sales, you must place your name on a waiting list. On the day the books are distributed, you must wait in line for your name to be called and pay for your BEARCAT. You are not assured of getting a yearbook if you wait to purchase one from the list.

### **THE BEAR FACTS (NEWSPAPER)**

THE BEAR FACTS is the school newspaper, published monthly. This paper may be purchased on a monthly basis from members of the staff.

### **SECOND CHANCE PROGRAM**

Students who are recommended for expulsion MAY be eligible to appeal to the Superintendent of Schools for placement in the "Second Chance Program" to avoid expulsion. This request must be made directly to the superintendent by the parent or guardian and/or the student. This program is designed to allow eligible students a possibility of continuing as a Mena student under a strict probation and with specific limitations if they meet the following:

1. The student cannot have previously been recommended for expulsion in the previous calendar year.
2. The parent and student must agree to be enrolled in and agree to complete participation in the school approved counseling program. The school approved program is provided and administered by the professionals at the Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center.
3. The student agrees to participate in the drug/alcohol testing, counseling, and required meetings prescribed by counseling program. The program administrators will notify the school if the student fails to meet all of the requirements of their program. In addition, if the student fails a drug or alcohol test, they will be considered to have violated their agreement in the "Second Chance Program."
4. The parent and student agree to the requirement that the student complete fifteen (15) hours of approved community service work as a part of this program.
5. The parent and student agree to assume the cost of the counseling program. The parent agrees to completely fulfill their financial agreement with the Western Arkansas Counseling and Guidance Center prior to their child completing the entire program.



Students who meet these requirements may request probationary status from the Superintendent of Schools after they serve the Ten (10) Day Out of School Suspension. If approved, the student may have their recommendation for expulsion modified by the superintendent and will be placed in the “Second Chance Program.”

Parents making the request for this probationary status must contact the Superintendent of Schools and arrange for a meeting with the superintendent. Those in attendance at this meeting may include the superintendent, an administrator from the student’s school, a school counselor, the “Second Chance Program” director, the student, and their parent/guardian. The superintendent may, after reviewing the information provided, choose to allow the student to attend the “Second Chance Program” on a probationary status for the remainder of the school year, or an appropriate and/or comparable length of time as determined by the superintendent.

Students who are placed on probationary status will be allowed to attend the “Second Chance Program” as long as the student satisfactorily completes the counseling program. In addition, the student must meet all prescribed stipulations dealing with school attendance, academic performance, student disciplinary restrictions and other restrictions deemed appropriate by the principal and superintendent. A student who fails to meet all requirements of the counseling program, has a positive drug/alcohol test, or violates the agreed upon terms of the “Second Chance Program” will be considered in violation of the probation and be recommended for immediate expulsion.

The “Second Chance Program” will be an extension of the Alternative Education (AE) program under the guidance of the AE director. Students will be enrolled in AE and follow the requirements and guidelines of the current AE program.

### **DRESS CODE AND APPEARANCE**

The school recognizes that it is both the prerogative and the responsibility of parents to determine how their children shall dress, wear their hair, and otherwise present themselves in public. We assume that what a student wears to school has the approval and reflects the attitude of his/her parents as to what is proper and fitting. We take pride in our students and feel that their individual dress and appearance may indicate their attitude toward school, their desire to learn, their quality of work, and their conduct. Therefore, all students should dress in a manner that is appropriate for school. Clothing should not be extreme or potentially distracting or disrupting.

No undershirt-type apparel, thin-strap, spaghetti strap or racerback tops should be worn. This includes mesh-type fabrics. No shirts with sleeves torn or cut out. Shirts with large armholes are prohibited.

Halter tops, bare midriffs, skirts, jeans or attire which expose any portion of a student’s undergarments or body parts normally covered are prohibited.

Shorts must be mid-thigh or lower, unless wearing leggings. No “soffe” shorts or running shorts that are not mid-thigh all the way around the leg may be worn. **(SKIRTS MUST TOUCH KNEES)**

Holes in pants may not be above mid-thigh level or show any type of undergarment.

No bandannas may be worn.

No hoodies may be worn on the head.

No house shoes allowed.

No pajama bottom pants or scrubs.

No chains allowed on jeans or used as jewelry.

No hats or visors in the school building.

No sunglasses may be worn in the building

No wallet chains are allowed at school.

No clothing that suggests obscenities shall be worn.

No ribbed sleeveless undershirts (aka “A” shirts)

No clothing, emblems, insignias, badges, or other symbols that advocate or insinuate illegal activity shall be worn.

No clothing advertising any product that cannot be legally purchased by a minor shall be worn. Students are prohibited from wearing, while on the school grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female. This prohibition does not apply, however to a costume or uniform worn by a student while participating in a school-sponsored activity or event.

Note: During Spirit Week, if there is a hat day or part of the costume, that day is the only day that hats or caps can be worn.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.25**

### **SCHOOL PRANK**

Senior Pranks can be harmless fun for a graduating class. Senior Pranks that do not cause disruption to the school day or school sponsored events, destruction of school property or violation of any law or school policy will be allowed and considered the rights of passage to graduating seniors.

However, because of the intention of a senior class trying to out due the previous senior class, Senior Pranks have become a problem for the Mena School District. Therefore, it is necessary to address the possibility of student(s) carrying a Senior Prank to the point of disruption, destruction of property or violation of city, county or state law.

In the event that a Senior Prank occurs and causes damage to school property, disruption to the school day or a school sponsored event, or where a city, county or state law is violated the student(s) responsible will be held accountable.

Student(s) responsible for destruction of school property will be held financially responsible for the replacement value or full repair of any property that is damaged. In addition, the school district has the option to assess additional punishments to the student(s) including but not limited the suspension of the student(s) from attending any or all of the graduation ceremonies. In a case where the student(s) have violated a city, county or state law the student(s) may be turned into the local authorities.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.18 and 4.20**

### **VANDALISM - DESTRUCTION OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Vandalism/Destruction of School Property is defined as the intentional defacing or damage done to any property owned by the Mena School District. Vandalism is not limited to a school campus but is included at any location in which Mena School District property is located. Mena School District property is any property paid for by or donated to the Mena School District.

Any person committing vandalism will have to pay restitution to the Mena School District equaling the replacement value of the damaged property. Also, the school district may report the damage to local authorities. Additionally, the school district itself has the option to levy additional punishments up to and including expulsion from school.

### **THEFT OF SCHOOL OR PERSONAL PROPERTY**

The taking of property that does not belong to you is strictly prohibited. Property that belongs to students, teachers, staff members, or the school district should always be left to the care of the property owner. Taking property that does not belong to you is considered theft and is subject to the punishments within this section.

A student taking property that does not belong to them must first return the property to the proper owner. If the property cannot be returned, the student will be financially responsible for the replacement costs of that property to be paid to the school office then remitted directly to the owner of the property. If the property is damaged in any way, the student taking the property will be financially responsible for the repairs needed to return the property to its original working order.

Students taking property not their own may also be subject to punishments deemed necessary by the Mena Public School. These punishments can range from a verbal reprimand to expulsion from school. If deemed necessary by the school officials, students taking property not their own may be reported to local officials.

Theft of property may result in the student being recommended for placement in the Alternative Education program (AE).

## **PUBLIC DISPLAY OF AFFECTION**

Public display of affection (kissing, hugging, etc.) is considered inappropriate behavior at Mena High School. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disciplinary action. Holding hands is the only acceptable form of public display of affection.

## **MEDICINE**

Students who need non-prescription medicine or supplies need to come to the office before school, during lunch, or after school. Only prescription medication will be given between class periods and during class.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.35**

## **CAFETERIA**

It is the responsibility of the students to return trays to the proper location and to maintain a litter-free and orderly atmosphere in the dining area.

## **FREE OR REDUCED MEALS**

A student who starts school at Mena Schools on the first day of classes **AND** is direct certified for free meals will have free meals from that first day of the school year.

A student who transfers to Mena Schools after school has started shall complete paperwork immediately to be approved for free or reduced meals. **He or she will have to pay for meals until the application is approved.** The application will be accepted or rejected within 10 days of submission to the Mena Schools Central Office.

A student who was on free or reduced meals at another school and is transferring to a Mena school shall **immediately** complete paperwork to be approved for free or reduced meals. **He or she will have to pay for meals until the application is approved.**

A student who was at Mena Schools the year before and was on free or reduced meals shall complete paperwork **immediately** at the first of the school year to request to be **re-approved** for free or reduced meals. **The student may have to pay for meals until the application is approved.**

## **SCHOOL TELEPHONE**

Parents should not call the school for their children except in cases of real emergency.

The office telephone can only be used for school business or emergencies. Students should make arrangements on how they are getting home before they come to school in the mornings. The length of all calls should be limited to 3 minutes.

## **PERSONAL ITEMS**

Cell phones, iPods, and personal laptops/tablets are only allowed to be used before school and at lunch in designated areas. Personal laptops and tablets may be used if given permission from the classroom teacher. Laser pointers are banned by law and will be confiscated.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.28**

## **CELL PHONE POLICY**

Use and misuse of cell phones has become a serious problem that threatens the ability of the district's schools to properly and efficiently operate its education program. The school board believes it is necessary to restrict student use and possession of cell phones, other electronic communication devices, MP3 players, iPod, and other portable music devices so that the opportunity for learning in the district's schools may be enhanced.

At the same time, cell phones and other electronic communication devices can, in controlled situations, offer a means to enhance student learning through their ability to access expanded sources of information. Teachers have the authority to permit student use of their cell phones for specific classroom lesson plans or projects. Students must abide by the guidelines the teacher gives for any such authorization. Students who fail to do so will be subject to the provisions of this policy governing misuse of cell phones.

For the purpose of this policy, the use of a cell phone or other communication device includes any incoming call, text message, message waiting, or any other audible sound coming from the phone or device.

The student and/or the student's parents or guardians expressly assume any risk associated with students owning or possessing technology equipment.

Unless otherwise permitted in this policy, acceptable usage is as follows:

Before and after normal school hours and during lunch period, possession of cell phones or similar electronic communication devices, MP3 players, iPods, and other portable music devices is permitted on the school campus in designated areas. The use of such devices at school sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.

If a student uses their personal cell phone or related device during school hours outside of the designated areas or without permission from the classroom teacher, the device may be confiscated by any school personnel. Confiscated cell phones and other electronic communication devices may be picked up at the school's administration office by the student or student's parents or guardians. Students have no right of privacy as to the content contained on any cell phone and other electronic communication devices that have been confiscated.

Students who use personal cell phones and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the district's Internet/computer use policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students are forbidden from personal cell phones while driving any vehicle at any time. Violation may result in disciplinary action including confiscation of the device for a period 2 weeks or 2 days of in school suspension. Continued violation of this policy could result in the student receiving additional disciplinary actions including expulsion.

**\*For further cell phone or electronic device issues, please refer to District Policy 4.29F and 4.47.**

### **DELIVERY OF BALLOONS, FLOWERS, ETC.**

Delivery of balloons and or flowers to school is discouraged. Helium balloons are not allowed on buses.

### **STUDENT USE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY**

The use of school property without proper authorization will be considered as unlawful. Being in a school building without a specific teacher in charge of the activity will be considered trespassing on school grounds and will be dealt with in that manner.

### **BULLETINS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND POSTERS**

Announcements are made each morning at the start of the school day. A copy of the announcements will be posted on the office window. Any student responsible for putting notices on the morning announcements must have the announcement signed by the sponsor and submitted to the office the day before the announcement is to be made. No poster may be posted in the building or on the grounds without permission of the principal. A designated place will be allowed for student posters of interest.

### **LIBRARY**

All library materials become the responsibility of the student who checks out the materials

A library fine of .05 cents per day will be charged on all overdue library items.

The school reserves the right to withhold library privileges to any student who fails to meet these obligations.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

With the passage of State Law Number 5, 1973, free textbooks will be furnished to students with state monies provided through taxes by the legislature and parents.

Inspect your textbooks when issued and take note of their condition. If a textbook must be replaced, the cost of replacement is determined by the condition of the book at the time of loan. Marking and writing in a book will be charged accordingly.

*Exception: UARM courses offered as concurrent credit classes at MHS may require a textbook fee.*

### **DANCES**

Inappropriate dancing may result in disciplinary action.

### **LOCKERS**

Lockers are school property and are subject to search by school officials.

Lockers will be checked out through the office on an as need basis. Locker check-out will be for temporary use only.

## **MATH AND SCIENCE SCHOOL**

Any student who is a senior at the Math and Science School shall have the option of participating in events with and in the same manner as other members of the graduating class in his or her home school district. These events include but not limited to the following: prom, graduation activities, recognition as honor graduate, and yearbook pictures.

## **FIRE AND TORNADO DRILLS**

A fire drill is indicated by a continuous signal.

A tornado drill is given by the public address system or by office runner.

Drills will be held at various times throughout the year. Teachers will instruct students as to the proper procedures to follow. Fire escape routes are shown on a chart in each classroom. Students are to maintain silence and good order throughout all drills

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.37**

## **ACTIVITY RULES FOR TRIPS**

Students will be expected to conduct themselves at school activities in the same manner as during school hours. Disciplinary action will be taken for misconduct at school activities as would apply during school hours. All trips involving any sizable number of students will be made on school buses driven by regular drivers or by regular substitute drivers.

Students who are transported in a school vehicle to an event or place will be expected to return to the home community in the school vehicle. A parent or guardian, who has attended the same event, may personally contact the coach or sponsor and take responsibility for return transportation of his or her child by signing the Sign-Out Sheet.

If the parent wants someone other than the school to bring a student back, a parent may hand deliver on the day of the event a notarized note to the sponsor or coach with instructions for return transportation of their child

## **DRIVER'S LICENSE**

Every application for an instruction permit or for an operator's license by a person less than eighteen years old on October 1 of any year, shall be accompanied by proof of receipt of enrollment and regular attendance in a public, private, or parochial school.

The student shall present proof of a "C" average for the previous semester in order to be issued a license. A student receiving special education or related services shall present proof that the student is successfully completing his or her individual education plan.

If a student drops out of school before turning 18, his or her driver license will be revoked.

## **HARDSHIP DRIVER LICENSE**

The principal will write a letter of recommendation for a hardship driver license if the student has a need for the license, has a 3.0 grade point average or better, and has satisfactory school attendance.

## **VEHICLES AND PARKING LOTS**

Licensed drivers may operate a motor vehicle on campus if the following rules are obeyed:

1. Each student's vehicles must display a parking sticker that must be purchased from the assistant principal for \$5.00. (All fines must be paid before a parking sticker may be purchased.) A student must notify the office any time he/she drives a vehicle that does not have a parking sticker. A student may not share a parking sticker/parking spot with another student.
2. Failure to display parking sticker or an improperly parked vehicle may result in vehicle being towed.
3. Upon arrival, students immediately are to exit their vehicles and leave the parking lot. They can return to the parking lot only at departure time. Loitering in the parking lot is not permitted.
4. Students may not walk into the parking lot during school hours unless permission is obtained from the principal or assistant principal.
5. The student parking lot is school property. Therefore, cars using the parking lot are subject to search by teachers and administrators without student consent. Any illegal or contraband material or material evidence of a school rule being violated will be seized.
6. When seniors leave at the end of the school year, parking places are on a first come-first served basis for the remainder of the school year.

7. Fast or reckless driving will not be tolerated.
8. While on parking lot, a radio/stereo must be tuned down low.
9. Students may not drive past the bus loading area on the north end of the high school without permission from the principal or assistant principal. Students should walk to Holly Harshman Elementary for any activities at that school.
- 10. Student drivers will have to submit to the random drug testing policy and sign the consent form to be able to obtain a parking sticker**

**Failure to comply with these rules could result in the loss of driving privileges on the Mena High School campus in addition to disciplinary penalties.**

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.32 and 4.33**

### **BUSES AND TRANSPORTATION**

The same rules apply to behavior on the bus as on the school campus. Students are under the supervision of the bus driver and must obey him/her at all times while they are on his/her bus.

The north side of the high school is the area where buses will load and unload students. Students need to stay behind yellow lines until loading bus.

Only students who ride a bus can be in bus loading area.

No cars are to be in the bus loading area at any time.

Students may not drive past the bus loading area on the north end of the high school without permission from the principal or assistant principal.

### **IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION (ISS)**

Non-attendance to in-school suspension will be an out of school suspension equal to double the assigned time.

### **OUT OF SCHOOL SUSPENSION (OSS)**

During an out of school suspension, a student will not get credit for class work but may obtain the assignments in order to keep up academically with classes. He or she cannot attend classes on high school campus or at UARM. A student cannot participate in or attend any school activity on a day he or she is suspended or expelled.

**\*Please refer to District Policy 4.30**

### **EXEMPTION POLICY**

**Each student will be required to take all semester exams at the conclusion of the fall semester.**

If a student shows academic success in the classroom and has not missed many classes, they will be rewarded by being exempt from each class where they meet the criteria during the **spring** semester.

The criteria are as follows:

A student has an "A" in a class with '3' or fewer absences will be exempt from the semester exam;

A student has a "B" in a class with '2' or fewer absences will be exempt from the semester exam;

A student has a "C" in a class with '1' or fewer absences will be exempt from the semester exam.

For this purpose, an absence is counted per class period and can be either excused or unexcused.

### **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF STUDY**

To be a **Completer**, a student must take all classes listed under a **Program of Study**

#### **AGRICULTURE**

##### **Animal Systems -- Program of Study**

Survey of Ag Systems	1 unit
Animal Science	1 unit
Agriculture Elective	0.5 unit

Agriculture Elective 0.5 unit

**Natural Resource Management Systems -- Program of Study**

Survey of Ag Systems 1 unit  
Forestry 0.5 unit  
Managing Our Natural Resources 0.5 unit  
Agriculture Elective 0.5 unit  
Agriculture Elective 0.5 unit

**Power, Structural, and Technical Systems -- Program of Study**

Survey of Ag Systems 1 unit  
Agriculture Mechanics I 0.5 unit  
Agriculture Mechanics II 0.5 unit  
Agriculture Elective 0.5 unit  
Agriculture Elective 0.5 unit

**BUSINESS**

**Accounting -- Program of Study**

CBA or CAI/II 1 unit  
Computerized Accounting I 1 unit  
Computerized Accounting II 1 unit

**Social Media and Communications -- Program of Study**

CBA or CAI/II 1 unit  
Computerized Accounting I 1 unit  
Social Media and Communications 1 unit

**FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

**Child Care Guidance, Management, and Services -- Program of Study**

Family and Consumer Sciences 1 unit  
Child Development 0.5 unit  
Parenting 0.5 unit  
Child Care Guidance, Management & Services 1 unit

**Family and Consumer Sciences Education --  
Program of Study**

Family and Consumer Sciences 1 unit  
2 more units required from the following:  
Child Development 0.5 unit  
Parenting 0.5 unit  
Food & Nutrition 0.5 unit  
Food Safety 0.5 unit

**Orientation to Teaching  
Program of Study**

Family and Consumer Sciences 1 unit  
Orientation to Teaching I or II 1 unit  
Choose either:  
Parenting 0.5 unit  
Child Development 0.5 unit  
OR  
Sociology 0.5 unit  
Psychology 0.5 unit

## **GRADING SCALE**

A+ = 98 – 100	C+ = 77 - 79
A = 94 – 97	C = 74 – 76
A- = 90 – 93	C- = 70 – 73
B+ = 87 – 89	D+ = 67 – 69
B- = 84 – 86	D = 64 – 66
B = 80 – 83	D- = 60 – 63
	F = 59 – below

NC = does figure into cumulative GPA as an F

NG = does not figure into cumulative GPA

## **DISTRICT - STUDENT POLICY**

### **SECTION 4—STUDENTS 2018-2019**

#### **4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS**

Definitions:

“Reside” means to be physically present and to maintain a permanent place of abode for an average of no fewer than four (4) calendar days and nights per week for a primary purpose other than school attendance.

“Resident” means a student whose parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside in the school district.

“Residential address” means the physical location where the student’s parents, legal guardians, persons having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or persons standing in loco parentis reside. A student may use the residential address of a legal guardian, person having legal, lawful control of the student under order of a court, or person standing in loco parentis only if the student resides at the same residential address and if the guardianship or other legal authority is not granted solely for educational needs or school attendance purposes.

The schools of the District shall be open and free through the completion of the secondary program to all persons between the ages of five (5) and twenty one (21) years whose parents, legal guardians, or other persons having lawful control of the person under an order of a court reside within the District and to all persons between those ages who have been legally transferred to the District for educational purposes.

Any person eighteen (18) years of age or older may establish a residence separate and apart from his or her parents or guardians for school attendance purposes.

In order for a person under the age of eighteen (18) years to establish a residence for the purpose of attending the District’s schools separate and apart from his or her parents, guardians, or other persons having lawful control of him or her under an order of a court, the person must actually reside in the District for a primary purpose other than that of school attendance. However, a student previously enrolled in the district who is placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty may continue to attend district schools. A foster child who was previously enrolled in a District school and who has had a change in placement to a residence outside the District, may continue to remain enrolled in his/her current school unless the presiding court rules otherwise.

Under instances prescribed in A.C.A. § 6-18-203, a child or ward of an employee of the district or of the education coop to which the district belongs may enroll in the district even though the employee and his/her child or ward reside outside the district.

Children whose parent or legal guardian relocates within the state due to a mobilization, deployment, or available military housing while on active duty in or serving in the reserve component of a branch of the United States Armed Forces or National Guard may continue attending school in the school district the children were attending prior to the relocation or attend school in the school district where the children have relocated. A child may complete all remaining school years at the enrolled school district regardless of mobilization, deployment, or military status of the parent or guardian.

#### **4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

To enroll in a school in the District, the child must be a resident of the District as defined in District policy (4.1—RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), meet the criteria outlined in policy 4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS or in policy 4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN, be accepted as a transfer student under the provisions of policy 4.4, or participate under a school choice option and submit the required paperwork as required by the choice option.

Students may enter kindergarten if they will attain the age of five (5) on or before August 1 of the year in which they are seeking initial enrollment. Any student who has been enrolled in a state-accredited or state-approved kindergarten program in another state for at least sixty (60) days, who will become five (5) years old during the year in which he/she is enrolled in kindergarten, and who meets the basic residency requirement for school attendance may be enrolled in kindergarten upon written request to the District.

Any child who will be six (6) years of age on or before October 1 of the school year of enrollment and who has not completed a state-accredited kindergarten program shall be evaluated by the district and may be placed in the first grade if the results of the evaluation justify placement in the first grade and the child’s parent or legal guardian agrees with placement in the first grade; otherwise the child shall be placed in kindergarten.

Any child may enter first grade in a District school if the child will attain the age of six (6) years during the school year in which the child is seeking enrollment and the child has successfully completed a kindergarten program in a public school in Arkansas.

Any child who has been enrolled in the first grade in a state-accredited or state-approved elementary school in another state for a period of at least sixty (60) days, who will become age six (6) years during the school year in which he/she is enrolled in grade one (1), and who meets the basic residency requirements for school attendance may be enrolled in the first grade.

Students who move into the District from an accredited school shall be assigned to the same grade as they were attending in their previous school (mid-year transfers) or as they would have been assigned in their previous school. Private school students shall be evaluated by the District to determine their appropriate grade placement. Home school students enrolling or re-enrolling as a public school student shall be placed in accordance with policy 4.6—HOME SCHOOLING.

The district shall make no attempt to ascertain the immigration status, legal or illegal, of any student or his/her parent or legal guardian presenting for enrollment.

Prior to the child’s admission to a District school:

1. The parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall furnish the child’s social security number, or if they request, the district will assign the child a nine (9) digit number designated by the department of education.



2. The parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall provide the district with one (1) of the following documents indicating the child's age:
  - a. A birth certificate;
  - b. A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth;
  - c. An attested baptismal certificate;
  - d. A passport;
  - e. An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent or guardian;
  - f. United States military identification; or
  - g. Previous school records.
3. The parent, guardian, or other responsible person shall indicate on school registration forms whether the child has been expelled from school in any other school district or is a party to an expulsion proceeding. The Board of Education reserves the right, after a hearing before the Board, not to allow any person who has been expelled from another school district to enroll as a student until the time of the person's expulsion has expired.
4. In accordance with Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS, the child shall be age appropriately immunized or have an exemption issued by the Arkansas Department of Health.

#### **Uniformed Services Member's Children**

For the purposes of this policy:

"Active duty members of the uniformed services" includes members of the National Guard and Reserve on active duty orders pursuant to 10 U.S.C. Section 1209 and 1211;

"Uniformed services" means the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as the Commissioned Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and Public Health Services;

"Veteran" means: a person who served in the uniformed services and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.

"Eligible child" means the children of:

- Active duty members of the uniformed services;
- Members or veterans of the uniformed services who are severely injured and medically discharged or retired for a period of one (1) year after medical discharge or retirement; and
- Members of the uniformed services who die on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty for a period of one (1) year after death.

An eligible child as defined in this policy shall:

1. Be allowed to continue his/her enrollment at the grade level commensurate with his/her grade level he/she was in at the time of transition from his/her previous school, regardless of age;
2. Be eligible for enrollment in the next highest grade level, regardless of age if the student has satisfactorily completed the prerequisite grade level in his/her previous school;
3. Enter the District's school on the validated level from his/her previous accredited school when transferring into the District after the start of the school year;
4. Be enrolled in courses and programs the same as or similar to the ones the student was enrolled in his/her previous school to the extent that space is available. This does not prohibit the District from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement and continued enrollment of the student in the courses/and/or programs;
5. Be provided services comparable to those the student with disabilities received in his/her previous school based on his/her previous Individualized Education Program (IEP). This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
6. Make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of an incoming student with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan, necessary to provide the student with equal access to education. This does not preclude the District school from performing subsequent evaluations to ensure appropriate placement of the student;
7. Be enrolled by an individual who has been given the special power of attorney for the student's guardianship. The individual shall have the power to take all other actions requiring parental participation and/or consent;
8. Be eligible to continue attending District schools if he/she has been placed under the legal guardianship of a noncustodial parent living outside the district by a custodial parent on active military duty.

#### **4.3—COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Every parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of any child age five (5) through seventeen (17) years on or before August 1 of that year who resides, as defined by policy (RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS), within the District shall enroll and send the child to a District school with the following exceptions.

1. The child is enrolled in private or parochial school.
2. The child is being home-schooled and the conditions of policy (4.6—HOME SCHOOLING) have been met.
3. The child will not be age six (6) on or before August 1 of that particular school year and the parent, guardian, or other person having custody or charge of the child elects not to have him/her attend kindergarten. A kindergarten waiver form prescribed by regulation of the Department of Education must be signed and on file with the District administrative office.
4. The child has received a high school diploma or its equivalent as determined by the State Board of Education.
5. The child is age sixteen (16) or above and is enrolled in a post-secondary vocational-technical institution, a community college, or a two-year or four-year institution of higher education.
6. The child is age sixteen (16) or seventeen (17) and has met the requirements to enroll in an adult education program as defined by A.C.A. § 6-18-201 (b).

#### **4.4—STUDENT TRANSFERS**

The Mena District shall review and accept or reject requests for transfers, both into and out of the district, on a case by case basis at the July and December regularly scheduled board meetings.

The District may reject a nonresident's application for admission if its acceptance would necessitate the addition of staff or classrooms, exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building, or cause the District to provide educational services not currently provided in the affected school. The District shall reject applications that would cause it to be out of compliance with applicable laws and regulations regarding desegregation.

Any student transferring from a school accredited by the Department of Education to a school in this district shall be placed into the same grade the student would have been in had the student remained at the former school. Any grades, course credits, and/or promotions received by a student while enrolled in the Division of Youth Services system of education shall be considered transferable in the same manner as those grades, course credits, and promotions from other accredited Arkansas public educational entities.

Any student transferring from a school that is not accredited by the Department of Education to a District school shall be evaluated by District staff to determine the student's appropriate grade placement. A student transferring from home school will be placed in accordance with Policy 4.6—HOME SCHOOLING.

The Board of Education reserves the right, after a hearing before the Board, not to allow any person who has been expelled from another district to enroll as a student until the time of the person's expulsion has expired.

Except as otherwise required or permitted by law, the responsibility for transportation of any nonresident student admitted to a school in this District shall be borne by the student or the student's parents. The District and the resident district may enter into a written agreement with the student or student's parents to provide transportation to or from the District, or both.

#### **4.5—SCHOOL CHOICE**

##### **Standard School Choice**

###### **Exemption**

The District is under an enforceable desegregation court order/court-approved desegregation plan<sup>1</sup> that explicitly limits the transfer of students between school districts and has submitted the appropriate documentation to the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE).<sup>2</sup> As a result of the desegregation order/desegregation plan<sup>1</sup>, the District is exempt from the provisions of the Public School Choice Act of 2015 (Standard School Choice) and the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act of 2004 (Opportunity School Choice). The District shall notify the superintendents of each of its geographically contiguous school districts of its exemption.<sup>3</sup> The exemption prohibits the District from accepting any school choice applications from students wishing to transfer into or out of the District through standard School Choice or Opportunity School Choice.<sup>4</sup>

###### **Definition**

"Sibling" means each of two (2) or more children having a parent in common by blood, adoption, marriage, or foster care.

###### **Transfers into the District**

###### **Capacity Determination and Public Pronouncement**

The Board of Directors will adopt a resolution containing the capacity standards for the District. The resolution will contain the acceptance determination criteria identified by academic program, class, grade level, and individual school. The school is not obligated to add any teachers, other staff, or classrooms to accommodate choice applications. The District may only deny a Standard School Choice application if the District has a lack of capacity by the District having reached ninety percent (90%) of the maximum student population in a program, class, grade level, or school building authorized by the Standards or other State/Federal law.<sup>5</sup>

The District shall advertise in appropriate broadcast media and either print media or on the Internet to inform students and parents in adjoining districts of the range of possible openings available under the School Choice program. The public pronouncements shall state the application deadline and the requirements and procedures for participation in the program. Such pronouncements shall be made in the spring, but in no case later than March 1.<sup>6</sup>

###### **Application Process**

The student's parent shall submit a school choice application on a form approved by ADE to this District. The transfer application must be postmarked or hand delivered on or before May 1 of the year preceding the fall semester the applicant would begin school in the District. The District shall date and time stamp all applications as they are received in the District's central office. It is the District's responsibility to send a copy of the application that includes the date and time stamp to the student's resident district within ten (10) days of the District receiving the application.<sup>7</sup> Applications postmarked or hand delivered on or after May 2 will not be accepted. Statutorily, preference is required to be given to siblings of students who are already enrolled in the District. Therefore, siblings whose applications fit the capacity standards approved by the Board of Directors may be approved ahead of an otherwise qualified non-sibling applicant who submitted an earlier application as identified by the application's date and time stamp.

The approval of any application for a choice transfer into the District is potentially limited by the applicant's resident district's statutory limitation of losing no more than three percent (3%) of its past year's student enrollment due to Standard School Choice. As such, any District approval of a choice application prior to July 1 is provisional pending a determination that the resident district's three percent (3%) cap has not been reached.

The Superintendent will consider all properly submitted applications for School Choice. By July 1, the Superintendent shall notify the parent and the student's resident district, in writing, of the decision to accept or reject the application.

###### **Accepted Applications**

Applications which fit within the District's stated capacity standards shall be provisionally accepted, in writing, with the notification letter stating a reasonable timeline by which the student shall enroll in the District by taking the steps detailed in the letter, including submission of all required documents. If the student fails to enroll within the stated timeline, or if all necessary steps to complete the enrollment are not taken, or examination of the documentation indicates the applicant does not meet the District's stated capacity standards, the acceptance shall be null and void.<sup>8</sup>

A student, whose application has been accepted and who has enrolled in the District, is eligible to continue enrollment until completing his/her secondary education. Continued enrollment is conditioned upon the student meeting applicable statutory and District policy requirements. Any student who has been accepted under choice and who either fails to initially enroll under the timelines and provisions provided in this policy; who chooses to return to his/her resident district; or who enrolls in a home school or private school voids the transfer and must reapply if, in the future, the student seeks another school choice transfer. A subsequent transfer application will be subject to the capacity standards applicable to the year in which the application is considered by the District.

A present or future sibling of a student who continues enrollment in this District may enroll in the District by submitting a Standard School Choice application. Applications of siblings of presently enrolled choice students are subject to the provisions of this policy including the capacity standards applicable to the year in which the sibling's application is considered by the District. A sibling who enrolls in the District through Standard School Choice is eligible to remain in the District until completing his/her secondary education.

Students whose applications have been accepted and who have enrolled in the district shall not be discriminated against on the basis of gender, national origin, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability.

###### **Rejected Applications**

The District may reject an application for a transfer into the District under Standard School Choice due to a lack of capacity. However, the decision to accept or reject an application may not be based on the student's previous academic achievement, athletic or other extracurricular ability, English proficiency level, or previous disciplinary proceedings other than a current expulsion.<sup>9</sup>

An application may be provisionally rejected if it is for an opening that was included in the District's capacity resolution, but was provisionally filled by an earlier applicant. If the provisionally approved applicant subsequently does not enroll in the District, the provisionally rejected applicant could be provisionally approved and would have to meet the acceptance requirements to be eligible to enroll in the District.

Rejection of applications shall be in writing and shall state the reason(s) for the rejection. A student whose application was rejected may request a hearing before the State Board of Education to reconsider the application which must be done, in writing to the State Board within ten (10) days of receiving the rejection letter from the District.

Any applications that are denied due to the student's resident district reaching the three percent (3%) limitation cap shall be given priority for a choice transfer the following year in the order that the District received the original applications.

#### **Transfers Out of the District**

All Standard School Choice applications shall be granted unless the approval would cause the District to have a net enrollment loss (students transferring out minus those transferring in) of more than three percent (3%) of the average daily membership on October 15 of the immediately preceding year. By December 15 of each year, ADE shall determine and notify the District of the net number of allowable choice transfers. Students are not counted for the purpose of determining the three percent (3%) cap if the student transfers from a school or district in:

- Academic Distress or classified as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support under A.C.A. § 6-18-227;
- Facilities Distress under A.C.A. § 6-21-812; or
- Foster Child School Choice under A.C.A. § 6-18-233.

If, prior to July 1, the District receives sufficient copies of requests from other districts for its students to transfer to other districts to trigger the three percent (3%) cap, it shall notify each district the District received Standard School Choice applications from that it has tentatively reached the limitation cap. The District will use confirmations of approved choice applications from receiving districts to make a final determination of which applications it received that exceeded the limitation cap and notify each district that was the recipient of an application to that effect.<sup>10</sup>

When the last successful application requesting to transfer out of the District before the District's three percent (3%) cap was triggered belonged to an individual who was a member of a group of siblings who applied to transfer out of the District, the District shall allow all members of the individual's sibling group to transfer out of the District even though these applications are beyond the District's transfer cap.

#### **Facilities Distress School Choice Applications**

There are a few exceptions from the provisions of the rest of this policy that govern choice transfers triggered by facilities distress. Any student attending a school district that has been identified as being in facilities distress may transfer under the provisions of this policy, but with the following four (4) differences.

- The receiving district cannot be in facilities distress;
- The transfer is only available for the duration of the time the student's resident district remains in distress;
- The student is not required to meet the June 1 application deadline; and
- The student's resident district is responsible for the cost of transporting the student to this District's school.

#### **Opportunity School Choice**

##### **Transfers Into or Within the District<sup>11</sup>**

For the purposes of this section of the policy, a "lack of capacity"<sup>12</sup> is defined as when the receiving school has reached the maximum student-to-teacher ratio allowed under federal or state law, the ADE Rules for the Standards of Accreditation, or other applicable rules. There is a lack of capacity if, as of the date of the application for Opportunity School Choice, ninety-five percent (95%) or more of the seats at the grade level at the nonresident school are filled.

Unless there is a lack of capacity<sup>12</sup> at the District's school or the transfer conflicts with the provisions of a federal desegregation order applicable to the District, a student who is enrolled in or assigned to a school classified by the ADE to be in academic distress or in a district classified by ADE as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support is eligible to transfer to the school closest to the student's legal residence that is not in academic distress or in a district classified as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support. The student's parent or guardian, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), must successfully complete the necessary application process by July 30 preceding the initial year of desired enrollment.

Within thirty (30) days from receipt of an application from a student seeking admission under this section of the policy, the Superintendent shall notify in writing the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, whether the Opportunity School Choice application has been accepted or rejected. The notification shall be sent via First-Class Mail to the address on the application.

If the application is accepted, the notification letter shall state the deadline by which the student must enroll in the receiving school or the transfer will be null and void.

If the District rejects the application, the District shall state in the notification letter the specific reasons for the rejection.<sup>13</sup> A parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, may appeal the District's decision to deny the application to the State Board of Education. The appeal must be in writing to the State Board of Education via certified mail, return receipt requested, no later than ten (10) calendar days, excluding weekends and legal holidays, after the notice of rejection was received from the District.

A student's enrollment under Opportunity School Choice is irrevocable for the duration of the school year and is renewable until the student completes high school or is beyond the legal age of enrollment. This provision for continuing eligibility under Opportunity School Choice does not negate the student's right to apply for transfer to a district other than the student's assigned school or resident district under the Standard School Choice provisions of this policy.

The District may, but is not obligated to provide transportation to and from the transferring district.<sup>14</sup>

##### **Transfers out of, or within, the District<sup>11</sup>**

If a District school has been classified by the ADE as being in academic distress or the District has been classified by ADE as in need of Level 5 Intensive Support, the District shall timely notify the parent, guardian, or student, if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, as soon as practicable after the academic distress or in need of Level 5 Intensive Support designation is made of all options available under Opportunity School Choice. The District shall offer the parent or guardian, or the student if the student is over eighteen (18) years of age, an opportunity to enroll the student in any public school or school district that has not been classified by the ADE as a public school in academic distress or school district in need of Level 5 Intensive Support.

Additionally, the District shall request public service announcements to be made over the broadcast media and in the print media at such times and in such a manner as to inform parents or guardians of students in adjoining districts of the availability of the program, the application deadline, and the requirements and procedure for nonresident students to participate in the program.<sup>15</sup>

#### **Unsafe School Choice Program**

Any student that becomes the victim of a violent criminal offense while in or on the grounds of a District school or who is attending a school classified by ADE as a persistently dangerous public school shall be allowed to attend a safe public school within the District.

Notes: <sup>1</sup> Select the version of the desegregation order that applies to your district.

<sup>2</sup> A.C.A. § 6-13-113 requires a district under a desegregation court order or court-approved desegregation plan to submit to ADE by January 1, 2016:

- A copy of the desegregation order or desegregation-related order;
- The case heading and case number of each court case in which the order was entered;
- The name and location of each court that maintains jurisdiction over the order; and
- A description of the school choice student transfer desegregation obligations, if any, that the school district is subject to, related to the order.

Should the district be released by the court, the district is responsible to promptly notify ADE. ADE will post all districts who have submitted the proper paperwork on its website.

In addition, A.C.A. § 6-18-1906 requires districts claiming an exemption based on a desegregation order/desegregation plan to submit documentation by January 1 of each year that contains the following:

- Documentation that the desegregation order or court-approved desegregation plan is still active and enforceable; and
- Documentation showing the specific language the school district believes limits its participation in Standard School Choice.

ADE will notify the district within thirty (30) calendar days of receipt of the submitted documentation whether or not it is required to participate in standard school choice. If ADE does not provide a written exemption to the district, then the district is required to participate in Standard School Choice. The district may submit a written petition to the State Board to review ADE's decision.

<sup>3</sup> If your district doesn't meet the provisions of this paragraph, delete it and, for your master copy of the policy, renumber the remaining footnotes accordingly.

While the policy language requiring the district to notify its contiguous districts that it is exempt from the school choice provisions is not statutorily required, it is advocated by Commissioner's Memo Com-13-061 and we believe it is necessary if potential receiving districts are going to be able to intelligently inform parents who have applied to their school.

<sup>4</sup> If the desegregation court order/court-approved desegregation plan your district is under would prohibit standard school choice but would not prohibit Opportunity School Choice, remove the references to Opportunity Choice in this paragraph and add the following sentence:

*While the District's desegregation court order/court-approved-desegregation-plan exempts the District from the provisions of Standard School Choice, the District's desegregation court order/court-approved-desegregation-plan does not exempt it from the transfer provisions of the Arkansas Opportunity Public School Choice Act of 2004 (Opportunity School Choice).*

We advise districts to consult with their attorney about the district's desegregation court order/court-approved-desegregation-plan applicability to the exemption provisions in A.C.A. § 6-18-906 and A.C.A. § 6-18-227 and whether you will need to include both, either, or neither policy provisions on standard School Choice or Opportunity School Choice in your final version of this policy.

<sup>5</sup> For the Resolution, see Form 4.5F. There is no real flexibility in setting capacity as you can no longer take growth into account when setting slots for Standard School Choice. Districts may only deny a transfer if the transfer would place the district above the ninety percent (90%) maximum under law or the student's resident district has reached its three percent (3%) cap. Your application of a lack of capacity must be consistent; you can't choose to add a teacher due to accepting a student, but refuse to add a staff member because the applicant requires special education.

Once the resolution has been made, the Board's role in determining acceptance is finished and no further board action is required to accept school choice students.

<sup>6</sup> The statute does not stipulate a date and you can choose your own, but it should give parents a reasonable opportunity to submit their application. While the statute gives districts a choice between advertising in print or on the Internet, it also doesn't prohibit advertising in both. To help inform parents before they try to apply so they will know in advance if it's actually a possibility that their child could be accepted, we suggest either including your capacity resolution in the public announcements or state where the resolution can be picked up.

<sup>7</sup> While A.C.A. § 6-18-1905(a)(1) only requires the non-resident district to notify the resident district of the receipt of an application, any notification without the date and time of the receipt of the application will make it impossible for a resident district that has reached its three percent (3%) cap to know the student who triggered the reaching of the cap. If you do not wish to transmit a copy of the application to the resident district, replace the sentence with the following language:  
*It is the District's responsibility to notify the student's resident district of the receipt of the student's application within ten (10) days of the District receiving the application; the notification shall include the student's name and the date and time the District received the application.*

<sup>8</sup> Consider the following about the timing of your acceptance of an application and why it's important to provisionally accept each application until the notification letter is returned to you:

The later you accept an application, the more confident you can be about accepting or denying based on capacity. (For example, have as many students as usual moved into your district and were they in the expected grade level patterns?) However, an earlier, **provisional**, acceptance, such as June 1, gives you more time to determine through the use of your acceptance notification letter whether the student's reality matches the information supplied on the application. For example, would the applicant have been held back in 3rd grade in the resident school and the parent is trying to keep that from happening by transferring. While you may have an opening in 4th grade (the grade the parent would have applied for), you may not have an opening in 3rd grade and so would need to deny the application once the paperwork was submitted.

Another example would be an application for a kindergarten choice transfer. When reviewing the completed paperwork, you discover the child is medically fragile and will require additional staff to meet the student's needs. Provisional acceptance gives you the time and opportunity to reconsider your acceptance and still meet the July 1 deadline.

<sup>9</sup> You are required to hold a hearing about the student's expulsion. (See A.C.A. § 6-18-510.) It is possible that the expulsion was for a disciplinary infraction that does not result in expulsion in your district. If this is the case, you have the choice of whether or not to admit the student under school choice due to the resident district's expulsion of the student.

<sup>10</sup> The "shalls" used in this paragraph are not statutorily required (The Public School Choice Act of 2015 simply doesn't address the issue), but without notification to the non-resident district, there is no way for the non-resident district to know when the cap has been reached.

<sup>11</sup> Only include "or within" if your district has more than one school with the same grade(s).

<sup>12</sup> The capacity standards under "Opportunity Choice" are slightly more strict than under "Standard Choice" standards and are limited to what is stated in the policy. Additionally, by Rule, you are required to base your decision on ninety-five (95%) of capacity at the time of the application with no provision for consideration of your district's normal growth. Just as with Standard School Choice, your application of a lack of capacity must be consistent; you can't choose to add a teacher due to accepting a student, but refuse to add a staff member because the applicant requires special education.

<sup>13</sup> The student or his/her parents may appeal to the State Board a decision to deny admission.

<sup>14</sup> Sending districts are required to spend up to four hundred dollars (\$400) per year to transport the student. The statute and the Rules are unclear. They both state that receiving districts **may** transport opportunity choice students, but sending districts **shall** pay up to four hundred dollars (\$400) per year to transport the student. The policy's language makes no attempt to settle the discrepancy. The financial responsibility of the transferring district goes away when the school/district is no longer in academic distress. At that time the statute states that the receiving district may choose to pay for the transportation.

<sup>15</sup> Opportunity Choice does not give you the option contained in Standard Choice of advertising on the Internet in place of print media.

#### **4.5F2--SCHOOL CHOICE PROVISIONAL ACCEPTANCE LETTER**

Dear Parent's name,

The application you submitted for student's name has been provisionally accepted. While the school's name looks forward to welcoming student's name as a student, to further the application process and to better assist the district in determining the proper placement of student's name, please submit the information listed below to district or school's address by enter date. Failure to submit the information requested by the date specified shall void and nullify this letter's provisional acceptance. In addition to the information you submit, records may be requested from the student's current district/school, and final acceptance may depend on the content of those records as to appropriate grade placement, program placement or services required. A student who has not previously attended an Arkansas public school or did not attend an Arkansas public school in the previous academic year may be evaluated by the district prior to final acceptance, and the results of that evaluation could impact final acceptance.

For students applying to enroll in first grade or higher: a copy of the student's transcript from the school where the student is currently enrolled. The student's permanent record, including the original transcript, will be requested from the school immediately following the student's actual enrollment in our district.

Proof of the student's age; This can be a 1) birth certificate; 2) A statement by the local registrar or a county recorder certifying the child's date of birth; 3) An attested baptismal certificate; 4) A passport; 5) An affidavit of the date and place of birth by the child's parent or guardian; 6) United States military identification; or 7) Previous school records.

The student's health care needs at school.

Student's name age appropriate immunization record or an exemption granted for the previous school-year and a statement of whether or not the parent is intending to continue the exemption for the upcoming school year.

After reviewing the submitted documentation the District will determine if the applicant meets the District's capacity standards and notify you of its decision by insert date. Please note that the acceptance of an application can be reversed if it is determined that the application is in violation of student's name's resident district's limitation cap for available school choice transfers or if the resident district has reached its statutory cap for transfers out of its district.

Respectfully,

Insert name

Insert position/title

#### **4.5F3—SCHOOL CHOICE ACCEPTANCE LETTER**

Dear Parent's name,

I am pleased to inform you that the application you submitted for student's name has been accepted pending enrollment of student's name by insert date, however, failure to enroll student's name by this date will render this offer of acceptance null and void.

I look forward to welcoming student's name as part of the school or District's name and/or mascot.

Once your child has enrolled in school with us this coming school-year, student's name will be eligible to continue enrollment in the district until completing high school or is beyond the legal age of enrollment provided the student meets the applicable statutory and District policy requirements all other District students must meet (with the exception of residency in the District) to continue District enrollment. This information is contained in the student handbook.

**Please Note:** The Mena School District has no control over when a student's resident district might reach its statutory limit on allowable transfers out of its district. While we consider it unlikely, there is always the possibility that we could be forced to withdraw this acceptance if the resident district determines it reached its statutory cap for transfers out of its district prior to your student's application date to our District. You will be notified immediately should that rescission of acceptance be necessary. We apologize for this unavoidable uncertainty.

Respectfully,

Insert name

Insert position/title

#### **4.5F4--SCHOOL CHOICE REJECTION LETTER**

Dear Parent's name,

I am sorry, but the application you submitted for student's name has been rejected for the following reason(s).

\_\_\_\_ Your child's resident district has declared itself exempt from the provisions of the School Choice Law due to it being under an enforceable desegregation order.

\_\_\_\_ Your child's resident district has reached its limitation cap for allowable transfers and we cannot accept any additional school choice transfers from that district.

\_\_\_\_ Your child does not meet the openings identified for the coming school-year identified in the Board of Directors Resolution adopted on insert date.

The specific reason for rejection is that acceptance would cause the district to have to add:

\_\_\_\_ Staff, \_\_\_\_ Teachers, \_\_\_\_ classroom(s), \_\_\_\_ the insert the name of the program, class, grade level, or school building's capacity

As noted in your original application, you have ten (10) days from receipt of this notice in which to submit a written appeal of this decision to the State Board of Education.

Respectfully,

Insert name

Insert position/title

#### **4.6—HOME SCHOOLING**

##### **Enrollment in Home School**

Parents or legal guardians desiring to provide a home school for their children shall give written notice to the Superintendent of their intent to home school. The notice shall be given:

1. At the beginning of each school year, but no later than August 15;
2. Fourteen (14) calendar days prior to withdrawing the child (provided the student is not currently under disciplinary action for violation of any written school policy, including, but not limited to, excessive absences) and at the beginning of each school year thereafter; or
3. Within thirty (30) calendar days of the parent or legal guardian establishing residency within the district during the school year.

Written notice of the parent or legal guardian's intent to home school shall be delivered to the Superintendent through any of the following methods:

- Electronically, including without limitation by email; By mail; or In person.

The notice shall include:

- a. The name, sex, date of birth, grade level, and the name and address of the school last attended, if any; The mailing address and telephone number of the home school; The name of the parent or legal guardian providing the home school; Indicate if the home-schooled student intends to participate in extracurricular activities during the school year; A statement of whether the home-schooled student plans to seek a high school equivalency diploma during the current school year; A statement if the home-school student plans to seek a driver's license during the current school year; A statement that the parent or legal guardian agrees that the parent or legal guardian is responsible for the education of their children during the time the parents or legal guardians choose to home school; and A signature of the parent or legal guardian, which must be notarized if the home-schooled student plans to seek a driver's license during the school year.

To aid the District in providing a free and appropriate public education to students in need of special education services, the parents or legal guardians home-schooling their children shall provide information that might indicate the need for special education services.

##### **Enrollment or Re-Enrollment in Public School**

A home-schooled student who wishes to enroll or re-enroll in a District school shall submit:

- A transcript listing all courses taken and semester grades from the home school;
- Score of at least the thirtieth percentile on a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment taken in the past year; and
- A portfolio of indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress, including without limitation:
  - Curricula used in the home school;
  - Tests taken and lessons completed by the home-schooled student; and
  - Other indicators of the home-schooled student's academic progress.

If a home-schooled student is unable to provide a nationally recognized norm-referenced score, the District may either assess the student using a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment or waive the requirement for a nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment score.

A home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the District will be placed at a grade level and academic course level equivalent to or higher than the home-schooled student's grade level and academic course level in the home school:

1. As indicated by the documentation submitted by the home-schooled student;
2. By mutual agreement between the public school and the home-schooled student's parent or legal guardian; or
3. If the home-schooled student fails to provide the documentation required by this policy, with the exception of the nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment score, the District may have sole authority to determine the home-schooled student's grade placement and course credits. The District will determine the home-schooled student's grade placement and course credits in the same manner the District uses when determining grade placement and course credits for students enrolling or re-enrolling in the District who attended another public or private school.

The District shall afford a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in a public school the same rights and privileges enjoyed by the District's other students. The District shall not deny a home-schooled student who enrolls or re-enrolls in the District any of the following on the basis of the student having attended a home school:

- a. Award of course credits earned in the home school; Placement in the proper grade level and promotion to the next grade level; Participation in any academic or extracurricular activity; Membership in school-sponsored clubs, associations, or organizations; A diploma or graduation, so long as the student has enrolled or re-enrolled in the District to attend classes for at least the nine (9) months immediately prior to graduation; or Scholarships.

#### **4.7—ABSENCES**

If any student's Individual Education Program (IEP) or 504 Plan conflicts with this policy, the requirements of the student's IEP or 504 Plan take precedence.

It is the Arkansas General Assembly's intention that students having excessive absences due to illness, accident, or other unavoidable reason be given assistance in obtaining credit for their courses. Therefore, at any time prior to when a student exceeds the number of allowable absences (unless unable to do so due to unforeseen circumstances), the student, or his/her parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis may petition the school or district's administration for special arrangements to address the

student's absences. If formal arrangements are granted, they shall be formalized into a written agreement which will include the conditions of the agreement and the consequences for failing to fulfill the agreement's requirements. The agreement shall be signed by the student, the student's parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis, and the school or district administrator or designee. Unless a student's excessive absence is due to an unforeseen circumstance, the District will not accept a doctor's note for a student's excessive absence.

A student that has missed six (6) days of school in a semester will receive a letter of alert concerning absences. A second letter will be sent if a student has 12 absences within that same semester. Parents will have one week after the second letter has been mailed to contact the school concerning any extenuating circumstances that may have caused the absences. Extenuating circumstances to be excused would be extreme medical conditions documented by a physician. If the parents do not contact the school within one week, A Family In Need of Services (FINS) petition will be filed with the Juvenile Services. A second FINS will be filed after the 15th absence and subsequent FINS will be filed after every three additional absences within the same semester.

**Excused Absences:**

Absences are excused for personal illness, serious illness in the immediate family, death in the immediate family, medical appointments, or emergency circumstances in the immediate family.

When an absence was due to one of the following reasons and the student brings a written statement upon his/her return to school from the parent or legal guardian stating such reason: (High School requires a telephone call prior to the student leaving campus for a medical appointment).

1. The student's illness or when attendance could jeopardize the health of other students. A maximum of twelve (12) such days are allowed unless the condition(s) causing such absences is of a chronic or recurring nature, is medically documented, and approved by the principal;
2. Death or serious illness in their immediate family;
3. Observance of recognized holidays observed by their faith;
4. Attendance at an appointment with a government agency;
5. Attendance at a medical appointment;
6. Exceptional circumstances with prior approval of the principal, *such as visiting prospective college (1 day); or participation in an FFA, FHA, or 4-H sanctioned activity.*
7. Students who serve as pages for a member of the General Assembly shall be considered on instructional assignment and shall not be considered absent from school for the day the student is serving as a page.
8. Participation in the election poll workers program for high school students.
9. Absences granted to allow a student to visit his/her parent or legal guardian who is a member of the military and been called to active duty, is on leave from active duty, or has returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting. The number of additional excused absences shall be at the discretion of the superintendent or designee.
10. Absences granted, at the Superintendent's discretion, to seventeen (17) year-old students who join the Arkansas National Guard while in eleventh grade to complete basic combat training between grades eleven (11) and (12).
11. Absences for students excluded from school by the Arkansas Department of Health during a disease outbreak because the student has an immunization waiver or whose immunizations are not up to date.

Students not attending class due to school-sponsored activities shall not be counted absent.

**Unexcused Absences:**

Any absence not described above will be defined as unexcused.

1. The Mena School District has established twelve (12) class absences or six (6) unexcused class absences as the number of absences allowed per semester. Excessive absences may be used as a basis for denial of course credit, promotion, or graduation.
2. An absence may be excused only if the parent/Guardian notifies the school office by phone or in person between the hours of 7:15 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on the day of the absence or by 8:00 a.m. the next school day. If the office has not been notified by that time, the absence will be considered unexcused. A written statement (Mena High School requires a telephone call to the school office) must be presented upon return to school from a doctor, dentist, or therapist documenting the medical reason a student was absent and the number of days/time under their care.
3. Upon return to school after an absence, the student shall report to the principal's office for an admittance slip before 8:00 a.m. The admit slip is presented to the teacher each period for the teacher's signature.
4. Students *at Middle and High school* are recorded as absent in a class period if they are not in attendance for at least 20 minutes of that class.
5. Students are allowed the number of days equal to the absence to complete make-up work. The student will be responsible for all work assigned and be expected to take any tests that were scheduled prior to the absence on the day of returning to school.
6. When parents request an early release date, the parents must notify the school prior to the absence and the student needs to complete required work before he or she leaves.
7. Absences due to suspension will count as accumulated absences and no make-up work will be allowed.
8. Students absent for ten consecutive days will be dropped from the rolls unless the parents have contacted the school regarding the nature of the absence.
9. Students who transfer in during the school year will be charged with all absences reported by the previous school. All school days missed between withdrawing from the previous school and enrolling in the Mena School District will also be counted.
10. Official school activities approved by the principal will not be considered as days missed.
11. Parents will be notified by phone or by regular mail sent within a week when a student has accumulated three (3) unexcused and/or six (6) absences in a class.
12. After the twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) absence and/or the sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) unexcused absence in a class during the semester, the school will notify the parent that the student may lose credit for the semester. Such loss of credit will be determined on a class-by-class basis. Parents may submit to the assistant principal, a request for an extension for the number of absences allowed for that class. The Attendance Committee will determine whether an extension is to be granted based on their review of the total attendance record of the student. An extension will not be granted for unexcused absences.
13. Whenever a student exceeds twelve (12) absences and/or six (6) unexcused absences in a class during the semester, notification will be sent to the prosecuting authority and the parent, guardian, or persons in loco parentis shall be subject to a civil penalty as prescribed by law.
14. Notification will also be sent to the Department of Finance and Administration whenever a student fourteen (14) years of age or older is no longer in school. Upon receipt of such notification, the Department of Finance and Administration shall notify

the licensee that his motor vehicle operator's license will be suspended unless a hearing is requested in writing within thirty (30) days from the date of notice.

#### **4.8—MAKE-UP WORK**

Students who miss school due to an excused absence shall be allowed to make up the work they missed during their absence under the following rules.

1. Students are responsible for asking the teachers of the classes they missed what assignments they need to make up.
2. Teachers are responsible for providing the missed assignments when asked by a returning student.
3. Students are required to ask for their assignments on their first day back at school or their first class day after their return.
4. Make up tests are to be rescheduled at the discretion of the teacher, but must be aligned with the schedule of the missed work to be made up.
5. Students shall have one class day to make up their work for each class day they are absent.
6. Make up work which is not turned in within the make-up schedule for that assignment may receive a zero.
7. Students are responsible for turning in their make-up work without the teacher having to ask for it.
8. Students who are absent on the day their make-up work is due must turn in their work the day they return to school whether or not the class for which the work is due meets the day of their return.
9. As required/permitted by the student's Individual Education Program or 504 Plan.

Work may not be made up for credit for unexcused absences **unless** the unexcused absences are part of a signed agreement as permitted by policy 4.7—ABSENCES.

Out-of-school suspensions are unexcused absences.

#### **4.9—TARDIES**

Promptness is an important character trait that District staff is to encourage to model and help develop in our schools' students. At the same time, promptness is the responsibility of each student. Students who are late to class show a disregard for both the teacher and their classmates which compromises potential student achievement.

#### **4.10—CLOSED CAMPUS**

All schools in the District shall operate closed campuses. Students are required to stay on campus from their arrival until dismissal at the end of the regular school day unless given permission to leave the campus by a school official. Students must sign out in the office upon their departure.

#### **4.11—EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY**

No student in the Mena School District shall, on the grounds of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of, or subjected to discrimination under any educational program or activity sponsored by the District. The District has a limited open forum granting equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other youth groups.

Inquiries on non-discrimination may be directed to the assistant superintendent, who may be reached at 501 Hickory Avenue, Mena, AR 71952 or 479-394-1710.

For further information on notice of non-discrimination or to file a complaint, 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.

#### **4.12—STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS/Equal Access**

Non-curriculum related secondary school student organizations wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time shall not be denied equal access on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must meet the following criteria.

1. The meeting is to be voluntary and student initiated;
2. There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
3. The meeting must occur during non-instructional time;
4. Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
5. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
6. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

All meetings held on school premises must be scheduled and approved by the principal. The school, its agents, and employees retain the authority to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary. Fraternities, sororities, and secret societies are forbidden in the District's schools. Membership to student organizations shall not be by a vote of the organization's members, nor be restricted by the student's race, religion, sex, national origin, or other arbitrary criteria. Hazing, as defined by law, is forbidden in connection with initiation into, or affiliation with, any student organization, extracurricular activity or sport program. Students who are convicted of participation in hazing or the failure to report hazing shall be expelled.

#### **4.13—PRIVACY OF STUDENTS' RECORDS/ DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

Except when a court order regarding a student has been presented to the district to the contrary, all students' education records are available for inspection and copying by the parent of his/her student who is under the age of eighteen (18). At the age of eighteen (18), the right to inspect and copy a student's records transfers to the student. A student's parent or the student, if over the age of 18, requesting to review the student's education records will be allowed to do so within no more than forty five (45) days of the request. The district forwards education records, including disciplinary records, to schools that have requested them and in which the student seeks or intends to enroll, or is already enrolled so long as the disclosure is for purposes related to the student's enrollment or transfer.

The district shall receive written permission before releasing education records to any agency or individual not authorized by law to receive and/or view the education records without prior parental permission. The District shall maintain a record of requests by such agencies or individuals for access to, and each disclosure of, personally identifiable information (hereinafter "PII") from the education records of each student. Disclosure of education records is authorized by law to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A personal record kept by a school staff member is **not** considered an education record if it meets the following tests.

it is in the sole possession of the individual who made it;

it is used only as a personal memory aid; and

information contained in it has never been revealed or made available to any other person, except the maker's temporary substitute.

For the purposes of this policy a school official is a person employed by the school as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the school board; a person or company with whom the school has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

For the purposes of this policy a school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility, contracted duty, or duty of elected office.



In addition to releasing PII to school officials without permission, the District may disclose PII from the education records of students in foster care placement to the student's caseworker or to the caseworker's representative without getting prior consent of the parent (or the student if the student is over eighteen (18)). For the District to release the student's PII without getting permission:

- The student must be in foster care; The individual to whom the PII will be released must have legal access to the student's case plan; and The Arkansas Department of Human Services, or a sub-agency of the Department, must be legally responsible for the care and protection of the student.

The District discloses PII from an education record to appropriate parties, including parents, in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals. The superintendent or designee shall determine who will have access to and the responsibility for disclosing information in emergency situations.

When deciding whether to release PII in a health or safety emergency, the District may take into account the totality of the circumstances pertaining to a threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals. If the District determines that there is an articulable and significant threat to the health or safety of a student or other individuals, it may disclose information from education records to any person whose knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

For purposes of this policy, the Mena School District does not distinguish between a custodial and noncustodial parent, or a non-parent such as a person acting in loco parentis or a foster parent with respect to gaining access to a student's records. Unless a court order restricting such access has been presented to the district to the contrary, the fact of a person's status as parent or guardian, alone, enables that parent or guardian to review and copy his child's records.

If there exists a court order which directs that a parent not have access to a student or his records, the parent, guardian, person acting in loco parentis, or an agent of the Department of Human Services must present a file-marked copy of such order to the building principal and the superintendent. The school will make good-faith efforts to act in accordance with such court order, but the failure to do so does not impose legal liability upon the school. The actual responsibility for enforcement of such court orders rests with the parents or guardians, their attorneys and the court which issued the order.

A parent or guardian does not have the right to remove any material from a student's records, but such parent or guardian may challenge the accuracy of a record. The right to challenge the accuracy of a record does not include the right to dispute a grade, disciplinary rulings, disability placements, or other such determinations, which must be done only through the appropriate teacher and/or administrator, the decision of whom is final. A challenge to the accuracy of material contained in a student's file must be initiated with the building principal, with an appeal available to the Superintendent or his designee. The challenge shall clearly identify the part of the student's record the parent wants changed and specify why he/she believes it is inaccurate or misleading. If the school determines not to amend the record as requested, the school will notify the requesting parent or student of the decision and inform them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amending the record. The parent or eligible student will be provided information regarding the hearing procedure when notified of the right to a hearing.

Unless the parent or guardian of a student (or student, if above the age of eighteen [18]) objects, "directory information" about a student may be made available to the public, military recruiters, post-secondary educational institutions, prospective employers of those students, as well as school publications such as annual yearbooks and graduation announcements. "Directory information" includes, but is not limited to, a student's name, address, telephone number, electronic mail address, photograph, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, his/her placement on the honor role (or the receipt of other types of honors), as well as his/her participation in school clubs and extracurricular activities, among others. If the student participates in inherently public activities (for example, basketball, football, or other interscholastic activities), the publication of such information will be beyond the control of the District. "Directory information" also includes a student identification (ID) number, user ID, or other unique personal identifier used by a student for purposes of accessing or communicating in electronic systems and a student ID number or other unique personal identifier that is displayed on a student's ID badge, provided the ID cannot be used to gain access to education records except when used in conjunction with one or more factors that authenticate the user's identity, such as a personal identification number (PIN), password or other factor known or possessed only by the authorized user.

A student's name and photograph will only be displayed on the district or school's web page(s) after receiving the written permission from the student's parent or student if over the age of 18.

The form for objecting to making directory information available is located in the back of the student handbook and must be completed and signed by the parent or age-eligible student and filed with the building principal's office no later than ten (10) school days after the beginning of each school year or the date the student is enrolled for school. Failure to file an objection by that time is considered a specific grant of permission. The district is required to continue to honor any signed-opt out form for any student no longer in attendance at the district.

The right to opt out of the disclosure of directory information under Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) does not prevent the District from disclosing or requiring a student to disclose the student's name, identifier, or institutional email address in a class in which the student is enrolled.

Parents and students over the age of 18 who believe the district has failed to comply with the requirements for the lawful release of student records may file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education at

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

#### **4.13F—OBJECTION TO PUBLICATION OF DIRECTORY INFORMATION**

**(Not to be filed if the parent/student has no objection)**

I, the undersigned, being a parent of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to the disclosure or publication by the Mena School District of directory information, as defined in Policy No. 4.13 (Privacy of Students' Records), concerning the student named below. The district is required to continue to honor any signed opt-out form for any student no longer in attendance at the district.

I understand that the participation by the below-named student in any interscholastic activity, including athletics and school clubs, may make the publication of some directory information unavoidable, and the publication of such information in other forms, such as telephone directories, church directories, etc., is not within the control of the District.

I understand that this form must be filed with the office of the appropriate building principal within ten (10) school days from the beginning of the current school year or the date the student is enrolled for school in order for the District to be bound by this objection. Failure to file this form within that time is a specific grant of permission to publish such information.

I object and wish to deny the disclosure or publication of directory information as follows:

Deny disclosure to military recruiters \_\_\_\_\_

Deny disclosure to Institutions of postsecondary education \_\_\_\_\_

Deny disclosure to Potential employers \_\_\_\_\_

Deny disclosure to all public and school sources \_\_\_\_\_

Selecting this option will prohibit the release of directory information to the three categories listed above along with all other public sources (such as newspapers), **AND** result in the student's directory information **not** being included in the school's yearbook and other school publications.

Deny disclosure to all public sources \_\_\_\_\_

Selecting this option will prohibit the release of directory information to the first three categories listed above along with all other public sources (such as newspapers), but permit the student's directory information **to be included** in the school's yearbook and other school publications.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of student (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent (or student, if 18 or older)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

#### **4.14—STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE**

##### **Student Publications**

All publications that are supported financially by the school or by use of school facilities, or are produced in conjunction with a class shall be considered school-sponsored publications. School publications do not provide a forum for public expression. Such publications, as well as the content of student expression in school-sponsored activities, shall be subject to the editorial control of the District's administration whose actions shall be reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns and adhere to the following limitations.

1. Advertising may be accepted for publications that does not condone or promote products that are inappropriate for the age and maturity of the audience or that endorses such things as tobacco, alcohol, or drugs.
2. Publications may be regulated to prohibit writings which are, in the opinion of the appropriate teacher and/or administrator, ungrammatical, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced, vulgar or profane, or unsuitable for immature audiences.
3. Publications may be regulated to refuse to publish material which might reasonably be perceived to advocate drug or alcohol use, irresponsible sex, or conduct otherwise inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order, or to associate the school with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy.
4. Prohibited publications include:
  - a. Those that are obscene as to minors;
  - b. Those that are libelous or slanderous, including material containing defamatory falsehoods about public figures or governmental officials, which are made with knowledge of their falsity or reckless disregard of the truth;
  - c. Those that constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy as defined by state law,
  - d. Publications that suggest or urge the commission of unlawful acts on the school premises;
  - e. Publications which suggest or urge the violation of lawful school regulations;
  - f. Hate literature that scurrilously attacks ethnic, religious, or racial groups.

##### **Student Publications on School Web Pages**

Student publications that are displayed on school web pages shall follow the same guidelines as listed above plus they shall

1. Not contain any non-educational advertisements. Additionally, student web publications shall;
2. Adhere to the restrictions regarding use of Directory Information as prescribed in Policy 4.13 including not using a student's photograph when associated with the student's name unless written permission has been received from the student's parent or student if over the age of 18.
3. State that the views expressed are not necessarily those of the School Board or the employees of the district.

##### **Student Distribution of Non-school Literature, Publications, and Materials**

A student or group of students who distribute ten (10) or fewer copies of the same non-school literature, publications, or materials (hereinafter "non-school materials"), shall do so in a time, place, and manner that does not cause a substantial disruption of the orderly education environment. A student or group of students wishing to distribute more than ten (10) copies of non-school materials shall have school Principal or designee review their non-school materials at least three (3) school days in advance of their desired time of dissemination. School authorities shall review the non-school materials, prior to their distribution and will bar from distribution those non-school materials that are obscene, libelous, pervasively indecent, or advertise unlawful products or services. Material may also be barred from distribution if there is evidence that reasonably supports a forecast that a substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment will likely result from the distribution. Concerns related to any denial of distribution by the principal shall be heard by the superintendent, whose decision shall be final.

The school principal or designee shall establish reasonable regulations governing the time, place, and manner of student distribution of non-school materials.

The regulations shall:

1. Be narrowly drawn to promote orderly administration of school activities by preventing disruption and may not be designed to stifle expression;
2. Be uniformly applied to all forms of non-school materials;
3. Allow no interference with classes or school activities;
4. Specify times, places, and manner where distribution may and may not occur; and
5. Not inhibit a person's right to accept or reject any literature distributed in accordance with the regulations.

The Superintendent, along with the student publications advisors, shall develop administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy. The regulations shall include definitions of terms and timelines for the review of materials.

#### **4.15—CONTACT WITH STUDENTS WHILE AT SCHOOL**

##### **CONTACT BY PARENTS**

Parents wishing to speak to their children during the school day shall register first with the office.

##### **CONTACT BY NON-CUSTODIAL PARENTS**

If there is any question concerning the legal custody of the student, the custodial parent shall present documentation to the principal or his/her designee establishing the parent's custody of the student. It shall be the responsibility of the custodial parent to make any court ordered "no contact" or other restrictions regarding the non-custodial parent known to the principal by presenting a copy of a file-marked court order. Without such a court order on file, the school will release the child to either of his/her parents. Non-custodial parents who file with the principal a date-stamped copy of current court orders granting visitation may eat lunch, volunteer in their child's classroom, or otherwise have contact with their child during school hours and the prior approval of the school's principal. Such contact is subject to the limitations outlined in Policy 4.16, Policy 6.5, and any other policies that may apply.

Unless prior arrangements have been made with the school's principal, Arkansas law provides that the transfer of a child between his/her custodial parent and non-custodial parent, when both parents are present, shall not take place on the school's property on normal school days during normal hours of school operation.

#### CONTACT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT, SOCIAL SERVICES, OR BY COURT ORDER

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a "72-hour hold" without first obtaining a court order. Except as provided below other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen [18] years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control by court order, or person acting in loco parentis identified on student enrollment forms. The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, custodian, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control by court order, or person acting in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state's social services agency.

If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number.

#### Contact by Professional Licensure Standards Board Investigators

Investigators for the Professional Licensure Standards Board may meet with students during the school day to carry out the investigation of an ethics complaint.

#### **4.16—STUDENT VISITORS**

The board strongly believes that the purpose of school is for learning. Social visitors, generally, disrupt the classroom and interfere with learning that should be taking place. Therefore, visiting with students at school is strongly discouraged, unless approved by the principal and scheduled in advance. This includes visits made by former students, friends, and/or relatives of teachers or students. Any visitation to the classroom shall be allowed only with the permission of the school principal and all visitors must first register at the office.

#### **4.17—STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

The Mena Board of Education has a responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the District's students and employees. To help maintain a safe environment conducive to high student achievement, the Board establishes policies necessary to regulate student behavior to promote an orderly school environment that is respectful of the rights of others and ensures the uniform enforcement of student discipline. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs: at any time on the school grounds; off school grounds at a school sponsored function, activity, or event; going to and from school or a school activity.

The District's administrators may also take disciplinary action against a student for off-campus conduct occurring at any time that would have a detrimental impact on school discipline, the educational environment, or the welfare of the students and/or staff. A student who has committed a criminal act while off campus and whose presence on campus could cause a substantial disruption to school or endanger the welfare of other students or staff is subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. Such acts could include, but are not limited to a felony or an act that would be considered a felony if committed by an adult, an assault or battery, drug law violations, or sexual misconduct of a serious nature. Any disciplinary action pursued by the District shall be in accordance with the student's appropriate due process rights.

The District's licensed personnel policy committee shall review the student discipline policies annually and may recommend changes in the policies to the Mena School Board. The Board has the responsibility of determining whether to approve any recommended changes to student discipline policies.

The District's student discipline policies shall be distributed to each student during the first week of school each year and to new students upon their enrollment. Each student's parent or legal guardian shall sign and return to the school an acknowledgement form documenting that they have received the policies.

It is required by law that the principal or the person in charge report to the police any incidents the person has personal knowledge of or has received information leading to a reasonable belief that a person has committed or threatened to commit an act of violence or any crime involving a deadly weapon on school property or while under school supervision. If the person making the report is not the Superintendent, that person shall also inform the Superintendent of the incident. Additionally, the principal shall inform any school employee or other person who initially reported the incident that a report has been made to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Superintendent or designee shall inform the Board of Directors of any such report made to law enforcement.

#### **4.18—PROHIBITED CONDUCT**

Students and staff require a safe and orderly learning environment that is conducive to high student achievement. Certain student behaviors are unacceptable in such an environment and are hereby prohibited by the Board. Prohibited behaviors include, but shall not be limited to the following.

1. Disrespect for school employees and failing to comply with their reasonable directions or otherwise demonstrating insubordination;
2. Disruptive behavior that interferes with orderly school operations;
3. Willfully and intentionally assaulting or threatening to assault or physically abusing any student or school employee;
4. Possession of any weapon that can reasonably be considered capable of causing bodily harm to another individual;
5. Possession or use of tobacco in any form on any property owned or leased by any public school;
6. Willfully or intentionally damaging, destroying, or stealing school property;
7. Possession of any paging device, beeper, or similar electronic communication devices on the school campus during normal school hours unless specifically exempted by the administration for health or other compelling reasons;
8. Possession, selling, distributing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, any illegal drug, unauthorized inhalants, or the inappropriate use or sharing of prescription or over the counter drugs, or other intoxicants, or anything represented to be a drug;
9. Sharing, diverting, transferring, applying to others (such as needles or lancets), or in any way misusing medication or any medical supplies in their possession;
10. Inappropriate public displays of affection;
11. Cheating, copying, or claiming another person's work to be his/her own;
12. Gambling;

13. Inappropriate student dress;
14. Use of vulgar, profane, or obscene language or gestures;
15. Truancy;
16. Excessive tardiness;
17. Engaging in behavior designed to taunt, degrade, or ridicule another person on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, sex, or disability;
18. Possess, view, distribute or electronically transmit sexually explicit or vulgar images or representations, whether electronically, on a data storage device, or in hard copy form;
19. Hazing, or aiding in the hazing of another student;
20. Gangs or gang-related activities, including belonging to secret societies of any kind, are forbidden on school property. Gang insignias, clothing, "throwing signs" or other gestures associated with gangs are prohibited;
21. Sexual harassment;
22. Bullying; and
23. Operating a vehicle on school grounds while using a wireless communication device.

The Board directs each school in the District to develop implementation regulations for prohibited student conduct consistent with applicable Board policy, State and Federal laws, and judicial decisions.

*Students that violate the Prohibited Conduct Policy may be subject of a verbal reprimand or parent conference at a minimum or a maximum penalty of expulsion.*

The Board directs each school in the District to develop implementation regulations for prohibited student conduct consistent with applicable Board policy, State and Federal laws, and judicial decisions.

Cross References: Prohibited Conduct #1—Policy # 3.17  
 Prohibited Conduct #2— Policy # 4.20  
 Prohibited Conduct #3— Policy # 4.21 , 4.26  
 Prohibited Conduct #4— Policy # 4.22  
 Prohibited Conduct #5— Policy # 4.23  
 Prohibited Conduct #7—Policy 4.47  
 Prohibited Conduct #8— Policy # 4.24  
 Prohibited Conduct # 13— Policy # 4.25  
 Prohibited Conduct # 14— Policy # 4.21  
 Prohibited Conduct # 15— Policy # 4.7  
 Prohibited Conduct # 16 — Policy # 4.9  
 Prohibited Conduct # 17— Policy # 4.43  
 Prohibited Conduct # 19— Policy # 4.12  
 Prohibited Conduct # 20— Policy # 4.26  
 Prohibited Conduct # 21—Policy # 4.27  
 Prohibited Conduct # 22— Policy # 4.43  
 Prohibited Conduct # 23— Policy # 4.47

#### **4.19—CONDUCT TO AND FROM SCHOOL AND TRANSPORTATION ELIGIBILITY**

Students are subject to the same rules of conduct while traveling to and from school as they are while on school grounds. Appropriate disciplinary actions may be taken against commuting students who violate student code of conduct rules.

The preceding paragraph also applies to student conduct while on school buses. Students shall be instructed in safe riding practices. The driver of a school bus shall not operate the school bus until every passenger is seated. Disciplinary measures for problems related to bus behavior shall be handled by the principal or their designee. Bus discipline for students may vary depending on the severity of the offence from a minimum of a verbal reprimand, to a maximum penalty of expulsion. Transporting students to and from school who have lost their bus transportation privileges shall become the responsibility of the student's parent or legal guardian.

Buses shall be routed to provide the best service for the greatest number of students. Bus routes shall be planned to get within one-half mile of each student if other factors permit. Bus routes shall be established on roads maintained by the city of Mena or the County of Polk. No driver shall deviate from his established route except on instructions from the Superintendent. The Superintendent is authorized to change routes at any time when, in his judgment, better service can be provided for a greater number of students by such change. Additionally, alternate bus routes have been established to enable buses to run and schools to be in session at times when weather conditions would prevent buses from running established routes. District patrons will be notified by local radio and television outlets when alternate routes are to be used.

#### **4.20—DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL**

No student shall by the use of violence, force, noise, coercion, threat, intimidation, fear, passive resistance, or any other conduct, intentionally cause the disruption of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school, or engage in any such conduct for the purpose of causing disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function. Nor shall any student encourage any other student to engage in such activities.

Disorderly activities by any student or group of students that adversely affect the school's orderly educational environment shall not be tolerated at any time on school grounds. Teachers may remove from class and send to the principal or principal's designee office a student whose behavior is so unruly, disruptive, or abusive that it seriously interferes with the teacher's ability to teach the students, the class, or with the ability of the student's classmates to learn. Students who refuse to leave the classroom voluntarily will be escorted from the classroom by the school administration.

#### **4.21—STUDENT ASSAULT OR BATTERY**

A student shall not threaten, physically abuse, or attempt to physically abuse, or behave in such a way as to be perceived to threaten bodily harm to any other person (student, school employee, or school visitor). Any gestures, vulgar, abusive or insulting language, taunting, threatening, harassing, or intimidating remarks by a student toward another person that threatens their well-being is strictly forbidden. This includes, but is not limited to, fighting, racial, ethnic, religious, or sexual slurs.

Furthermore, it is unlawful, during regular school hours, and in a place where a public school employee is required to be in the course of his or her duties, for any person to address a public school employee using language which, in its common understanding, is calculated to: a) cause a breach of the peace; b) materially and substantially interfere with the operation of the school; c) arouse the person to whom it is addressed to anger, to the extent likely to cause imminent retaliation. Students guilty of such an offense may be subject to legal proceedings in addition to student disciplinary measures.

#### **4.22—WEAPONS AND DANGEROUS INSTRUMENTS**

No student shall possess a weapon, display what appears to be a weapon, or threaten to use a weapon while in school, on or about school property, before or after school, in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity, en route to or from school or any school sponsored activity, off the

school grounds at any school bus stop, or at any school sponsored activity or event. Military personnel, such as ROTC cadets, acting in the course of their official duties are exempted.

A weapon is defined as any knife, firearm, razor, ice pick, dirk, box cutter, numchucks, pepper spray, mace, or other noxious spray, explosive, Taser or other instrument that uses electrical current to cause neuromuscular incapacitation, or any other instrument or substance capable of causing bodily harm. For the purposes of this policy, "firearm" means any device designed, made, or adapted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or any device readily convertible to that use.

Possession means having a weapon, as defined in this policy, on the student's body or in an area under his/her control. If a student discovers prior to any questioning or search by any school personnel that he/she has accidentally brought a weapon, other than a firearm, to school on his/her person, in a book bag/purse, or in his/her vehicle on school grounds, and the student informs the principal or a staff person immediately, the student will not be considered to be in possession of a weapon unless it is a firearm. The weapon shall be confiscated and held in the office until such time as the student's parent/legal guardian shall pick up the weapon from the school's office. Repeated offenses are unacceptable and shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the student as otherwise provided for in this policy.

Except as permitted in this policy, students found to be in possession on the school campus of a firearm shall be recommended for expulsion for a period of not less than one year. The superintendent shall have the discretion to modify such expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents or legal guardians of students expelled under this policy shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a firearm on school property. Parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to readmitting the student. Parents or legal guardians of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a firearm policy violation shall also be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a firearm on school property. The parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

A firearm brought inadvertently to school by a student shall be grounds for disciplinary action against the student, but the School Board of Directors may consider the "inadvertent circumstances" of the incident in determining the student's discipline.

The district shall report any student who brings a firearm to school to the criminal justice system or juvenile delinquency system by notifying local law enforcement.

#### **4.23—TOBACCO AND TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Smoking or use of tobacco or products containing tobacco in any form (including, but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, chewing tobacco, snuff, matches, lighter, and cigarette papers) is strictly prohibited and applies to the following:

- All buildings, facilities, grounds, and properties-including athletic fields and parking lots under the jurisdiction of the Mena School District.
- All school property, school buses, and district-owned vehicles.
- All staff, students, school volunteers, contractors and any person present on School District property, 24 hours a day-every day.
- All school sponsored or school related events on-campus or off campus.

Tobacco promotional items, including clothing, bags, lighters and other personal articles are not permitted on school grounds in school vehicles or at school sponsored events. Tobacco advertising, sponsorship, marketing or giveaways shall be prohibited in all school sponsored publications and at all school sponsored events.

An intensive tobacco use prevention education program shall be integrated within the K-12<sup>th</sup> grade health education curriculum to provide opportunities for students to gain greater understanding of the health hazards of tobacco use and the impact of tobacco use. Minimum penalty for student will be parent conference and verbal reprimand with maximum penalty being expulsion. Consequences for employees who violate the tobacco use policy will be in accordance with personnel policy. Visitors using tobacco products will be asked to refrain while on school property or leave the premises. Law enforcement officers may be contacted to escort the person off the premises or cite the person for trespassing if the person refuses to leave school property.

With the exception of recognized tobacco cessation products, this policy's prohibition includes any tobacco or nicotine delivery system or product. Specifically, the prohibition includes any product that is manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as e-cigarettes, e-cigars, e-pips, or under any other name or descriptor.

#### **4.24—DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

An orderly and safe school environment that is conducive to promoting student achievement requires a student population free from the deleterious effects of alcohol and drugs. Their use is illegal, disruptive to the educational environment, and diminishes the capacity of students to learn and function properly in our schools.

Therefore, no student in the Mena School District shall possess, attempt to possess, consume, use, distribute, sell, buy, attempt to sell, attempt to buy, give to any person, or be under the influence of any substance as defined in this policy, or what the student represents or believes to be any substance as defined in this policy. This policy applies to any student who; is on or about school property; is in attendance at school or any school sponsored activity; has left the school campus for any reason and returns to the campus; is en route to or from school or any school sponsored activity.

Prohibited substances shall include, but are not limited to, alcohol, or any alcoholic beverage, inhalants or any ingestible matter that alter a student's ability to act, think, or respond, LSD, or any other hallucinogen, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, or any other narcotic drug, PCP, amphetamines, steroids, "designer drugs," look-alike drugs, or any controlled substance.

Selling, distributing, or attempting to sell or distribute, or using over-the-counter or prescription drugs not in accordance with the recommended dosage is prohibited.

#### **4.25—STUDENT DRESS AND GROOMING**

The Mena Board of Education recognizes that dress can be a matter of personal taste and preference. At the same time, the District has a responsibility to promote an environment conducive to student learning. This requires limitations to student dress and grooming that could be disruptive to the educational process because they are immodest, disruptive, unsanitary, unsafe, could cause property damage, or are offensive to common standards of decency.

Students are prohibited from wearing, while on the school grounds during the school day and at school-sponsored events, clothing that exposes underwear, buttocks, or the breast of a female. This prohibition does not apply, however to a costume or uniform worn by a student while participating in a school-sponsored activity or event.

The Superintendent shall establish student dress codes for the District's schools, to be included in the student handbook, and are consistent with the above criteria.

#### **4.26—GANGS AND GANG ACTIVITY**

The Board is committed to ensuring a safe school environment conducive to promoting a learning environment where students and staff can excel.

An orderly environment cannot exist where unlawful acts occur causing fear, intimidation, or physical harm to students or school staff. Gangs and their activities create such an atmosphere and shall not be allowed on school grounds or at school functions.

The following actions are prohibited by students on school property or at school functions:

1. Wearing or possessing any clothing, bandanas, jewelry, symbol, or other sign associated with membership in, or representative of, any gang;
2. Engaging in any verbal or nonverbal act such as throwing signs, gestures, or handshakes representative of membership in any gang;
3. Recruiting, soliciting, or encouraging any person through duress or intimidation to become or remain a member of any gang; and/or
4. Extorting payment from any individual in return for protection from harm from any gang.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Students arrested for gang related activities occurring off school grounds shall be subject to the same disciplinary actions as if they had occurred on school grounds.

#### **4.27—STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT**

The Mena School District is committed to having an academic environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity. Student achievement is best attained in an atmosphere of equal educational opportunity that is free of discrimination. Sexual harassment is a form of discrimination that undermines the integrity of the educational environment and will not be tolerated.

Believing that prevention is the best policy, the District will periodically inform students and employees about the nature of sexual harassment, the procedures for registering a complaint, and the possible redress that is available. The information will stress that the district does not tolerate sexual harassment and that students can report inappropriate behavior of a sexual nature without fear of adverse consequences. The information will take into account and be appropriate to the age of the students.

It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to be subjected to, or to subject another person to, sexual harassment as defined in this policy. Any student found, after an investigation, to have engaged in sexual harassment will be subject to disciplinary action up to, and including, expulsion.

Sexual harassment refers to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other personally offensive verbal, visual, or physical conduct of a sexual nature made by someone under any of the following conditions:

1. Submission to the conduct is made, either explicitly or implicitly, a term or condition of an individual's education;
2. Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by an individual is used as the basis for academic decisions affecting that individual; and/or
3. Such conduct has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering with an individual's academic performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive academic environment.

The terms "intimidating," "hostile," and "offensive" include conduct of a sexual nature which has the effect of humiliation or embarrassment and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it limits the student's ability to participate in, or benefit from, an educational program or activity. Actionable sexual harassment is generally established when an individual is exposed to a pattern of objectionable behaviors or when a single, serious act is committed. What is, or is not, sexual harassment will depend upon all of the surrounding circumstances.

Depending upon such circumstances, examples of sexual harassment include, but are not limited to: unwelcome touching; crude jokes or pictures; discussions of sexual experiences; pressure for sexual activity; intimidation by words, actions, insults, or name calling; teasing related to sexual characteristics; or the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether or not the student self-identifies as homosexual; and spreading rumors related to a person's alleged sexual activities.

Students who believe they have been subjected to sexual harassment, or parents of a student who believes their child has been subjected to sexual harassment, are encouraged to file a complaint by contacting a counselor, teacher, Title IX coordinator, or administrator who will assist them in the complaint process. Under no circumstances shall a student be required to first report allegations of sexual harassment to a school contact person if that person is the individual who is accused of the harassment.

To the extent possible, complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. Limited disclosure may be necessary in order to complete a thorough investigation. Students who file a complaint of sexual harassment will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

Students who knowingly fabricate allegations of sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

Individuals, who withhold information, purposely provide inaccurate facts, or otherwise hinder an investigation of sexual harassment shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

#### **4.28—LASER POINTERS**

Students shall not possess any hand held laser pointer while in school; on or about school property, before or after school; in attendance at school or any school-sponsored activity; en route to or from school or any school-sponsored activity; off the school grounds at any school bus stop or at any school-sponsored activity or event. School personnel shall seize any laser pointer from the student possessing it and the student may reclaim it at the close of the school year, or when the student is no longer enrolled in the District.

#### **4.29—INTERNET SAFETY AND ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE POLICY**

##### **Definition**

For the purposes of this policy, "electronic device" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data. The District makes electronic device(s) and/or electronic device Internet access available to students, to permit students to perform research and to allow students to learn how to use electronic device technology. Use of district electronic devices is for educational and/or instructional purposes only. Student use of electronic device(s) shall only be as directed or assigned by staff or teachers; students are advised that they enjoy no expectation of privacy in any aspect of their electronic device use, including email, and that monitoring of student electronic device use is continuous.

No student will be granted Internet access until and unless an Internet and electronic device use agreement, signed by both the student and the parent or legal guardian (if the student is under the age of eighteen [18]) is on file. The current version of the Internet and electronic device use agreement is incorporated by reference into board policy and is considered part of the student handbook. Technology Protection Measures

The District is dedicated to protecting students from materials on the Internet or world wide web that are inappropriate, obscene, or otherwise harmful to minors; therefore, it is the policy of the District to protect each electronic device with Internet filtering software that is designed to prevent students from accessing such materials. For purposes of this policy, "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that:

- (A) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion;
- (B) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and
- (C) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.

##### **Internet Use and Safety**

The District is dedicated to ensuring that students are capable of using the Internet in a safe and responsible manner. The District uses technology protection measures to aid in student safety and shall also educate students on appropriate online behavior and Internet use including, but not limited to:

- interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms;
- Cyberbullying awareness; and
- Cyberbullying response.

#### **Misuse of Internet**

The opportunity to use the District's technology to access the Internet is a privilege and not a right. Students who misuse electronic devices or Internet access in any way will face disciplinary action, as specified in the student handbook and/or Internet safety and electronic device use agreement. Misuse of the Internet includes:

- The disabling or bypassing of security procedures, compromising, attempting to compromise, or defeating the district's technology network security or Internet filtering software;
- The altering of data without authorization;
- Disclosing, using, or disseminating passwords, whether the passwords are the student's own or those of another student/faculty/community member, to other students;
- Divulging personally identifying information about himself/herself or anyone else either on the Internet or in an email unless it is a necessary and integral part of the student's academic endeavor. Personally identifying information includes full names, addresses, and phone numbers.
- Using electronic devices for any illegal activity, including electronic device hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
- Using electronic devices to access or create sexually explicit or pornographic text or graphics;
- Using electronic devices to violate any other policy or is contrary to the Internet safety and electronic device use agreement.

#### **4.29F—STUDENT ELECTRONIC DEVICE USE AGREEMENT (updated June 2012)**

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_ Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_  
 School \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Mena School District agrees to allow the student identified above ("Student") to use the district's technology to access the Internet under the following terms and conditions which apply whether the access is through a District or student owned electronic device (as used in this Agreement, "electronic device" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data):

1. Conditional Privilege: The Student's use of the district's access to the Internet is a privilege conditioned on the Student's abiding to this agreement. No student may use the district's access to the Internet whether through a District or student owned electronic device unless the Student and his/her parent or guardian have read and signed this agreement.
2. Acceptable Use: The Student agrees that he/she will use the District's Internet access for educational purposes only. In using the Internet, the Student agrees to obey all federal and state laws and regulations. The Student also agrees to abide by any Internet use rules instituted at the Student's school or class, whether those rules are written or oral.
3. Penalties for Improper Use: If the Student violates this agreement and misuses the Internet, the Student shall be subject to disciplinary action.
4. "Misuse of the District's access to the Internet" includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. using the Internet for other than educational purposes;
  - b. gaining intentional access or maintaining access to materials which are "harmful to minors" as defined by Arkansas law;
  - c. using the Internet for any illegal activity, including computer hacking and copyright or intellectual property law violations;
  - d. making unauthorized copies of computer software;
  - e. accessing "chat lines" unless authorized by the instructor for a class activity directly supervised by a staff member;
  - f. using abusive or profane language in private messages on the system; or using the system to harass, insult, or verbally attack others;
  - g. posting anonymous messages on the system;
  - h. using encryption software;
  - i. wasteful use of limited resources provided by the school including paper;
  - j. causing congestion of the network through lengthy downloads of files;
  - k. vandalizing data of another user;
  - l. obtaining or sending information which could be used to make destructive devices such as guns, weapons, bombs, explosives, or fireworks;
  - m. gaining or attempting to gain unauthorized access to resources or files;
  - n. identifying oneself with another person's name or password or using an account or password of another user without proper authorization;
  - o. invading the privacy of individuals;
  - p. divulging personally identifying information about himself/herself or anyone else either on the Internet or in an email unless it is a necessary and integral part of the student's academic endeavor. Personally identifying information includes full names, address, and phone number.
  - q. using the network for financial or commercial gain without district permission;
  - r. theft or vandalism of data, equipment, or intellectual property;
  - s. attempting to gain access or gaining access to student records, grades, or files;
  - t. introducing a virus to, or otherwise improperly tampering with the system;
  - u. degrading or disrupting equipment or system performance;
  - v. creating a web page or associating a web page with the school or school district without proper authorization;
  - w. providing access to the District's Internet Access to unauthorized individuals;
  - x. failing to obey school or classroom Internet use rules; or
  - y. taking part in any activity related to Internet use which creates a clear and present danger of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the district or any of its schools.
  - z. Installing or downloading software on district computers without prior approval of the technology director or his/her designee.
5. Liability for debts: Students and their cosigners shall be liable for any and all costs (debts) incurred through the student's use of the computers or access to the Internet including penalties for copyright violations.
6. No Expectation of Privacy: The Student and parent/guardian signing below agree that if the Student uses the Internet through the District's access, that the Student waives any right to privacy the Student may have for such use. The Student and the parent/guardian agree that the district may monitor the Student's use of the District's Internet Access and may also examine all

system activities the Student participates in, including but not limited to e-mail, voice, and video transmissions, to ensure proper use of the system. The District may share such transmissions with the Student's parents/guardians.

7. No Guarantees: The District will make good faith efforts to protect children from improper or harmful matter which may be on the Internet. At the same time, in signing this agreement, the parent and Student recognize that the District makes no guarantees about preventing improper access to such materials on the part of the Student.

8. Signatures: We, the persons who have signed below, have read this agreement and agree to be bound by the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Student's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Legal Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.30—SUSPENSION FROM SCHOOL**

Students who are not present at school cannot benefit from the educational opportunities the school environment affords. Administrators, therefore, shall strive to find ways to keep students in school as participants in the educational process. There are instances, however, when the needs of the other students or the interests of the orderly learning environment require the removal of a student from school. The Board authorizes school principals or their designees to suspend students for disciplinary reasons for a period of time not to exceed ten (10) school days, including the day upon which the suspension is imposed. The suspension may be in school or out of school. Students are responsible for their conduct that occurs:

- At any time on the school grounds;
- Off school grounds at a school-sponsored function, activity, or event; and
- Going to and from school or a school activity.

A student may be suspended for behavior including, but not limited to, that which:

1. Is in violation of school policies, rules, or regulations;
2. Substantially interferes with the safe and orderly educational environment;
3. School administrators believe will result in the substantial interference with the safe and orderly educational environment; and/or
4. Is insubordinate, incorrigible, violent, or involves moral turpitude.

Out-of-school suspension (OSS) shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade unless the student's behavior:

1. Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
2. Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or
3. Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.

OSS shall not be used to discipline a student for skipping class, excessive absences, or other forms of truancy.

The school principal or designee shall proceed as follows in deciding whether or not to suspend a student:

1. The student shall be given written notice or advised orally of the charges against him/her;
2. If the student denies the charges, he/she shall be given an explanation of the evidence against him/her and be allowed to present his/her version of the facts; and
3. If the principal finds the student guilty of the misconduct, he/she may be suspended.

When possible, notice of the suspension, its duration, and any stipulations for the student's re-admittance to class will be given to the parent(s), legal guardian(s), or to the student if age eighteen (18) or older prior to the suspension. Such notice shall be handed to the parent(s), legal guardian(s), or to the student if age eighteen (18) or older or mailed to the last address reflected in the records of the school district.

Generally, notice and hearing should precede the student's removal from school, but if prior notice and hearing are not feasible, as where the student's presence endangers persons or property or threatens disruption of the academic process, thus justifying immediate removal from school, the necessary notice and hearing should follow as soon as practicable.

It is the parents' or legal guardians' responsibility to provide current contact information to the district, which the school shall use to immediately notify the parent or legal guardian upon the suspension of a student. The notification shall be by one of the following means, listed in order of priority:

- A primary call number;
  - The contact may be by voice, voice mail, or text message.
- An email address;
- A regular first class letter to the last known mailing address.

The district shall keep a log of contacts attempted and made to the parent or legal guardian.

During the period of their suspension, students serving OSS are not permitted on campus except to attend a student/parent/administrator conference.

During the period of their suspension, students serving in-school suspension shall not attend or participate in any school-sponsored activities during the imposed suspension.

Suspensions initiated by the principal or his/her designee may be appealed to the Superintendent, but not to the Board.

Suspensions initiated by the Superintendent may be appealed to the Board.

#### **4.31—EXPULSION**

The Board of Education may expel a student for a period longer than ten (10) school days for violation of the District's written discipline policies. The Superintendent may make a recommendation of expulsion to the Board of Education for student conduct:

- Deemed to be of such gravity that suspension would be inappropriate;
- Where the student's continued attendance at school would disrupt the orderly learning environment; or
- Would pose an unreasonable danger to the welfare of other students or staff.

Expulsion shall not be used to discipline a student in kindergarten through fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) grade unless the student's behavior:

- a. Poses a physical risk to himself or herself or to others;
- b. Causes a serious disruption that cannot be addressed through other means; or
- c. Is the act of bringing a firearm on school campus.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall give written notice to the parents or legal guardians (mailed to the address reflected on the District's records) that he/she will recommend to the Board of Education that the student be expelled for the specified length of time and state the reasons for the recommendation to expel. The notice shall give the date, hour, and place where the Board of Education will consider and dispose of the recommendation.

The hearing shall be conducted not later than ten (10) school days<sup>1</sup> following the date of the notice, except that representatives of the Board and student may agree in writing to a date not conforming to this limitation.

The President of the Board, Board attorney, or other designated Board member shall preside at the hearing. The student may choose to be represented by legal counsel. Both the district administration and School Board also may be represented by legal



counsel. The hearing shall be conducted in open session of the Board unless the parent, or student if age eighteen (18) or older, requests that the hearing be conducted in executive session. Any action taken by the Board shall be in open session. During the hearing, the Superintendent, or designee, or representative will present evidence, including the calling of witnesses, that gave rise to the recommendation of expulsion. The student, or his/her representative, may then present evidence including statements from persons with personal knowledge of the events or circumstances relevant to the charges against the student. Formal cross-examination will not be permitted; however, any member of the Board, the Superintendent, or designee, the student, or his/her representative may question anyone making a statement and/or the student. The presiding officer shall decide questions concerning the appropriateness or relevance of any questions asked during the hearing. Except as permitted by policy 4.22, the Superintendent shall recommend the expulsion of any student for a period of not less than one (1) year for possession of any firearm prohibited on school campus by law. The Superintendent shall, however, have the discretion to modify the expulsion recommendation for a student on a case-by-case basis. Parents or legal guardians of a student enrolling from another school after the expiration of an expulsion period for a weapons policy violation shall be given a copy of the current laws regarding the possibility of parental responsibility for allowing a child to possess a weapon on school property.<sup>2</sup> The parents or legal guardians shall sign a statement acknowledging that they have read and understand said laws prior to the student being enrolled in school.

The Superintendent and the Board of Education shall complete the expulsion process of any student that was initiated because the student possessed a firearm or other prohibited weapon on school property regardless of the enrollment status of the student.

#### **4.32—SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND INTERROGATIONS**

The District respects the rights of its students against arbitrary intrusion of their person and property. At the same time, it is the responsibility of school officials to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all students enrolled in the District in order to promote an environment conducive to student learning. The Superintendent, principals, and their designees have the right to inspect and search school property and equipment. They may also search students and their personal property in which the student has a reasonable expectation of privacy, when there is reasonable and individualized suspicion to believe such student or property contains illegal items or other items in violation of Board policy or dangerous to the school community. School authorities may seize evidence found in the search and disciplinary action may be taken. Evidence found which appears to be in violation of the law shall be reported to the appropriate authority.

School property shall include, but not be limited to, lockers, desks, and parking lots, as well as personal effects left there by students. When possible, prior notice will be given and the student will be allowed to be present along with an adult witness, however, searches may be done at any time with or without notice or the student's consent. A personal search must not be excessively intrusive in light of the age and sex of the student and the nature of the infraction.

The Superintendent, principals, and their designees may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to help conduct searches. Such searches may include the use of specially trained dogs.

A school official of the same sex shall conduct personal searches with an adult witness of the same sex present.

State Law requires that Department of Human Services employees, local law enforcement, or agents of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, may interview students without a court order for the purpose of investigating suspected child abuse. In instances where the interviewers deem it necessary, they may exercise a "72-hour hold" without first obtaining a court order. Other questioning of students by non-school personnel shall be granted only with a court order directing such questioning, with permission of the parents of a student (or the student if above eighteen [18] years of age), or in response to a subpoena or arrest warrant.

If the District makes a report to any law enforcement agency concerning student misconduct or if access to a student is granted to a law enforcement agency due to a court order, the principal or the principal's designee shall make a good faith effort to contact the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control by court order, or person acting in loco parentis on student enrollment forms. The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, custodian, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

The principal or the principal's designee shall not attempt to make such contact if presented documentation by the investigator that notification is prohibited because a parent, guardian, custodian, or person standing in loco parentis is named as an alleged offender of the suspected child maltreatment. This exception applies only to interview requests made by a law enforcement officer, an investigator of the Crimes Against Children Division of the Department of Arkansas State Police, or an investigator or employee of the Department of Human Services.

In instances other than those related to cases of suspected child abuse, principals must release a student to either a police officer who presents a subpoena for the student, or a warrant for arrest, or to an agent of state social services or an agent of a court with jurisdiction over a child with a court order signed by a judge. Upon release of the student, the principal or designee shall give the student's parent, legal guardian, or other person having lawful control by court order, or person acting in loco parentis notice that the student has been taken into custody by law enforcement personnel or a state's social services agency. If the principal or designee is unable to reach the parent, he or she shall make a reasonable, good faith effort to get a message to the parent to call the principal or designee, and leave both a day and an after-hours telephone number.

#### **4.33—STUDENTS' VEHICLES**

A student, who has presented a valid driver's license and proof of insurance to the appropriate office personnel, may drive his/her vehicle to school.

Vehicles driven to school shall be parked in the area designated for student parking. Parking on school property is a privilege which may be denied to a student for any disciplinary violation, at the discretion of the student's building principal.

Students are not permitted to loiter in parking areas and are not to return to their vehicles during the school day for any reason unless given permission to do so by school personnel.

It is understood that there is no expectation of privacy in vehicles in parking areas. Drivers of vehicles parked on a school campus will be held accountable for illegal substances or any other item prohibited by District policy found in their vehicle. The act of a student parking a vehicle on campus is a grant of permission for school or law enforcement authorities to search that vehicle.

#### **4.34—COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND PARASITES**

Students with communicable diseases or with human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment shall demonstrate respect for other students by not attending school while they are capable of transmitting their condition to others. Students whom the school nurse determines are unwell or unfit for school attendance or who are believed to have a communicable disease or condition will be required to be picked up by their parent or guardian. Specific examples include, but are not limited to: Varicella (chicken pox), measles, scabies, conjunctivitis (Pink Eye), impetigo/MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), streptococcal and staphylococcal infections, ringworm, mononucleosis, Hepatitis A, B, or C, mumps, vomiting, diarrhea, and fever (100.4 F when taken orally).<sup>1</sup> A student who has been sent home by the school nurse will be subsequently readmitted, at the discretion of the school

nurse, when the student is no longer a transmission risk. In some instances, a letter from a health care provider may be required prior to the student being readmitted to the school.

To help control the possible spread of communicable diseases, school personnel shall follow the District's exposure control plan when dealing with any blood borne, foodborne, and airborne pathogens exposures. Standard precautions shall be followed relating to the handling, disposal, and cleanup of blood and other potentially infectious materials such as all body fluids, secretions and excretions (except sweat).

In accordance with 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS, the District shall maintain a copy of each student's immunization record and a list of individuals with exemptions from immunization which shall be education records as defined in policy 4.13. That policy provides that an education record may be disclosed to appropriate parties in connection with an emergency if knowledge of the information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other individuals.

A student enrolled in the District who has an immunization exemption may be removed from school at the discretion of the Arkansas Department of Health during an outbreak of the disease for which the student is not vaccinated. The student may not return to the school until the outbreak has been resolved and the student's return to school is approved by the Arkansas Department of Health. The parents or legal guardians of students found to have live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment will be asked to pick their child up at the end of the school day. The parents or legal guardians will be given information concerning the eradication and control of human host parasites. A student may be readmitted after the school nurse or designee has determined the student no longer has live human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment. Each school may conduct screenings of students for human host parasites that are transmittable in a school environment as needed. The screenings shall be conducted in a manner that respects the privacy and confidentiality of each student.

#### **4.35—STUDENT MEDICATIONS**

Prior to the administration of any medication to any student under the age of eighteen (18), written parental consent is required. The consent form shall include authorization to administer the medication and relieve the Board and its employees of civil liability for damages or injuries resulting from the administration of medication to students in accordance with this policy. All signed medication consent forms are to be maintained by the school nurse.

Unless authorized to self-administer, students are not allowed to carry any medications, including over-the-counter medications or any perceived health remedy not regulated by the US Food and Drug Administration, while at school. The parent or legal guardian shall bring the student's medication to the school nurse. The student may bring the medication if accompanied by a written authorization from the parent or legal guardian. When medications are brought to the school nurse, the nurse shall document, in the presence of the parent, the quantity of the medication(s). If the medications are brought by a student, the school nurse shall ask another school employee to verify, in the presence of the student the quantity of the medication(s). Each person present shall sign a form verifying the quantity of the medication(s).

Medications, including those for self-administration, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings. Schedule II medications that are permitted by this policy to be brought to school shall be stored in a double locked cabinet.

Students with an individualized health plan (IHP) may be given over-the-counter medications to the extent giving such medications are included in the student's IHP.

The only Schedule II medications that shall be allowed to be brought to the school are methylphenidate (e.g. Ritalin or closely related medications as determined by the school nurse), dextroamphetamine (Dexedrine), and amphetamine sulfate (e.g. Adderall or closely related medications as determined by the school nurse).

For the student's safety, no student will be allowed to attend school if the student is currently taking any other Schedule II medication than permitted by this policy. Students who are taking Schedule II medications which are not allowed to be brought to school shall be eligible for homebound instruction if provided for in their IEP or 504 plans.

The district's supervising registered nurse shall be responsible for creating both on campus and off campus procedures for administering medications.

Students who have written permission from their parent or guardian and a licensed health care practitioner on file with the District may:

Self-administer either a rescue inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine; Perform his/her own blood glucose checks; Administer insulin through the insulin delivery system the student uses; Treat the student's own hypoglycemia and hyperglycemia; or Possess on his or her person: A rescue inhaler or auto-injectable epinephrine; or the necessary supplies and equipment to perform his/her own diabetes monitoring and treatment functions.

Students who have a current consent form on file shall be allowed to carry and self-administer such medication while:

- In school; At an on-site school sponsored activity; While traveling to or from school; or At an off-site school sponsored activity.

A student is prohibited from sharing, transferring, or in any way diverting his/her medications to any other person. The fact that a student with a completed consent form on file is allowed to carry a rescue inhaler, auto-injectable epinephrine, diabetes medication, or combination does not require him/her to have such on his/her person. The parent or guardian of a student who qualifies under this policy to self-carry a rescue inhaler, auto-injectable epinephrine, diabetes medication, or any combination on his/her person shall provide the school with the appropriate medication, which shall be immediately available to the student in an emergency.

Students may be administered Glucagon, insulin, or both in emergency situations by the school nurse or, in the absence of the school nurse, a trained volunteer school employee designated as a care provider, provided the student has:

1. an IHP that provides for the administration of Glucagon, insulin, or both in emergency situations; and
2. a current, valid consent form on file from their parent or guardian.

When the nurse is unavailable, the trained volunteer school employee who is responsible for a student shall be released from other duties during:

- A. The time scheduled for a dose of insulin in the student's IHP; and
- B. Glucagon or non-scheduled insulin administration once other staff have relieved him/her from other duties until a parent, guardian, other responsible adult, or medical personnel has arrived.

A student shall have access to a private area to perform diabetes monitoring and treatment functions as outlined in the student's IHP. Medication that is not approved by the FDA, experimental or trial medication will not be given at school by the school nurse or staff.

2/21/2012

#### Emergency Administration of Epinephrine

The school nurse or other school employees designated by the school nurse as a care provider who have been trained and certified by a licensed physician may administer an epinephrine auto-injector in emergency situations to students who have an IHP developed

under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which provides for the administration of an epinephrine auto-injector in emergency situations.

The parent of a student who has an authorizing IHP, or the student if over the age of eighteen (18), shall annually complete and sign a written consent form provided by the student's school nurse authorizing the nurse or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine to the student when the employee believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. Students with an order from and a licensed health care provider to self-administer auto-injectable epinephrine and who have written permission from their parent or guardian shall provide the school nurse an epinephrine auto-injector. This epinephrine will be used in the event the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine, in good faith professionally believes the student is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction and the student is either not self-carrying his/her epinephrine auto-injector or the nurse is unable to locate it.

The school nurse for each District school shall keep epinephrine auto-injectors on hand that are suitable for the students the school serves. The school nurse or other school employee designated by the school nurse as a care provider who has been trained<sup>1</sup> and certified by a licensed physician may administer auto-injector epinephrine to those students who the school nurse, or other school employee certified to administer auto-injector epinephrine, in good faith professionally believes is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction.

The school shall not keep outdated medications or any medications past the end of the school year. Parents shall be notified ten (10) days in advance of the school's intention to dispose of any medication. Medications not picked up by the parents or legal guardians within the ten (10) day period shall be disposed of by the school nurse in accordance with current law and regulations.

#### **4.35F—MEDICATION ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM**

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

This form is good for school year \_\_\_\_\_. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

Medications, including those for self-administration, must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

I hereby authorize the school nurse or his/her designee to administer the following medications to my child.

Name(s) of medication(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of physician or dentist (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Dosage \_\_\_\_\_

Instructions for administering the medication \_\_\_\_\_

Other instructions \_\_\_\_\_

Medication that is not approved by the FDA, experimental or trial medication will not be given at school by the school nurse or staff.  
2/21/2012

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, and its employees shall be immune from civil liability for damages resulting from the administration of medications in accordance with this consent form.

Parent or legal guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or legal guardian name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.35F2—MEDICATION SELF-ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM**

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

This form is good for school year \_\_\_\_\_. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

The following must be provided for the student to be eligible to self-administer rescue inhalers and/or auto-injectable epinephrine.

Eligibility is **only** valid for this school for the current academic year.

- a written statement from licensed a health-care provider who has prescriptive privileges that he/she has prescribed the rescue inhaler and/or auto-injectable epinephrine for the student and that the student needs to carry the medication on his/her person due to a medical condition;
- the specific medications prescribed for the student;
- an individualized health care plan developed by the prescribing health-care provider containing the treatment plan for managing asthma and/or anaphylaxis episodes of the student and for medication use by the student during school hours; and
- a statement from the prescribing health-care provider that the student possesses the skill and responsibility necessary to use and administer the asthma inhaler and/or auto-injectable epinephrine.

If the school nurse is available, the student shall demonstrate his/her skill level in using the rescue inhalers and/or auto-injectable epinephrine to the nurse.

Rescue inhalers and/or auto-injectable epinephrine for a student's self-administration shall be supplied by the student's parent or guardian and be in the original container properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

Students who self-carry a rescue inhaler or an epinephrine auto-injector shall also provide the school nurse with a rescue inhaler or an epinephrine auto-injector to be used in emergency situations.

My signature below is an acknowledgment that I understand that the District, its Board of Directors, and its employees shall be immune from civil liability for injury resulting from the self-administration of medications by the student named above.

Medication that is not approved by the FDA, experimental or trial medication will not be given at school by the school nurse or staff.  
2/21/2012

Parent or legal guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.35F3—Glucagon and/or insulin ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM**

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

This form is good for school year \_\_\_\_\_. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

The school has developed an individual health plan (IHP) acknowledging that my child has been diagnosed as suffering from diabetes. The IHP authorizes the school nurse to administer Glucagon or insulin to my child in an emergency situation. In the absence of the nurse, trained volunteer district personnel may administer to my child in an emergency situation:

Glucagon \_\_\_\_\_ Insulin \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize the school nurse to administer Glucagon and insulin to my child, or, in the absence of the nurse, trained volunteer district personnel designated as care providers, to administer the medication(s) I selected above to my child in an emergency situation. I will supply the medication(s) I selected above to the school nurse in the original container properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, its employees, or an agent of the District, including a healthcare professional who trained volunteer school personnel designated as care providers shall not be liable for any damages resulting from his/her actions or inactions in the administration of Glucagon or insulin in accordance with this consent form and the IHP.

I hereby authorize the school nurse or, in the absence of the nurse, trained volunteer district personnel designated as care providers, to administer Glucagon to my child in an emergency situation. Glucagon shall be supplied to the school nurse by the student's parent or guardian and be in the original container properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, its employees, or an agent of the District, including a healthcare professional who trained volunteer school personnel designated as care providers shall not be liable for any damages resulting from his/her actions or inactions in the administration of Glucagon in accordance with this consent form and the 504 plan.

Medication that is not approved by the FDA, experimental or trial medication will not be given at school by the school nurse or staff.  
2/21/2012

Parent or legal guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.35F4—EPINEPHRINE EMERGENCY ADMINISTRATION CONSENT FORM**

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

This form is good for school year \_\_\_\_\_. This consent form must be updated anytime the student's medication order changes and renewed each year and/or anytime a student changes schools.

My child has an IHP developed under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 which provides for the administration of epinephrine in emergency situations. I hereby authorize the school nurse or other school employee certified to administer auto-injectable epinephrine in emergency situations when he/she believes my child is having a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction. The medication must be in the original container and be properly labeled with the student's name, the ordering provider's name, the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency, and instructions for the administration of the medication (including times). Additional information accompanying the medication shall state the purpose for the medication, its possible side effects, and any other pertinent instructions (such as special storage requirements) or warnings.

Date of physician's order \_\_\_\_\_

Circumstances under which Epinephrine may be administered \_\_\_\_\_

Other instructions \_\_\_\_\_

Medication that is not approved by the FDA, experimental or trial medication will not be given at school by the school nurse or staff.  
2/21/2012

I acknowledge that the District, its Board of Directors, and its employees shall be immune from civil liability for damages resulting from the administration of auto-injector epinephrine in accordance with this consent form, District policy, and Arkansas law.

Parent or legal guardian signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.36—STUDENT ILLNESS/ACCIDENT**

If a student becomes too ill to remain in class and/or could be contagious to other students, the principal or designee will attempt to notify the student's parent or legal guardian. The student will remain in the school's health room or a place where he/she can be supervised until the end of the school day or until the parent/legal guardian can check the student out of school.

If a student becomes seriously ill or is injured while at school and the parent/legal guardian cannot be contacted, the failure to make such contact shall not unreasonably delay the school's expeditious transport of the student to an appropriate medical care facility. The school assumes no responsibility for treatment of the student. When available, current, and applicable, the student's emergency contact numbers and medical information will be utilized. Parents are strongly encouraged to keep this information up to date.

#### **4.37—EMERGENCY DRILLS**

All schools in the District shall conduct fire drills at least monthly. Tornado drills shall also be conducted no fewer than three (3) times per year with at least one each in the months of September, January, and February. Students who ride school buses, shall also participate in emergency evacuation drills at least twice each school year.

The District shall annually conduct an active shooter drill and school safety assessment for all District schools in collaboration with local law enforcement and emergency management personnel. The training will include a lockdown exercise with panic button alert system training. Students will be included in the drills to the extent that is developmentally appropriate for the age of both the students and grade configuration of the school.

Drills may be conducted during the instructional day or during non-instructional time periods.

Other types of emergency drills may also be conducted to test the implementation of the District's emergency plans in the event of violence, terrorist attack, natural disaster, other emergency, or the District's Panic Button Alert System. Students shall be included in the drills to the extent practicable.

#### **4.38—PERMANENT RECORDS**

Permanent school records, as required by the Arkansas Department of Education, shall be maintained for each student enrolled in the District until the student receives a high school diploma or its equivalent or is beyond the age of compulsory school attendance. A copy of the student's permanent record shall be provided to the receiving school district within ten (10) school days after the date a request from the receiving school district is received.

#### **4.39—CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**

The Mena School Board authorizes the use of corporal punishment to be administered in accordance with this policy by the Superintendent or his/her designated staff members who are required to have a state-issued license as a condition of their employment.

Prior to the administration of corporal punishment, the student receiving the corporal punishment shall be given an explanation of the reasons for the punishment and be given an opportunity to refute the charges.

All corporal punishment shall be administered privately, i.e. out of the sight and hearing of other students, shall not be excessive, or administered with malice, and shall be administered in the presence of another school administrator or designee who shall be a licensed staff member employed by the District.

#### **4.40—HOMELESS STUDENTS**

The Mena School District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to homeless children as are afforded to non-homeless children. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational agency (LEA) liaison for homeless children and youth whose responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

Receive appropriate time and training in order to carry out the duties required by law and this policy;

- coordinate and collaborate with the State Coordinator, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths;
- Ensure that school personnel receive professional development and other support regarding their duties and responsibilities for homeless youths;
- Ensure that unaccompanied homeless youths: Are enrolled in school; Have opportunities to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths; and Are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and that they may obtain assistance from the LEA liaison to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid;
- Ensure that public notice of the educational rights of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youth, and unaccompanied homeless youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable.

To the extent possible, the LEA liaison and the building principal shall work together to ensure no homeless child or youth is harmed due to conflicts with District policies solely because of the homeless child or youth's living situation; this is especially true for District policies governing fees, fines, and absences.

Notwithstanding Policy 4.1, homeless students living in the district are entitled to enroll in the district's school that non-homeless students who live in the same attendance area are eligible to attend. If there is a question concerning the enrollment of a homeless child due to a conflict with Policy 4.1 or 4.2, the child shall be immediately admitted to the school in which enrollment is sought pending resolution of the dispute, including all appeals. It is the responsibility of the District's LEA liaison for homeless children and youth to carry out the dispute resolution process.

For the purposes of this policy "school of origin" means:

- The school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including a preschool; and The designated receiving school at the next grade level for all feeder schools when the child completes the final grade provided by the school of origin.

The District shall do one of the following according to what is in the best interests of a homeless child:-

1. Continue the child's or youth's education in the school of origin for the duration of homelessness: In any case in which a family becomes homeless between academic years or during an academic year; and For the remainder of the academic year, if the child or youth becomes permanently housed during an academic year; or Enroll the child or youth in any public school that nonhomeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

In determining the best interest of the child or youth, the District shall:

- Presume that keeping the child or youth in the school of origin is in the child's or youth's best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth; Consider student-centered factors related to the child's or youth's best interest, including factors related to the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth.

If the District determines that it is not in the child's or youth's best interest to attend the school of origin or the school requested by the parent or guardian, or (in the case of an unaccompanied youth) the youth, the District shall provide the child's or youth's parent or guardian or the unaccompanied youth with a written explanation of the reasons for its determination, in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth, including information regarding the right to appeal. For an unaccompanied youth, the District shall ensure that the LEA liaison assists in placement or enrollment decisions, gives priority to the views of such unaccompanied youth, and provides notice to such youth of the right to appeal.

The homeless child or youth must be immediately enrolled in the selected school regardless of whether application or enrollment deadlines were missed during the period of homelessness.

The District shall be responsible for providing transportation for a homeless child, at the request of the parent or guardian (or in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the LEA Liaison), to and from the child's school of origin.

For the purposes of this policy, students shall be considered homeless if they lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and:

A. Are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; Living in emergency or transitional shelters; Abandoned in hospitals; or Awaiting foster care placement;

A. Have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;

B. Are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

C. Are migratory children who are living in circumstances described in clauses (a) through (c).

In accordance with Federal law, information on a homeless child or youth's living situation is part of the student's education record and shall not be considered, or added, to the list of directory information in Policy 4.13.

#### **4.41—PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OR SCREENINGS**

The district conducts routine health screenings such as hearing, vision, and scoliosis due to the importance these health factors play in the ability of a student to succeed in school. The intent of the exams or screenings is to detect defects in hearing, vision, or other elements of health that would adversely affect the student's ability to achieve to his/her full potential.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns eighteen (18) years old.

Except in instances where a student is suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease, parents shall have the right to opt their student out of the exams or screenings by using form 4.41F or by providing certification from a physician that he/she has recently examined the student.

#### **4.41F—OBJECTION TO PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS OR SCREENINGS**

I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to the physical examination or screening of the student named below.

Physical examination or screening being objected to:

\_\_\_\_ Vision test \_\_\_\_ Hearing test \_\_\_\_ Scoliosis test \_\_\_\_ Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of student (Printed)

Signature of parent (or student, if 18 or older) Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

#### **4.42—STUDENT HANDBOOK**

It shall be the policy of the Mena School District that the most recently adopted version of the Student Handbook be incorporated by reference into the policies of this district. In the event that there is a conflict between the student handbook and a general board policy or policies, the more recently adopted language will be considered binding and controlling on the matter provided the parent(s) of the student, or the student if 18 years of age or older have acknowledged receipt of the controlling language.

Principals shall review all changes to student policies and ensure that such changes are provided to students and parents, either in the Handbook or, if changes are made after the handbook is printed, as an addendum to the handbook.

Principals and counselors shall also review Policies 4.45—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS and the current ADE Standards for Accreditation Rules to ensure that there is no conflict. If a conflict exists, the Principal and/or Counselor shall notify the Superintendent and Curriculum Coordinator immediately, so that corrections may be made and notice of the requirements given to students and parents.

#### **4.43—BULLYING**

Respect for the dignity of others is a cornerstone of civil society. Bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, robs a person of his/her dignity, detracts from the safe environment necessary to promote student learning, and will not be tolerated by the Board of Directors. Students who bully another person shall be held accountable for their actions whether they occur on school equipment or property; off school property at a school sponsored or approved function, activity, or event; going to or from school or a school activity in a school vehicle or school bus; or at designated school bus stops.

A school principal or his or her designee who receives a credible report or complaint of bullying shall promptly investigate the complaint or report and make a record of the investigation and any action taken as a result of the investigation.

##### **Definitions:**

**Attribute** means an actual or perceived personal characteristic including without limitation race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, socioeconomic status, academic status, disability, gender, gender identity, physical appearance, health condition, or sexual orientation;

**Bullying** means the intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee by a written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that causes or creates a clear and present danger of:

- Physical harm to a public school employee or student or damage to the public school employee's or student's property;
- Substantial interference with a student's education or with a public school employee's role in education;
- A hostile educational environment for one (1) or more students or public school employees due to the severity, persistence, or pervasiveness of the act; or
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment;

**Electronic act** means without limitation a communication or image transmitted by means of an electronic device, including without limitation a telephone, wireless phone or other wireless communications device, computer, or pager that results in the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment.

Electronic acts of bullying are prohibited whether or not the electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic act is directed specifically at students or school personnel and maliciously intended for the purpose of disrupting school, and has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose;

**Harassment** means a pattern of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct relating to another person's constitutionally or statutorily protected status that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other's performance in the school environment; and

**Substantial disruption** means without limitation that any one or more of the following occur as a result of the bullying:

- Necessary cessation of instruction or educational activities;
- Inability of students or educational staff to focus on learning or function as an educational unit because of a hostile environment;
- Severe or repetitive disciplinary measures are needed in the classroom or during educational activities; or
- Exhibition of other behaviors by students or educational staff that substantially interfere with the learning environment.

**Cyberbullying of School Employees** is expressly prohibited and includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Building a fake profile or website of the employee;
- b. Posting or encouraging others to post on the Internet private, personal, or sexual information pertaining to a school employee;
- c. Posting an original or edited image of the school employee on the Internet;
- d. Accessing, altering, or erasing any computer network, computer data program, or computer software, including breaking into a password-protected account or stealing or otherwise accessing passwords of a school employee; making repeated, continuing, or sustained electronic communications, including electronic mail or transmission, to a school employee;
- e. Making, or causing to be made, and disseminating an unauthorized copy of data pertaining to a school employee in any form, including without limitation the printed or electronic form of computer data, computer programs, or computer software residing in, communicated by, or produced by a computer or computer network;
- f. Signing up a school employee for a pornographic Internet site; or
- g. Without authorization of the school employee, signing up a school employee for electronic mailing lists or to receive junk electronic messages and instant messages.

Examples of "Bullying" may also include but are not limited to a pattern of behavior involving one or more of the following:

1. Sarcastic comments "compliments" about another student's personal appearance, or actual or perceived attributes,
2. Pointed questions intended to embarrass or humiliate,
3. Mocking, taunting or belittling,
4. Non-verbal threats and/or intimidation such as "fronting" or "chesting" a person,
5. Demeaning humor relating to a student's race, gender, ethnicity or actual or perceived attributes,

## Blackmail, extortion, demands for protection money or other involuntary donations or loans,

6. Blocking access to school property or facilities,
7. Deliberate physical contact or injury to person or property,
8. Stealing or hiding books or belongings, and/or
9. Threats of harm to student(s), possessions, or others.
10. Sexual harassment, as governed by policy 4.27, is also a form of bullying,
11. Teasing or name-calling based on the belief or perception that an individual is not conforming to expected gender roles (Example: "Slut") or conduct or is homosexual, regardless of whether the student self-identifies as homosexual (Examples: "You are so gay." "Fag" "Queer").

Students are encouraged to report behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to their teacher or the building principal. The report may be made anonymously. Teachers and other school employees who have witnessed, or are reliably informed that, a student has been a victim of behavior they consider to be bullying, including a single action which if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, shall report the incident(s) to the principal. Parents or legal guardians may submit written reports of incidents they feel constitute bullying, or if allowed to continue would constitute bullying, to the principal. The principal shall be responsible for investigating the incident(s) to determine if disciplinary action is warranted.

The person or persons reporting behavior they consider to be bullying shall not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

Students found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion. In determining the appropriate disciplinary action, consideration may be given to other violations of the student handbook which may have simultaneously occurred.

Notice of what constitutes bullying, the District's prohibition against bullying, and the consequences for students who bully shall be conspicuously posted in every classroom, cafeteria, restroom, gymnasium, auditorium, and school bus. Parents, students, school volunteers, and employees shall be given copies of the notice.

Copies of this policy shall be available upon request.

### **4.44— POLICY DELETED**

### **4.45—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASSES OF 2018, 2019, AND**

#### **2020**

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are eighteen (18) years of age or older, sign a Smart Core Waiver Form to not participate. While Smart Core is the default option, both a Smart Core Informed Consent Form and a Smart Core Waiver Form will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7th) grade, or when a seventh (7th) through twelfth (12th) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed form in the student's permanent record. Parents must sign one of the forms and return it to the school so it can be placed in the students' permanent record. This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades six (6) through – (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the requirements of their IEP (when applicable) to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the time they are required to sign the consent forms.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums, following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum providing they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year. Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing paths.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents at least every other year to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each. This may be accomplished through any or all of the following means:

Inclusion in the student handbook of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;

Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter;

Discussions held by the school's counselors with students and their parents; and/or

Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.

Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph.

To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children for all students who meet the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS.

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation for a student participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Arkansas Department of Education, the district requires an additional unit to graduate for a total of 23 units. The additional required unit may be taken from any electives offered by the district. There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements.

Beginning in the 2018-2019 school year, all students must pass the test approved by ADE that is similar to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in order to graduate.

#### **Digital Learning Courses**

The District shall offer one or more digital learning course(s) through one or more District approved provider(s) as either a primary or supplementary method of instruction. The courses may be in a blended learning, online-based, or other technology-based format. In addition to the other graduation requirements contained in this policy, **students are required to take at least one (1) digital learning course for credit while in high school.**

#### **SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units – 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>; Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit; Mathematics: four (4) units (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.): 1) Algebra I or Algebra A & B\* which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9; 2) Geometry or Investigating Geometry or Geometry A & B\* which may be taken in grades 8-9 or 9-10; \*A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement

for the purpose of meeting the **graduation** requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the **Smart Core** requirement. 3) Algebra II; and 4) The fourth unit may be either:

- A math unit beyond Algebra II: this can include Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Statistics, Algebra III, Advanced Topic and Modeling in Mathematics, Mathematical Applications and Algorithms, Linear Systems and Statistics, or any of several IB or Advanced Placement math courses (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable); or
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a fourth math credit.

Natural Science: a total of three (3) units with lab experience chosen from: One unit of Biology; and either: Two units chosen from the following three categories (there are acceptable options listed by the ADE for each): Physical Science; Chemistry; Physics or Principles of Technology I & II or PIC Physics; or

One unit from the three categories above and a computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

- Social Studies: three (3) units; Civics one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit; World History - one unit; American History - one unit

Physical Education: one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit; **Note:** While one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit; Economics – one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits. Fine Arts: one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

#### **CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

#### **CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units – 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> ; Oral Communications: one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units: Algebra or its equivalent\* - 1 unit; Geometry or its equivalent\* - 1 unit

- All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.
- (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable)
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry  
\*A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

Science: three (3) units: at least one (1) unit of biology or its equivalent; and Two units chosen from the following three categories: Physical Science; Chemistry; Physics; or One unit from the three categories above and a computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units: Civics one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit; World history, one (1) unit; American History, one (1) unit

Physical Education: one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit; **Note:** While one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

Economics – one half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits. Fine Arts: one-half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) unit

#### **CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

### **4.45.1—SMART CORE CURRICULUM AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CLASSES OF 2021 AND THEREAFTER**

All students are required to participate in the Smart Core curriculum unless their parents or guardians, or the students if they are eighteen (18) years of age or older, sign a *Smart Core Waiver Form* to not participate. While Smart Core is the default option, both a *Smart Core Informed Consent Form* and a *Smart Core Waiver Form* will be sent home with students prior to their enrolling in seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) grade, or when a seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) through twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade student enrolls in the district for the first time and there is not a signed form in the student's permanent record. Parents must sign one of the forms and return it to the school so it can be placed in the students' permanent record.<sup>1</sup> This policy is to be included in student handbooks for grades six (6) through twelve (12) and both students and parents must sign an acknowledgement they have received the policy. Those students not participating in the Smart Core curriculum will be required to fulfill the Core curriculum or the requirements of their IEP (when applicable) to be eligible for graduation. Counseling by trained personnel shall be available to students and their parents or legal guardians prior to the time they are required to sign the consent forms.

While there are similarities between the two curriculums, following the Core curriculum may not qualify students for some scholarships and admission to certain colleges could be jeopardized. Students initially choosing the Core curriculum may subsequently change to the Smart Core curriculum **providing** they would be able to complete the required course of study by the end of their senior year. Students wishing to change their choice of curriculums must consult with their counselor to determine the feasibility of changing paths.

This policy, the Smart Core curriculum, and the courses necessary for graduation shall be reviewed by staff, students, and parents at least every other year to determine if changes need to be made to better serve the needs of the district's students. The superintendent, or his/her designee, shall select the composition of the review panel.

Sufficient information relating to Smart Core and the district's graduation requirements shall be communicated to parents and students to ensure their informed understanding of each. This may be accomplished through any or all of the following means:

- Inclusion in the student handbook of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements;
- Discussion of the Smart Core curriculum and graduation requirements at the school's annual public meeting, PTA meetings, or a meeting held specifically for the purpose of informing the public on this matter;
- Discussions held by the school's counselors with students and their parents; and/or
- Distribution of a newsletter(s) to parents or guardians of the district's students.



Administrators, or their designees, shall train newly hired employees, required to be licensed as a condition of their employment, regarding this policy. The district's annual professional development shall include the training required by this paragraph. To the best of its ability, the District shall follow the requirements covering the transfer of course credit and graduation set forth in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children for all students who meet the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS.

#### **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

The number of units students must earn to be eligible for high school graduation is to be earned from the categories listed below. A minimum of twenty-two (22) units is required for graduation for a student participating in either the Smart Core or Core curriculum. In addition to the twenty-two (22) units required for graduation by the Arkansas Department of Education, the district requires an additional unit to graduate for a total of 23 units. The additional required units may be taken from any electives offered by the district. There are some distinctions made between Smart Core units and Graduation units. Not all units earned toward graduation necessarily apply to Smart Core requirements.

All students must pass the test approved by ADE that is similar to the civics portion of the naturalization test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in order to graduate.

#### **Digital Learning Courses**

The District shall offer one or more digital learning course(s) through one or more District approved provider(s) as either a primary or supplementary method of instruction. The courses may be in a blended learning, online-based, or other technology-based format. In addition to the other graduation requirements contained in this policy, students are required to take at least one (1) digital learning course for credit while in high school.

#### **Personal and Family Finance**

In tenth (10th), eleventh (11th), or twelfth (12th) grade, all students shall cover the Personal and Family Finance Standards by receiving credit for ADE approved courses.

#### **SMART CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units – 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup>; Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units (all students under Smart Core must take a mathematics course in grade 11 or 12 and complete Algebra II.): 1) Algebra I or Algebra A & B\* which may be taken in grades 7-8 or 8-9;

2) Geometry or Investigating Geometry or Geometry A & B\* which may be taken in grades 8-9 or 9-10; \*A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four-unit requirement for the purpose of meeting the **graduation** requirement, but only serve as one unit each toward fulfilling the **Smart Core** requirement.

3) Algebra II; and 4) The fourth unit may be either:

- A math unit beyond Algebra II: this can include Pre-Calculus, Calculus, AP Statistics, Algebra III, Advanced Topic and Modeling in Mathematics, Mathematical Applications and Algorithms, Linear Systems and Statistics, or any of several IB or Advanced Placement math courses (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable); or
- A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a fourth math credit.

Natural Science: a total of three (3) units with lab experience chosen from: One unit of Biology; and either: Two units chosen from the following three categories (there are acceptable options listed by the ADE for each): Physical Science; Chemistry; Physics or Principles of Technology I & II or PIC Physics; or

- One unit from the three categories above and a computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units: Civics one-half (½) unit; World History - one unit; American History - one unit

Physical Education: one-half (½) unit; **Note:** While one-half (½) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate.

Health and Safety: one-half (½) unit; Economics – one half (½) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits.; Fine Arts: one-half (½) unit

#### **CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

#### **CORE: Sixteen (16) units**

English: four (4) units – 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>; Oral Communications: one-half (½) unit

Mathematics: four (4) units: Algebra or its equivalent\* - 1 unit; Geometry or its equivalent\* - 1 unit; All math units must build on the base of algebra and geometry knowledge and skills.; (Comparable concurrent credit college courses may be substituted where applicable); A computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a math credit beyond Algebra I and Geometry. \*A two-year algebra equivalent or a two-year geometry equivalent may each be counted as two units of the four (4) unit requirement.

Science: three (3) units: at least one (1) unit of biology or its equivalent; and Two units chosen from the following three categories: Physical Science; Chemistry; Physics; or One unit from the three categories above and a computer science flex credit may be taken in the place of a third science credit.

Social Studies: three (3) units: Civics one-half (½) unit, World history, one (1) unit, American History, one (1) unit. Physical

Education: one-half (½) unit, **Note:** While one-half (½) unit is required for graduation, no more than one (1) unit may be applied toward fulfilling the necessary units to graduate. Health and Safety: one-half (½) unit. Economics – one half (½) unit – dependent upon the licensure of the teacher teaching the course, this can count toward the required three (3) social studies credits or the six (6) required Career Focus elective credits. Fine Arts: one-half (½) unit

#### **CAREER FOCUS: - Six (6) units**

All career focus unit requirements shall be established through guidance and counseling based on the student's contemplated work aspirations. Career focus courses shall conform to the curriculum policy of the district and reflect state curriculum frameworks through course sequencing and career course concentrations where appropriate.

A student who enlists in a branch of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard through the military delayed entry program, the National Guard Split Training Option, or other similar early entry program and completes basic training before graduating from high school shall receive two (2) units of the Career Focus graduation requirements.

#### **4.46—PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Pledge of Allegiance shall be recited during the first class period of each school day. Those students choosing to participate shall do so by facing the flag with their right hands over their hearts, or in an appropriate salute if in uniform, while reciting the Pledge. Students choosing not to participate shall be quiet while either standing or sitting at their desks.

Students shall not be compelled to recite the Pledge, but students who choose not to recite the Pledge shall not disrupt those students choosing to recite the Pledge.

Students choosing not to recite the Pledge shall not be subject to any comments, retaliation, or disciplinary action.

#### **4.47— POSSESSION AND USE OF CELL PHONES, AND OTHER ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

Students are responsible for conducting themselves in a manner that respects the rights of others. Possession and use of any electronic device, whether district or student owned, that interferes with a positive, orderly classroom environment does not respect the rights of others and is expressly forbidden.

To protect the security of statewide assessments, no electronic device, as defined in this policy, shall be accessible by a student at any time during test administration unless specifically permitted by a student's IEP or individual health plan. This means that when a student is taking an AESSA assessment, the student shall not have his/her electronic device in his/her possession. Any student violating this provision shall be subject to this policy's disciplinary provisions.

As used in this policy, "electronic devices" means anything that can be used to transmit or capture images, sound, or data.

Misuse of electronic devices includes, but is not limited to:

1. Using electronic devices during class time in any manner other than specifically permitted by the classroom instructor;
2. Permitting any audible sound to come from the device when not being used for reason #1 above;
3. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, or wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores;
4. Using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms;
5. Creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction of oneself or another person.

Use of an electronic device is permitted to the extent it is approved in a student's IEP or it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Before and after normal school hours, possession of electronic devices is permitted on the school campus. The use of such devices at school sponsored functions outside the regular school day is permitted to the extent and within the limitations allowed by the event or activity the student is attending.

The student and/or the student's parents or guardians expressly assume any risk associated with students owning or possessing electronic devices. Students misusing electronic devices shall have them confiscated. Confiscated devices may be picked up at the school's administration office by the student's parents or guardians. Students have no right of privacy as to the content contained on any electronic devices that have been confiscated. A search of a confiscated device shall meet the reasonable individualized suspicion requirements of Policy **4.32—SEARCH, SEIZURE, AND INTERROGATIONS**.

Students who use school issued cell phones and/or computers for non-school purposes, except as permitted by the district's Internet/computer use policy, shall be subject to discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Students are forbidden from using school issued cell phones while driving any vehicle at any time. Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.

No student shall use any wireless communication device for the purposes of browsing the internet; composing or reading emails and text messages; or making or answering phone calls while driving a motor vehicle that is in motion and on school property. Violation may result in disciplinary action up to and including suspension.

#### **4.48—VIDEO SURVEILLANCE**

The Board of Directors has a responsibility to maintain discipline, protect the safety, security, and welfare of its students, staff, and visitors while at the same time safeguarding district facilities, vehicles, and equipment. As part of fulfilling this responsibility, the board authorizes the use of video/audio surveillance cameras, automatic identification technology, data compilation devices, and technology capable of tracking the physical location of district equipment, students, and/or personnel.

The placement of video/audio surveillance cameras shall be based on the presumption and belief that students, staff and visitors have no reasonable expectation of privacy anywhere on or near school property, facilities, vehicles, or equipment, with the exception of places such as rest rooms or dressing areas where an expectation of bodily privacy is reasonable and customary.

Signs shall be posted on campus buildings and in district vehicles to notify students, staff, and visitors that video cameras may be in use. Parents and students shall also be notified through the student handbook that cameras may be in use in school buildings, on school grounds and in school vehicles. Students will be held responsible for any violations of school discipline rules caught by the cameras and other technologies authorized in this policy.

The district shall retain copies of video recordings until they are erased which may be accomplished by either deletion or copying over with a new recording. Other than video recordings being retained under the provisions of this policy's following paragraph, the district's video recordings may be erased any time greater than thirty (30) days after they were created.

Videos, automatic identification, or data compilations containing evidence of a violation of student conduct rules and/or state or federal law shall be retained until the issue of the misconduct is no longer subject to review or appeal as determined by board policy or student handbook; any release or viewing of such records shall be in accordance with current law.

Students who vandalize, damage, disable, or render inoperable (temporarily or permanently) surveillance cameras and equipment, automatic identification, or data compilation devices shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and referral to appropriate law enforcement authorities.

#### **4.49—SPECIAL EDUCATION**

The district shall provide a free appropriate public education and necessary related services to all children with disabilities residing within the district, as required under the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans With Disabilities Act, and Arkansas Statutes.

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services. Students may be disabled within the meaning of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act even though they do not require services pursuant to the IDEA.

For students eligible for services under IDEA, the District shall follow procedures for identification, evaluation, placement, and delivery of services to children with disabilities provided in the state and federal statutes governing special education. Implementation of an Individualized Education Program (IEP) in accordance with the IDEA satisfies the district's obligation to provide a free and appropriate education under Section 504.

The Board directs the superintendent to ensure procedures are in place for the implementation of special education services and that programs are developed to conform to the requirements of state and federal legislation. The superintendent is responsible for appointing a district coordinator for

overseeing district fulfillment of its responsibilities regarding students with disabilities. Among the coordinator's responsibilities shall be ensuring district enforcement of the due process rights of students with disabilities and their parents.

Any person having inquiries concerning compliance with IDEA, Title VI (race), Title IX (sex) or Section 504 (handicap) is directed to contact:

Paulette Sherrer, Coordinator of Federal Programs  
Foster Care Liaison  
Mena Public Schools  
501 Hickory Avenue  
Mena, AR 71953-1945  
Telephone: (479) 394-1710

#### **4.50—SCHOOL MEAL MODIFICATIONS**

The district only provides modified meal components on menus to accommodate students with a disability. A parent/guardian wishing to request dietary accommodations for their student with a disability must submit to the district's Director of Child Nutrition a medical statement completed by a State licensed healthcare professional, which includes:

- Physicians, including those licensed by: The Arkansas State Medical Board; The Arkansas State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Chiropractors); The Arkansas Board of Podiatric Medicine (Podiatrists); Nurse Practitioners (APRNs in family or pediatric practice with prescriptive authority); Physician Assistants (PAs who work in collaborative practice with a physician); and Dentists.

The medical statement should include:

1. A description of the student's disability that is sufficient to understand how the disability restricts the student's diet;
2. An explanation of what must be done to accommodate the disability, which may include:  
Food(s) to avoid or restrict; Food(s) to substitute; Caloric modifications; or The substitution of a liquid nutritive formula.

If the information provided in the medical statement is unclear, or lacks sufficient detail, the district's Director of Child Nutrition shall request additional information so that a proper and safe meal can be provided.

When choosing an appropriate approach to accommodate a student's disability, the District will consider the expense and efficiency of the requested accommodations. The District will offer a reasonable modification that effectively accommodates the child's disability and provides equal opportunity to participate in or benefit from the program, which may include a generic version of a product.

Parents may file a grievance regarding the request for accommodations with the District's 504 Coordinator, who will schedule a hearing on the grievance to be held as soon as possible. The 504 coordinator shall provide a copy of the procedures governing the hearing, including that the parent has the right to be accompanied by counsel, and the appeal process upon request.

The district will not prepare meals outside the normal menu to accommodate a family's religious or personal health beliefs.

#### **4.51— FOOD SERVICE PREPAYMENT**

##### **Meal Charges**

The district does not provide credit for students to charge for meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items available for purchase in the school food service areas. Meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items may be purchased by either providing payment for the items at the time of receipt or by having a prepaid account with the District that may be charged for the items. Parents, or students choosing to do so, may pay in advance for meals, a la carte, or other food and beverage items through any of the following methods:

- Submitting cash or check payment at each school building office;
- Depositing funds through the District's online service My Payments Plus. Parents pay a 4.75% fee for the use of the service.

A student's parents will be contacted by authorized District personnel regarding a student's account balance when the student's account has a \$5.00 balance. School personnel will contact parents by email, telephone, or letter regarding the low balance for meals.

##### **Alternative Meals**

The District provides alternative meals at no cost to students whose accounts do not have enough funds to purchase a meal. Alternative meals are available during lunch. A student may select an alternative meal up to 4 times in a school year. The District will notify a student's parents when the student has:

- Two (2) alternative meal options remaining in the school year; and No more alternative meals available for the school year.

The alternative meals provided to students are available as sack lunches. Students who have submitted proper documentation to receive a meal modification in accordance with Policy 4.50—SCHOOL MEAL MODIFICATIONS shall receive the same type of modification for an alternative meal.

#### **4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN**

The District will afford the same services and educational opportunities to foster children that are afforded other children and youth. The District shall work with the Department of Human Services ("DHS"), the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), and individuals involved with each foster child to ensure that the foster child is able to maintain his/her continuity of educational services to the fullest extent that is practical and reasonable.

The Superintendent or his/her designee shall appoint an appropriate staff person to be the local educational liaison for foster children and youth whose responsibilities shall include ensuring the timely school enrollment of each foster child and assisting foster children who transfer between schools by expediting the transfer of relevant educational records.

The District, working with other individuals and agencies shall, unless the presiding court rules otherwise or DHS grants a request to transfer under Foster Child School Choice, ensure that the foster child remains in his/her school of origin, even if a change in the foster child's placement results in a residency that is outside the district. In such a situation, the District will work with DHS to arrange for transportation to and from school for the foster child to the extent it is reasonable and practical.

Upon notification to the District's foster care liaison by a foster child's caseworker that a foster child's school enrollment is being changed to one of the District's schools, the school receiving the child must immediately enroll him/her. Immediate enrollment is required even if a child lacks the required clothing, academic or medical records, or proof of residency.

A foster child's grades shall not be lowered due to absence from school that is caused by a change in the child's school enrollment, the child's attendance at dependency-neglect court proceedings, or other court-ordered counseling or treatment.

Any course work completed by the foster child prior to a school enrollment change shall be accepted as academic credit so long as the child has satisfactorily completed the appropriate academic placement assessment.

If a foster child was enrolled in a District school immediately prior to completing his/her graduation requirements while detained in a juvenile detention facility or while committed to the Division of Youth Services of DHS, the District shall issue the child a diploma.

##### **Foster Child School Choice**

If DHS approves a request from a foster parent, or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, to transfer to another school in the District or into the district as being in the best interest of the foster child, the District shall allow the foster child to transfer to another school in the District or into the District if the foster parent, or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, submits a request to transfer on a form approved by ADE that is postmarked by no later than May 1 of the year the student seeks to begin the fall semester at another school in the District or in the District.

By July 1 of the school year in which the student seeks to transfer under this section, the superintendent shall notify the foster parent or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, in writing whether the application has been accepted or rejected. If the application is accepted, the superintendent shall state in the notification letter a reasonable deadline for the foster child to enroll in the new school or the District and that failure to enroll by the date shall void the school choice acceptance. If the application is rejected, the superintendent shall state in the notification letter the reason for the rejection and that the foster parent, or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, may submit a written appeal of the rejection to the State board within ten (10) days of receiving the notification letter.

The District shall only reject a Foster Child School Choice application if the public school or District has reached the maximum student-to-teacher ratio allowed under federal law, state law, rules for standards of accreditation, or other applicable rule or regulation.

A foster child whose application is rejected by the District may submit a written request within ten (10) days following the receipt of the rejection letter from the superintendent to the State Board of Education for the State Board to reconsider the transfer.

A Foster Child School Choice transfer shall remain in effect until the foster child:

- Graduates from high school; or
- Transfers to another school or school district under:
  - The Foster Child School Choice Act;
  - Opportunity Public School Choice Act of 2004;
  - The Public School Choice Act of 2015; or
  - Any other law that allows a transfer.

The District shall accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by another public school district.

When a foster child transfers from the foster child's school of origin to another school in the District or into the District, the foster child or the foster parent is responsible for the foster child's transportation to and from the school the foster child transferred to. The District and the foster parent, or the foster child if the foster child is eighteen (18) years of age, may enter into a written agreement for the District to provide the transportation to and from the school the foster child transferred to.

#### **4.53— PLACEMENT OF MULTIPLE BIRTH SIBLINGS**

The parent, guardian or other person having charge or custody of multiple birth siblings in grades pre-K through 6 may request that the multiple birth siblings are placed in either the same or separate classrooms. The request shall be in writing not later than the 14<sup>th</sup> calendar day prior to the first day of classes at the beginning of the academic year. The school shall honor the request unless it would require the school to add an additional class to the sibling's grade level. If one parent of multiple birth siblings requests a placement that differs from that of the other parent of the same multiple birth siblings, the school shall determine the appropriate placement of the siblings.

The school may change the classroom placement of one or more of the multiple birth siblings if:

- There have been a minimum of 30 instructional days since the start of the school year; and
  - After consulting with each classroom teacher in which the siblings were placed, the school determines the parent's classroom placement request is:
    - Detrimental to the educational achievement of one or more of the siblings;
    - Disruptive to the siblings' assigned classroom learning environment; or
    - Disruptive to the school's educational or disciplinary environment.

If a parent believes the school has not followed the requirements of this policy, the parent may appeal the multiple birth siblings' classroom placement to the Superintendent. The Superintendent's decision regarding the appeal shall be final.

#### **4.54 - STUDENT ACCELERATION**

The Board believes that acceleration is an effective and research-based intervention for the academic growth of students who are ready for an advanced or faster-paced curriculum. It can allow a student to move through the traditional educational setting more rapidly, based on assessed readiness, capability and motivation. At the same time, the Board understands that acceleration is not a replacement for gifted education services or programs.

Generally, acceleration can occur through one of two broad categories: content based and grade based. Grade based acceleration shortens the number of years a student would otherwise spend in K-12 education, while content based acceleration occurs within the normal K-12 time span. Either form of acceleration can be triggered by either a parent/guardian, student, or community member's request or by the referral of school personnel. In either case, the process of determining the appropriateness of the request shall be under the direction of the district/school Gifted and Talented Program Coordinator who shall convene the individuals necessary to make an informed decision which shall include the student's parents or guardians.

While the needs of the student should dictate when acceleration decisions are considered, the Board believes the optimal time for referrals is in the spring which gives adequate time for working through the determination process and for preparing those concerned for a smooth transition to the acceleration beginning in the following school-year.

The District's Gifted and Talented (GT) Program Coordinator will create a written format to govern the referral and determination process which shall be made available to any parent or staff member upon request.

The parents/guardians of any student whose request for acceleration has been denied may appeal the decision, in writing to the District's GT Coordinator. The District's GT Coordinator and the Acceleration Placement Committee will again thoroughly review the case study that was completed on the student. Upon completion of the review, the Committee will either request additional new testing be conducted to help the Committee make its determination or it will uphold the initial decision. The Committee's decision may not be further appealed.

#### **4.55—STUDENT PROMOTION AND RETENTION**

A disservice is done to students through social promotion and is prohibited by state law. The District shall, at a minimum, evaluate each student annually in an effort to help each student who is not performing at grade level. Parents or guardians shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student(s). Notice of a student's possible retention or required retaking of a course shall be included with the student's grades sent home to each parent/guardian or the student if 18 or older. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be held as necessary in an effort to improve a student's academic success.

At least once each semester, the parents and teacher(s) of a student in kindergarten through eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade shall be notified in writing of the student's independent grade-level-equivalency in reading.

Any grades, course credits, and/or promotions received by a student while enrolled in the Division of Youth Services system of education shall be considered transferable in the same manner as those grades, course credits, and promotions from other accredited Arkansas public educational entities.

Promotion or retention of students, or their required retaking of a course shall be primarily based on the student's ability to do the work in the next grade/subject and with the welfare of the student considered. If there is doubt concerning the promotion or retention of a student or his/her required retaking of a course, a conference shall be held before a final decision is made that includes the following individuals:

The building principal or designee; The student's teacher(s); School counselor; A 504/special education representative (if applicable); and The student's parents.

The conference shall be held at a time and place that best accommodates those participating in the conference. The school shall document participation or non-participation in required conferences. If the conference attendees fail to agree concerning the student's placement or receipt of course credit, the final decision shall rest with the principal or the principal's designee.

Beginning with the 2018-2019 school year, each student shall have a student success plan (SSP) developed by school personnel in collaboration with the student's parents and the student that is reviewed and updated annually. A student's SSP shall use multiple academic measures to personalize learning in order for students to achieve their grade-level expectations and individual growth. The SSP will identify if the student is in need of additional support or acceleration. Academic measures to be used in creating and updating a student's SSP shall include, but are not limited to:

- Statewide student assessment results; Subject grades; Student work samples; and Local assessment scores.

By the end of grade eight (8), the student's SSP shall:

- Guide the student along pathways to graduation; Address accelerated learning opportunities; Address academic deficits and interventions; and Include college and career planning components.

Based on a student's score on the college and career assessment:

- The student's SSP will be updated in order to assist the student with college and career readiness skills, course selection in high school, and improved academic achievement; and Provide a basis for counseling concerning postsecondary preparatory programs.

An SSP shall be created:

1. By no later than the end of the school year for a student in grade eight (8) or below who enrolls in the District during the school year; or
2. As soon as reasonably possible for a student in grade nine (9) or above who enrolls in the District at the beginning or during the school year.<sup>2</sup>

A student's individualized education program (IEP) may act in the place of the student's SSP if the IEP addresses academic deficits and interventions for the student's failure to meet standards-based academic goals at an expected rate or level and includes a transition plan that addresses college and career planning components. Promotion/retention or graduation of students with an IEP shall be based on their successful attainment of the goals set forth in their IEP.

#### **4.56—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

Definitions:

"Academic Courses" are those courses for which class time is scheduled, which can be credited to meet the minimum requirements for graduation, which is taught by a teacher required to have State licensure in the course or is otherwise qualified under Arkansas statute, and has a course content guide which has been approved by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). Any of the courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher education recognized by ADE. If a student passes an academic course offered on a block schedule, the course can be counted twice toward meeting the requirement for students to pass four (4) academic courses per semester as required by this policy.

"Extracurricular activities" are defined as: any school sponsored program where students from one or more schools meet, work, perform, practice under supervision outside of regular class time, or are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to, inter/intra-scholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, or science competitions, field trips, and club activities.

"Field Trips" are when individual students or groups of students are invited to programs or events when there is no competition and the students are not interacting with each other for the purpose of planning, qualifying, or arranging for future programs or for the purpose of receiving recognition.

"Interscholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete on a school vs. school basis.

"Intra-scholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete with students from within the same school.

"Supplemental Improvement Program (SIP)" is an additional instructional opportunity for identified students outside of their regular classroom and meets the criteria outlined in the current Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) Handbook.

Extracurricular Eligibility

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of his/her classroom academic achievement. Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom are to be minimal and absences from class to participate in extracurricular activities shall not exceed one per week per extracurricular activity (tournaments excepted). Additionally, a student's participation in, and the District's operation of, extracurricular activities shall be subject to the following policy. All students are eligible for extracurricular activities unless specifically denied eligibility on the basis of criteria outlined in this policy.

Any student who refuses to sit for a Statewide assessment or attempts to boycott a Statewide assessment by failing to put forth a good faith effort on the assessment as determined by the assessment administrator/proctor, or whose parents do not send their student to school on the dates the assessments are administered or scheduled as make-up days shall not be permitted to participate in any non-curriculum related extracurricular activity. The student shall remain ineligible to participate until the student takes the same or a following statewide assessment, as applicable. The Superintendent or designee may waive this paragraph's provisions when the student's failure was due to exceptional or extraordinary circumstances. Students falling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be permitted to attend curriculum related field trips occurring during the school day.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

A student who enrolls in the district and meets the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENROLLMENT shall be eligible to try out for an extracurricular activity regardless of the date the student enrolls in the District so long as the student meets all other eligibility requirements and the extracurricular activity is still ongoing.

Interscholastic Activities

Each school in the District shall post on its website its schedule of interscholastic activities, including sign-up, tryout, and participation deadlines, at least one semester in advance of those activities. A hard copy of the schedule shall be available upon request.

ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Junior High

A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets scholarship requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets scholarship requirements for the first semester. The second semester eighth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three (3) of which shall be in the core curriculum areas specified by ADE's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.

The first semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three (3) of which shall be in the core curriculum areas specified by ADE's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools.

The second semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed (4) academic courses the previous semester which count toward his/her high school graduation requirements.

Ninth-grade students must meet the requirements of the senior high scholarship rule by the end of the second semester in the ninth grade in order to be eligible to participate the fall semester of their tenth-grade year.

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS: Senior High**

In order to remain eligible for competitive interscholastic activity, a student must have passed (4) academic courses the previous semester and either:

1. Have earned a minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester; or
2. If the student has passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester but does not have a 2.0 GPA the student must be enrolled and successfully participating in an SIP to maintain their competitive interscholastic extracurricular eligibility.

#### **STUDENTS WITH AN INDIVIDUAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**

In order to be considered eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic activities, students with disabilities must pass at least four (4) courses per semester as required by their individual education program (IEP).

#### **ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION**

In addition to the foregoing rules, the district shall abide by the rules and regulations of AAA governing interscholastic activities. AAA provides catastrophic insurance coverage for students participating in AAA governed extracurricular activities who are enrolled in school. As a matter of District policy, no student may participate in a AAA governed extracurricular activity unless he or she is enrolled in a district school, to ensure all students are eligible for AAA catastrophic insurance.

#### **Intra-scholastic Activities**

#### **AAA Governed Activities**

Students participating in intra-scholastic extracurricular activities that would be governed by AAA if they were to occur between students of different schools shall meet all interscholastic activity eligibility requirements to be eligible to participate in the comparable intra-scholastic activity. The District will abide by the AAA Handbook for such activities to ensure District students are not disqualified from participating in interscholastic activities.

#### **Non-AAA Governed Activities**

Unless made ineligible by District policies, all students shall be eligible to participate in non-AAA governed intra-scholastic extracurricular activities. Intra-scholastic activities designed for a particular grade(s) or course(s) shall require the student to be enrolled in the grade(s) or course(s).

### **4.56.1—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – ELEMENTARY**

#### **Definitions**

"Extracurricular activities" are defined as: any school sponsored program where students from one or more schools meet, work, perform, practice under supervision outside of regular class time, or are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, or criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to, inter/intra-scholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, or science competitions, field trips, and club activities.

"Field Trips" are when individual students or groups of students are invited to programs or events when there is no competition and the students are not interacting with each other for the purpose of planning, qualifying, or arranging for future programs or for the purpose of receiving recognition.

"Interscholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete on a school vs. school basis.

"Intra-scholastic Activities" means athletic or non-athletic/academic activities where students compete with students from within the same school.

#### **Extracurricular Eligibility**

The Board believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. At the same time, the Board believes that a student's participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of his/her classroom academic achievement. Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom are to be minimal and absences from class to participate in extracurricular activities shall not exceed one per week per extracurricular activity (tournaments or other similar events excepted with approval of the principal). All students are eligible for extracurricular activities unless specifically denied eligibility on the basis of criteria outlined in this policy.

A student may lose his/her eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities when, in the opinion of the school's administration, the student's participation in such an activity may adversely jeopardize his/her academic achievement. Students may also be denied permission to participate in extracurricular activities as a consequence of disciplinary action taken by the administration for inappropriate behavior.

Any student who refuses to sit for a Statewide assessment or attempts to boycott a Statewide assessment by failing to put forth a good faith effort on the assessment as determined by the assessment administrator/proctor, or whose parents do not send their student to school on the dates the assessments are administered or scheduled as make-up days shall not be permitted to participate in any non-curriculum related extracurricular activity. The student shall remain ineligible to participate until the student takes the same or a following statewide mandated assessment, as applicable. The superintendent or designee may waive this paragraph's provisions when the student's failure was due to exceptional or extraordinary circumstances. Students falling under the provisions of this paragraph shall be permitted to attend curriculum related field trips occurring during the school day.

A student who enrolls in the district and meets the definition of "eligible child" in Policy 4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS shall be eligible to try out for an extracurricular activity regardless of the date the student enrolls in the District so long as the student meets all other eligibility requirements and the extracurricular activity is still ongoing.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

### **4.56.2—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS**

Home-schooled student means a student legally enrolled in an Arkansas home school and who meets or has met the criteria for being a home-schooled student, as established by A.C.A. § 6-15-503.

Interscholastic activity means an activity between schools subject to regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association that is outside the regular curriculum of the school district, such as an athletic activity, fine arts program, or a special interest group or club. Each school in the District shall post on its website its schedule of interscholastic activities, including sign-up, tryout, and participation deadlines, at least one semester in advance of those activities. A hard copy of the schedule shall be available upon request. Home-schooled students whose parents or guardians are legal residents of the school district will be permitted to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity in the student's resident school as permitted by this policy.

Home-schooled students whose parent or legal guardian are not residents of the school district will be permitted to pursue participation in an interscholastic activity in the District if the superintendent of the student's resident district and the superintendent of the District both agree in writing to allow the student to participate in interscholastic activities at the District.

Although not guaranteed participation in an interscholastic activity, home-school students who meet the provisions of this policy, AAA Rules, and applicable Arkansas statutes shall have an equal opportunity to try out and participate in an interscholastic activity without discrimination. The District shall provide a reasonable alternative to any prerequisite for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity that the home-schooled student is unable to meet because of his or her enrollment in a home school.

To be eligible to try out and participate in interscholastic activities, the student or the parent of a student shall mail or hand deliver the student's request to participate to the student's school's principal before the sign-up, tryout or participation deadline established for traditional students. Additionally, the student shall demonstrate academic eligibility by obtaining a minimum test score of the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile or better in the previous 12 months on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition; another nationally recognized norm-referenced test; or a minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education.

A student who meets the requirements for eligibility to participate in an interscholastic activity is required to register for no more than one course in the District's school where the student is intending to participate in an interscholastic activity.

The student shall regularly attend the class in which the student is registered beginning no later than the eleventh (11<sup>th</sup>) day of the semester in which the student's interscholastic activity participation is desired. The student must attend the practices for the interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students.

A student and the parent or legal guardian of the student shall sign and return an acknowledgement of receipt and review of an information sheet regarding signs and symptoms of sudden cardiac arrest before the student may participate in an athletic activity and before each school year the student participates in an athletic activity.

A home-schooled student who has met the try out criteria; and who has been selected to participate in the interscholastic activity shall meet the following criteria that also apply to traditional students enrolled in the school:

- standards of behavior and codes of conduct; attend the practices for the interscholastic activity to the same extent as is required of traditional students; required drug testing; permission slips, waivers, physical exams; and participation or activity fees.

A home-schooled student who is not a resident of the District may begin participating in interscholastic activities:

- a. Immediately upon being approved for participation for all interscholastic activities other than athletic activities; and
- b. One (1) calendar year after being approved to participate in interscholastic activities that are athletic activities unless the approval is prior to July 1 of the school year the student would have been enrolled in seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) grade if the student were enrolled in public school.

A home-schooled student who is not a resident of the District and is prohibited under this policy from participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity for one (1) calendar year may immediately participate in rehearsals, tryouts, practices, auditions, classes, or other endeavors associated with the interscholastic activity.

Students who participate in extracurricular or athletic activities under this policy will be transported to and from the interscholastic activities on the same basis as other students are transported.

A student who withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home-schooled shall not participate in an interscholastic activity in the resident school district for a minimum of three hundred sixty-five days after the student withdraws from the member school.

#### **4.56.2F— HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS' LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY**

##### **AT RESIDENT DISTRICT**

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Resident Address: Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Student's date of birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Last grade level the student completed \_\_\_\_\_

Student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining a verifiable minimum test score of the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile or better in the previous 12 months on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test approved by the State Board of Education. \_\_\_\_\_ Name of test, \_\_\_\_\_ Date taken, and score achieved \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular activity(ies) the student requests to participate in \_\_\_\_\_

Course(s) the student requests to take at the school \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of identity \_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

#### **4.56.2F2— HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS' LETTER OF INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN AN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY**

##### **AT NON-RESIDENT DISTRICT**

Student's Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian's Resident Address

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Apartment \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Student's date of birth \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Last grade level the student completed \_\_\_\_\_

Student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining a verifiable minimum test score of the 30<sup>th</sup> percentile or better in the previous 12 months on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test approved by the State Board of Education. \_\_\_\_\_

Name of test, Date taken, and score achieved \_\_\_\_\_

Extracurricular activity(ies) the student requests to participate in \_\_\_\_\_

Course(s) the student requests to take at the school \_\_\_\_\_

Proof of identity \_\_\_ Date Submitted \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Parent's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

As the superintendent of the above student's resident district, I agree that the above student may participate in extracurricular activities at \_\_\_\_\_ School District.

Resident Superintendent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

As the superintendent of the \_\_\_\_\_ School district, where the above student desires to participate in extracurricular activities, I agree to allow the student to participate in extracurricular activities at \_\_\_\_\_ School District.

Non-resident Superintendent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Adopted: 7/2017 Last Revised:

#### **4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS**

##### **Definitions**

"In process" means the student has received at least one dose of the required immunizations and is waiting the minimum time interval to receive the additional dose(s).

"Serologic testing" refers to a medical procedure used to determine an individual's immunity to Hepatitis B, Measles, Mumps, Rubella and Varicella.

##### **General Requirements**

Unless otherwise provided by law or this policy, no student shall be admitted to attend classes in the District who has not been age appropriately immunized against:

- Poliomyelitis; Diphtheria; Tetanus; Pertussis; Red (rubeola) measles; Rubella; Mumps; Hepatitis A; Hepatitis B; Meningococcal disease; Varicella (chickenpox); and Any other immunization required by the Arkansas Department of Health (ADH).

The District administration has the responsibility to evaluate the immunization status of District students. The District shall maintain a list of all students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or who have an exemption provided by ADH to the immunization requirements based on medical, religious, or philosophical grounds. Students who are not fully age appropriately immunized when seeking admittance shall be referred to a medical authority for consultation.

The only types of proof of immunization the District will accept are immunization records provided by a: A. Licensed physician; B. Health department; C. Military service; or D. Official record from another educational institution in Arkansas.

The proof of immunization must include the vaccine type and dates of vaccine administration. Documents stating "up-to-date", "complete", "adequate", and the like will not be accepted as proof of immunization. No self or parental history of varicella disease will be accepted. Valid proof of immunization and of immunity based on serological testing shall be entered into the student's record.

In order to continue attending classes in the District, the student must have submitted:

- 1) Proof of immunization showing the student to be fully age appropriately vaccinated;
- 2) Written documentation by a public health nurse or private physician of proof the student is in process of being age appropriately immunized, which includes a schedule of the student's next immunization;
- 3) A copy of a letter from ADH indicating immunity based on serologic testing; and/or
- 4) A copy of the letter from ADH exempting the student from the immunization requirements for the current school year, or a copy of the application for an exemption for the current school year if the exemption letter has not yet arrived.

Students whose immunization records or serology results are lost or unavailable are required to receive all age appropriate vaccinations or submit number 4 above.

##### **Temporary Admittance**

While students who are not fully age appropriately immunized or have not yet submitted an immunization waiver may be enrolled to attend school, such students shall be allowed to attend school on a temporary basis only. Students admitted on a temporary basis may be admitted for a maximum of thirty (30) days (or until October 1st of the current school year for the tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis, and meningococcal vaccinations required at ages eleven (11) and sixteen (16) respectively if October 1<sup>st</sup> is later in the current school year than the thirty (30) days following the student's admittance). No student shall be withdrawn and readmitted in order to extend the thirty (30) day period. Students may be allowed to continue attending beyond the thirty (30) day period if the student submits a copy of either number 2 or number 4 above.

Students who are in process shall be required to adhere to the submitted schedule. Failure of the student to submit written documentation from a public health nurse or private physician demonstrating the student received the vaccinations set forth in the schedule may lead to the revocation of the student's temporary admittance; such students shall be excluded from school until the documentation is provided.

The District will not accept copies of applications requesting an exemption for the current school year that are older than two (2) weeks based on the date on the application. Students who submit a copy of an application to receive an exemption from the immunization requirements for the current year to gain temporary admittance have thirty (30) days from the admission date to submit either a letter from ADH granting the exemption or documentation demonstrating the student is in process and a copy of the immunization schedule. Failure to submit the necessary documentation by the close of the thirty (30) days will result in the student being excluded until the documentation is submitted.

##### **Exclusion From School**

In the event of an outbreak, students who are not fully age appropriately immunized, are in process, or are exempt from the immunization requirements may be required to be excluded from school in order to protect the student. ADH shall determine if it is necessary for students to be excluded in the event of an outbreak. Students may be excluded for twenty-one (21) days or longer depending on the outbreak. No student excluded due to an outbreak shall be allowed to return to school until the District receives approval from ADH.

Students who are excluded from school are not eligible to receive homebound instruction unless the excluded student had a pre-existing IEP or 504 Plan and the IEP/504 team determines homebound instruction to be in the best interest of the student. To the extent possible, the student's teacher(s) shall place in the principal's office a copy of the student's assignments:

- for the remainder of the week by the end of the initial school day of the student's exclusion; and
- by the end of each school's calendar week for the upcoming week until the student returns to school.

It is the responsibility of the student or the student's parent/legal guardian to make sure that the student's assignments are collected. Students excluded from school shall have five (5) school days from the day the student returns to school to submit any homework and to make up any examinations. State mandated assessments are not included in "examinations" and the District has no control over administering state mandated make-up assessments outside of the state's schedule. Students shall receive a grade of zero for any assignment or examination not completed or submitted on time.

#### **4.58—FOOD SHARING AND ITS REMOVAL FROM FOOD SERVICE AREA**

##### **Food Sharing Table**

In an effort to reduce wasted food and to provide students access to healthy foods when possible, the District shall have in the district cafeteria a food sharing table located at the end of the service line. Prior to leaving the service line, students may place on or retrieve items from the table, at no additional charge, any of the following:

- Raw whole fruit traditionally eaten without the peel (e.g. bananas and oranges); Raw whole fruit traditionally eaten with the peel provided the fruit is wrapped to prevent contamination (e.g. apples and grapes); Raw whole vegetables provided the vegetable is wrapped to prevent contamination (e.g. carrot sticks) Milk; and Juice.



Fruit and vegetables to be shared are to be placed into a designated container on the table. Milk and juice to be shared are to be placed in an ice-filled cooler. Milk and juice may not be taken by another student unless the carton is unopened and was completely covered by ice while in the cooler. A student may not return to the table to place an item for sharing after the student has left the service line.

At all times, the sharing table will be under the supervision of the food service staff. Remaining items should be discarded at the end of the meal period, and no item may remain on the table for longer than four (4) hours.

#### **Removing Food Items From the Food Service Area**

No student shall remove school provided food items from the food service area at the end of the meal period, especially milk, juice, and other items requiring temperature controlled environments.

Except for food service workers as required by their job duties, District employees may only remove school provided food items from the food service area when required by a 504 plan or a student's IEP.

#### **4.59—ACADEMIC COURSE ATTENDANCE BY PRIVATE SCHOOL AND HOME SCHOOL STUDENTS**

The District allows private school and home school students whose parents, legal guardians, or other responsible adult with whom the student resides are residents of the District to attend academic courses offered in grades 7-12. The District will place a list of courses that a private school or home school student may request to attend on its website by:

- July 1 for courses to be offered during the Fall semester; and
- November 1 for courses to be offered during the Spring semester.

A private school or home school student who desires to attend one or more of the available academic courses shall submit a written request to attend the academic course(s) to the superintendent, or designee, no later than:

- August 1 for Fall semester courses; or
- December 1 for Spring semester courses.

The District may reject a private school or home school student's request for attendance if the District's acceptance would:

- Require the addition of staff or classrooms;
- Exceed the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or school building;
- Cause the District to provide educational services the District does not currently provide.

Requests to attend an academic course will be granted in the order the requests are received. Upon the receipt of a private or home school student's request to attend academic course(s), the District will date and time stamp the request for attendance. If a private school or home school student is denied attendance based on a lack of capacity and an opening in the requested course occurs prior to the start of the course, the District will use the date and time stamp on the request for attendance to determine the private school or home school student who will be notified of an opening in the requested course.

As part of the request to attend academic courses in the District, a private school or home school student shall:

- Indicate the course(s) the private school or home school student is interested in attending;
- If the course(s) the private school or home school student is interested in attending is being offered by the District in both a physical and a digital format, whether the private school or home school student intends to attend the physical course or the digital course;
- Agree to follow the District's discipline policies; and
- Submit immunization documentation required by Policy 4.57—IMMUNIZATIONS. In addition to the documentation methods provided in Policy 4.57, a home school student may submit a letter to the superintendent, or designee, stating an objection to immunizations and listing the immunizations the student has received, if any.

A private school or home school student who fails to attend an academic course by the eleventh (11) day of class shall be dropped from the course.

The responsibility for transportation of any private school or home school student attending academic courses in the District shall be borne by the student or the student's parents.

The opportunity provided to home school students under this policy is in addition to the opportunity provided in Policy

4.56.2—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS.

#### **4.60—DRUG SCREEN TEST POLICY**

The Mena School District recognizes that drug and alcohol use/misuse is a significant health problem for students, detrimentally effecting both overall health and safety within school activities. The Mena Board of Education is determined to help students by providing another option for them to say "No." Drug and alcohol use/misuse includes but is not limited to the use of illegal drugs/alcohol and the misuse of legal drugs.

##### **Purpose of a Chemical Abuse Policy:**

- a) To allow the students of Mena Schools to know that the school is concerned about their total well-being.
- b) To assist students of Mena Schools in resisting peer pressure that directs them toward drug use/misuse
- c) To establish high standards of conduct for students of Mena Schools.
- d) To emphasize concern for the health and safety of students while they are participating in activities and to emphasize the long-term physical and emotional effects of drug and alcohol use/misuse on their health.
- e) To confirm and support laws which restrict the use/misuse of drugs.
- f) To work cooperatively with custodial parent/legal guardian in keeping their children free from drug abuse/misuse.
- g) To assist students by referring them for counseling or rehabilitation regarding their use/misuse of drugs.
- h) To deter drug and alcohol use/misuse by all students through the use of random drug testing.

The provisions of this policy apply to students in Mena Schools in grades seven through twelve. No student will be allowed to participate in any school activity outside the regular curriculum until a consent form for random drug testing has been signed by both student and custodial parent/legal guardian and returned to the principal. Positive screening results are cumulative, meaning a third positive test at any point during that student's enrollment will result in loss of eligibility in the programs and/or loss of driving privileges and will follow the student for the duration of enrollment in the Mena School District.

##### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy, prohibited substances are those drugs which could be abused or misused under Arkansas Statutes or which are controlled by the Food and Drug Administration unless prescribed by a licensed physician.

Extra-curricular activities will be defined for the purpose of this policy to be participation in competitions, athletic practices and games, other before or after school practices, campus parking, school trips, presentations, and other activities.

##### **Prescription Medication**

The detection of lawfully prescribed medication on a student's drug test is not a violation of this policy when taken in accordance with a physician's recommendation or prescription to that specific student. Students who test positive but refuse to provide a current and valid prescription will be subject to the actions specified in this policy for a positive test.

##### **Consent Form**

Students and custodial parent/legal guardian will be required to sign a consent form at the beginning of each year for random drug testing. No student will be allowed to participate in any extra-curricular activity or purchase a parking permit until the consent form has been signed by both student and custodial parent/legal guardian and returned to the principal. Students moving into the district during the school year must sign the consent form during the first two weeks of enrollment.

#### **Random Testing Selection Process**

While students are in school, they will be subject to random selection for testing. The number of names drawn will be no less than (2%) or greater than (15%) of the students in grades seven through twelve. Urinalysis will be the method utilized to test for the presence of abuse/misuse of drugs in the body. All students selected must report to the designated testing site immediately upon notification.

#### **Testing Agency**

The district will choose a qualified agency for the purpose of collecting and processing samples and maintaining privacy with respect to test results and related matters. The testing agency will provide a Medical Review Officer (MRO) for the purpose of interpreting test results. Upon notification by the school district, the testing company will randomly select students by computer. Testing dates will be selected by the school district.

#### **Cost**

The cost of the test to be given during random selection will be paid by the district. Tests administered to regain eligibility after the first positive test will be at the expense of the student.

#### **Refusal to Submit to Testing**

Any student selected who refuses to submit to random drug testing and/or re-testing will be subject to the provisions of a positive test.

#### **Testing Procedure**

All urine specimens will be taken at a designated collection site. Any student who is requested to provide a urine specimen will be directed to the collection site where the student will complete the necessary forms and will conform to all collection site procedures. All test results and Medical Review Officer (MRO) communications will be sent to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

#### **Analysis Process**

Testing protocol involves on-site collection and testing of urine samples. If a sample initially tests non-negative for any substance, that sample will be delivered to district's test vendor for GC/MS confirmation with results provided directly to the MRO.

#### **Results and Notification**

All tests results including those verified by the designated MRO will be reported to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee. All reports will be in writing.

#### **Records**

All records concerning drug/alcohol testing will be maintained by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee and the school's designated MRO in a separate locked file. The records will not be kept in a student's regular file. Only the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee will have access to the files. The files on each student will be destroyed upon graduation or two years after termination of enrollment. A student and the student's custodial parent/legal guardian may obtain a copy of his/her drug/alcohol testing records upon written request.

#### **First Positive Test**

Upon verification of a positive test result for any donor, the custodial parent/legal guardian will be notified and a meeting will be scheduled with the superintendent or superintendent's designee, the student, the custodial parent/legal guardian and the student's head coach or sponsor.

Upon the first positive drug test, the student will be suspended from participation in practices and competitions for all extra-curricular activities, athletics, and driving to and from school for a minimum of 14 school days or until a negative test result has been provided to the school. Once that result is received, the student will be reinstated in all programs. Additionally, the student will be required to attend three drug counseling sessions, one of which must include the student's parents and/or legal guardian. Also, once the student has been reinstated, he/she will be on probation for a calendar year and will be drug tested on each testing date during the year probation period. Any counseling/rehabilitation service costs will be the responsibility of the student and/or custodial parent/legal guardian. Students who test positive are also subject to a Family in Need of Services Petition (FINS) filing through the office of the Polk County Juvenile Probation Officer. During the year probation period, if the student tests positive at any time, he/she will be required to follow the procedure for a second positive test. A positive test result taken for re-instatement purposes after the first positive test will not be regarded as a second positive as long as the sample shows a decrease in the level of the illegal substance.

#### **Second Positive Test**

Upon verification of a second positive test, the student will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities or park on campus for one calendar year. Following the calendar year, the student will be assigned to a testing date with the results being reported to the district at the district's expense. As a function of the follow-up program, a student may be tested at any scheduled screening during the calendar year suspension from activities.

#### **Third Positive Test**

Upon verification of a third positive result, the student will be permanently suspended from participation in or attendance to any extra-curricular activity and parking on campus for the remainder of his/her enrollment at the school. A third positive test could be a positive test from the random pool, the follow-up program, or the test at the end of the year suspension period.

#### **Nature of Policy**

No student will be penalized academically for a positive test. The results of any drug test pursuant to this policy will not be documented in any student's academic records.

#### **Other Disciplinary Measures**

This policy does not preclude other disciplinary measures set forth in the student handbook, nor does it preclude the district from following disciplinary procedures and resulting actions founded upon reasonable suspicion that a student has participated in drug related activities.

**This policy applies to all students who drive on campus and participates in any extracurricular activity. These activities include, but not limited to:**

All athletic teams; Band; Choir; Drama; Student Council; FBLA; FFA; FCCLA; JAG; Quiz bowl; Honor Society; Art Club; FCA; Bearfacts; Spanish club; Yearbook; Library Club; Journalism; Special Olympic

#### **4.60A—DRUG SCREEN TEST POLICY AUTHORIZATION FORM**

2018-2019

I understand that my performance as a participant and the reputation of my school are dependent, in part, on my conduct as an individual. I have read and understand the contents of the Mena School District Drug Screen Test Policy. I hereby agree to accept and abide by the policies, standards, rules and regulations set forth by the Mena School District and the sponsors of any activities in which I may participate.

I authorize Mena School District to conduct a urinalysis to test for drugs and/or alcohol use. I authorize the release of information concerning the results of such a test to the Mena School District and to my custodial parent/legal guardian.

This shall be deemed consent pursuant to the Family Education Right to Privacy Act for the release of the drug test information to the parties listed above.

_____	_____
Student	Date
_____	_____
Custodial/Legal Guardian	Date
_____	_____
Date Received In Office	School Official

**4.60B—NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION OF DRUG SCREEN TEST**

**FIRST POSITIVE TEST**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am the custodial parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a student in the Mena School District. I have been notified by officials of the Mena Schools that \_\_\_\_\_ has tested positive during the drug test administered under the provisions set by the Mena District.

The student is recommended for counseling. If any charge is incurred, it will be the responsibility of the custodial parent/legal guardian. The student will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities as defined by the policy for a period of fourteen (14) days.

After fourteen (14) days the student will be able to be retested at the expense of the custodial parent/legal guardian under the guidelines set forth in the Drug Screen Test Policy. I understand that when negative test results are produced, the so named student will regain his/her eligibility. I also understand that the student will be placed in the Follow-Up Program and shall be tested at any scheduled screening for a calendar year.

_____	_____
Student	Date
_____	_____
Custodial Parent/Legal Guardian	Date
_____	_____
School Official	Date

**4.60C—NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION OF DRUG SCREEN TEST**

**SECOND POSITIVE TEST**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am the custodial parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a student in the Mena School District. I have been notified by officials of the Mena Schools that \_\_\_\_\_ has tested positive for the second time during the drug screen test administered under the provisions set by the Mena School District.

The student is recommended for counseling. If any charges are incurred, it will be the responsibility of the custodial parent/legal guardian. Also, the student will remain in the Follow-Up Program and may be tested at any scheduled screening.

The student will not be allowed to participate in extra-curricular activities or hold a parking permit for one calendar year. To regain eligibility for participation in extra-curricular activities, the student must provide a negative drug test following the calendar year suspension from extra-curricular activities. The student must be tested under the guidelines set forth in the Drug Screen Test Policy by the District's current testing vendor at district expense.

_____	_____
Student	Date
_____	_____
Custodial Parent/Legal Guardian	Date
_____	_____
School Official	Date

**4.60D—NOTIFICATION OF VIOLATION OF DRUG SCREEN TEST**

**THIRD POSITIVE TEST**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am the custodial parent/legal guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a student in the Mena School District. I have been notified by officials of the Mena Schools that \_\_\_\_\_ has tested positive for the third time during the drug screen test administered under the provisions set by the Mena School District.

The student is recommended for counseling. If any charges are incurred, it will be the responsibility of the custodial parent/legal guardian.

The student is hereby permanently suspended from participation in or attendance to any extra-curricular activity and holding a parking permit for the remainder of his/her enrollment with the school district.

_____	_____
Student	Date
_____	_____
Custodial Parent/Legal Guardian	Date
_____	_____
School Official	Date

**5.1—EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY**

The Mena School District assumes the responsibility of providing students attending its schools a high quality education that challenges each student to achieve to their maximum potential. The District shall endeavor to create the environment within the schools necessary to attain this goal. The creation of the necessary climate shall be based on the following core beliefs:

1. The District's vision statement will be developed with input from students, parents, business leaders, and other community members.
2. All students can be successful learners.
3. Students learn at different rates and in different ways.
4. A primary goal shall be to give students the skills they need to be life-long learners.
5. The education of all citizens is basic to our community's well-being.
6. Student achievement is affected positively by the involvement of parents and the community in the schools.
7. The District is responsible for helping cultivate good citizenship skills in its students.
8. Students reflect the moral and ethical values of their environment.
9. All people have a right to a safe environment.
10. Each person is responsible for his/her own actions.

11. Innovation involves taking risks.
12. Schools are responsible for creating the conditions that promote success.
13. Each person is entitled to retain his/her dignity.
14. All people have the right to be treated with respect and the responsibility to treat others respectfully.
15. For teachers to succeed in cultivating high student achievement, they need to be given the materials, training, and environment necessary to produce such results.

### **5.2—PLANNING FOR EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT**

Each school in the district shall develop a comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP) to address deficiencies in student performance based on analysis of students' grade-level State assessments and other relevant data. The purpose of each CSIP shall be to ensure that all students meet the state assessment standards established by the State Board of Education, as well as student achievement goals established by the District. A cumulative review of all academic improvement plans shall also be part of the data used to develop the CSIP. Each CSIP shall be developed with administrator, teacher, other school staff, parent, community, and student (when appropriate) input and shall have as one of its components a plan for a parental involvement program. Professional development activities are to be designed to meet the needs identified in each school's CSIP. Each CSIP is to be reviewed annually and revised to meet the changing needs reflected in student data.

Any school in the district identified by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) as failing to meet the established levels of academic achievement on the state's assessments shall revise its CSIP.

The district shall develop, with appropriate staff and community input, a comprehensive district improvement plan (CDIP). The CDIP shall coordinate the actions of the various CSIPs within the district. The CDIP shall align district resources to help ensure all of its students attain proficiency on the State assessments.

### **5.3—CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT**

Sequential curricula should be developed for each subject area. Curricula are to be aligned with the curriculum frameworks and used to plan instruction leading to student proficiency on Arkansas' content standards. Curricula should be in alignment with the District's vision, mission, goals, and educational philosophy. Student achievement is increased through an integrated curriculum that promotes continuity and a growth in skills and knowledge from grade to grade and from school to school. Therefore, the Board desires that unnecessary duplication of work among the various grades and schools be eliminated and that courses of study and their corresponding content guides be coordinated effectively.

The Board of Education is responsible for reviewing and approving all instructional programs offered by the District as well as approving significant changes to courses or course materials before they are implemented. The Superintendent is responsible for making curriculum recommendations.

Each school shall review each curriculum area annually to address the continued relevancy, adequacy, and cost effectiveness of individual courses and instructional programs and to ensure each area is aligned with the current curriculum frameworks and course content standards approved by the State Board of Education. Each school's administration shall implement a monitoring process to ensure that the instructional content of each course offered is consistent with the content standards and curriculum frameworks approved by the State Board of Education.

### **5.4—SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAMS**

A team structure is officially incorporated into the school-level improvement plan. New school administrators shall receive a description of the teams' purposes and how each team is constituted. In addition, each new administrator shall receive training on methods for effective teams.

All teams shall create work plans for the year, which shall include specific work products for the team to produce. To aid in maintaining the work plan, all teams shall develop an agenda and keep minutes for each meeting. The school principal shall be responsible for maintaining a file of the agendas, work products, and minutes of all teams.

#### **Leadership Team**

Each school shall have a Leadership Team that consists of members that include:

1. The principal;
2. The chair of each Instructional Team;
3. The school guidance counselor;
4. A instructional facilitator; and
5. Other key professionals designated by the principal.

The Leadership Team shall meet for a minimum of one (1) hour at least two (2) times each month during the school year. Based on school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data, the Leadership Team shall make decisions and recommendations on curriculum, instruction, and professional development; in addition, the Leadership Team shall serve as a conduit of communication to the rest of the faculty and staff.

#### **Instructional Teams**

The teachers in each school shall belong to an instructional team. The instructional teams shall be organized by:

- a. Grade level;
- b. Grade level cluster; and/or
- c. Subject area.

Each Instructional Team shall appoint a chair for the school year who shall conduct the team meetings and shall be part of the school Leadership Team. Each Instructional Team shall meet for a minimum of forty-five (45) minutes at least two (2) times a month during the school year.

The purpose of the Instructional Teams is to develop and refine units of instruction and review student learning data.

### **5.5—SELECTION/INSPECTION OF INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The use of instructional materials beyond those approved as part of the curriculum/textbook program must be compatible with school and district policies. If there is uncertainty concerning the appropriateness of supplemental materials, the personnel desiring to use the materials shall get approval from the school's principal prior to putting the materials into use.

All instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum of a student shall be available for inspection by the parents or guardians of the student. For the purposes of this policy, instructional materials is defined as instructional content provided to the student regardless of its format, including printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats. The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

Parents or guardians wishing to inspect instructional materials used as part of the educational curriculum for their child may schedule an appointment with the student's teacher at a mutually agreeable time. Parents/guardians wishing to challenge the appropriateness of any instructional materials shall follow the procedures outlined in Policy 5.6—CHALLENGE OF

INSTRUCTIONAL/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns 18 years old.

**5.6—CHALLENGE TO INSTRUCTIONAL/SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

Instructional and supplemental materials are selected for their compatibility with the District's educational program and their ability to help fulfill the District's educational goals and objectives. Individuals wishing to challenge or express concerns about instructional or supplemental materials may do so by filling out a *Challenge to Instructional Material* form available in the school's office.

The contesting individual may present a copy of the form to the principal and request a conference be held at a time of mutual convenience. Prior to the conference, the principal shall consult with the teacher regarding the contested material. In the conference, the principal shall explain to the contesting individual the criteria used for the selection of the material and its relevancy to the educational program as well as any other pertinent information in support of the use of the material.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the principal shall have five (5) working days to submit a summary of the concerns expressed by the individual and the principal's response to those concerns to the Superintendent.

If the contesting individual is not satisfied with the principal's response, the individual may, after the five (5) working day period, request a meeting with the Superintendent where the individual shall present the same *Challenge to Instructional Material* form previously presented to the principal. The Superintendent shall explain to the contesting individual the criteria used for the selection of the material and its relevancy to the educational program as well as any other pertinent information in support of the use of the material.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, the Superintendent shall have five (5) working days to write a summary of the concerns expressed by the individual and the Superintendent's response to those concerns. The Superintendent shall create a file of his/her response along with a copy of the principal's response and a copy of the contesting individual's *Challenge to Instructional Material* form.

If, after meeting with the Superintendent, the contesting individual is not satisfied with the Superintendent's response regarding the appropriateness of the instructional or supplemental material, he/she may appeal the Superintendent's decision to the Board. The Superintendent shall present the contesting individual's *Challenge to Instructional Material* form to the Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting along with the written responses to the challenge. The Board may elect, if it so chooses, to hear brief verbal presentations from the parties involved in the challenge.

The Board shall decide at that meeting or their next regularly scheduled meeting whether to retain the material, limit the availability of the material, or remove the material from the school. The Board's primary consideration in reaching its decision shall be the appropriateness of the material for its intended educational use.

**5.6F—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted: level one \_\_\_\_\_ level two \_\_\_\_\_ level three \_\_\_\_\_

Instructional material being contested: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons for contesting the material (be specific):

\_\_\_\_\_

What is your proposed resolution?

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of receiving principal \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of curriculum coordinator \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_

**5.7—SELECTION OF LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS**

The ultimate authority for the selection and retention of materials for the schools' media centers rests with the Board of Education which shall serve as a final arbiter in resolving a challenge to any media center materials. Licensed media center personnel shall make the initial selections in consultation with school and district licensed staff. Materials selected shall be in accordance with the guidelines of this policy.

The purpose of the schools' libraries/media centers is to supplement and enrich the curriculum and instruction offered by the District. Promoting the dialogue characteristic of a healthy democracy necessitates the maintenance of a broad range of materials and information representing varied points of view on current and historical issues. In the selection of the materials and resources to be available in each library/media center consideration will be given to their age appropriateness. Materials should be available to challenge the different interests, learning styles, and reading levels of the school's students and that will help them attain the District's educational goals.

**Selection Criteria**

The criteria used in the selection of media center materials shall be that the materials:

1. Support and enhance the curricular and educational goals of the district;
2. Are appropriate for the ages, learning styles, interests, and maturity of the schools' students, or parents in the case of parenting literature;
3. Contribute to the examination of issues from varying points of view and help to broaden students understanding of their rights and responsibilities in our society;
4. Help develop critical thinking skills;
5. Are factually and/or historically accurate, in the case of non-fiction works and/or serve a pedagogical purpose;
6. Have literary merit as perceived by the educational community; and
7. Are technically well produced, physically sound (to the extent appropriate), and represent a reasonably sound economic value.

**Retention and Continuous Evaluation**

Media center materials shall be reviewed regularly to ensure the continued appropriateness of the center's collection to the school's curriculum and to maintain the collection in good repair. Those materials no longer meeting the selection criteria, have not been used for a long period of time, or are too worn to be economically repaired shall be withdrawn from the collection and disposed of. A record of withdrawn media materials including the manner of their disposal shall be maintained for a period of three years.

**Gifts**

Gifts to the media centers shall be evaluated to determine their appropriateness before they are placed in any media center. The evaluation shall use the same criteria as for all other materials considered for inclusion in the media centers. Any items determined to be unacceptable shall be returned to the donor or disposed of at the discretion of the media specialist. The media centers shall have a list of desired items to give to prospective donors to aid them in their selection of materials to donate.

**Challenges:**

The parent of a student affected by a media selection, or a District employee may formally challenge the appropriateness of a media center selection by following the procedure outlined in this policy. The challenged material shall remain available throughout the challenge process.

In order for a request for Reconsideration of a work to be handled effectively, requests may only be accepted beginning the first day of any school year through the last student contact day in May. To assure that all materials will be dealt with fairly, no more than two (2) requests for reconsideration of a work will be accepted from one patron at a time. When a Request for Reconsideration is in process, no other requests concerning the same material filed at any other school will be heard until the request on file is complete. In order to establish a process to allow all materials be dealt with fairly, these procedures will allow no more that a total of four (4) books to be under reconsideration within the district at any given time.

Before any formal challenge can be filed, the individual contesting (hereinafter complainant) the appropriateness of the specified item shall request a conference through the principal's office with a licensed media center employee. The complainant shall be given a copy of this policy and the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* prior to the conference. The meeting shall take place at the earliest possible time of mutual convenience, but in no case later than five (5) working days from the date of the request unless it is by the choice of the complainant.

In the meeting, the media specialist shall explain the selection criteria and how the challenged material fits the criteria. The complainant shall explain his/her reasons for objecting to the selected material. If, at the completion of the meeting, the complainant wishes to make a formal challenge to the selected material, he/she may do so by completing the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* and submitting it to the principal's office.

To review the contested media, the principal shall select a committee of five (5) to seven (7) licensed personnel consisting of the principal as chair and two media specialists. The remaining committee members shall be personnel with curriculum knowledge appropriate for the material being contested and representative of diverse viewpoints. Additionally, two (2) parents may be appointed if appropriate. The task of the committee shall be to determine if the challenged material meets the criteria of selection. No material shall be withdrawn solely for the viewpoints expressed within it and shall be reviewed in its entirety and not selected portions taken out of context.

The principal shall convene a meeting after a reasonable time for the committee members to adequately review the contested material and the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* submitted by the complainant. The complainant shall be allowed to present the complaint to the committee after which time the committee shall meet privately to discuss the material. The committee shall vote by secret ballot to determine whether the contested material shall be removed from the media center's collection. A member from the voting majority shall write a summary of the reasons for their decision. A notice of the committee's decision and the summary shall be given (by hand or certified mail) to the complainant.

If the decision is to not remove the material, the complainant may appeal the committee's decision to the district Board of Directors by filing a written appeal to the Superintendent within 5 working days of the committee's decision or of written receipt of the decision. The Superintendent shall present the original complaint and the committee's decision along with the summary of its reasons for its position plus a recommendation of the administration, if so desired, to the Board within 15 days of the committee's decision. The Board shall review the material submitted to them by the Superintendent and make a decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the information. The Board's decision is final.

#### **5.6F—REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL OR SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date submitted: level one \_\_\_\_\_ level two \_\_\_\_\_ level three \_\_\_\_\_  
Instructional material being contested: \_\_\_\_\_  
Reasons for contesting the material (be specific): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is your proposed resolution?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of receiving principal \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of curriculum coordinator \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Superintendent \_\_\_\_\_

#### **5.7—SELECTION OF LIBRARY/MEDIA CENTER MATERIALS**

The ultimate authority for the selection and retention of materials for the schools' media centers rests with the Board of Education which shall serve as a final arbiter in resolving a challenge to any media center materials. Licensed media center personnel shall make the initial selections in consultation with school and district licensed staff. Materials selected shall be in accordance with the guidelines of this policy.

The purpose of the schools' libraries/media centers is to supplement and enrich the curriculum and instruction offered by the District. Promoting the dialogue characteristic of a healthy democracy necessitates the maintenance of a broad range of materials and information representing varied points of view on current and historical issues. In the selection of the materials and resources to be available in each library/media center consideration will be given to their age appropriateness. Materials should be available to challenge the different interests, learning styles, and reading levels of the school's students and that will help them attain the District's educational goals.

##### **Selection Criteria**

The criteria used in the selection of media center materials shall be that the materials:

1. Support and enhance the curricular and educational goals of the district;
2. Are appropriate for the ages, learning styles, interests, and maturity of the schools' students, or parents in the case of parenting literature;
3. Contribute to the examination of issues from varying points of view and help to broaden students understanding of their rights and responsibilities in our society;
4. Help develop critical thinking skills;
5. Are factually and/or historically accurate, in the case of non-fiction works and/or serve a pedagogical purpose;
6. Have literary merit as perceived by the educational community; and
7. Are technically well produced, physically sound (to the extent appropriate), and represent a reasonably sound economic value.

### **Retention and Continuous Evaluation**

Media center materials shall be reviewed regularly to ensure the continued appropriateness of the center's collection to the school's curriculum and to maintain the collection in good repair. Those materials no longer meeting the selection criteria, have not been used for a long period of time, or are too worn to be economically repaired shall be withdrawn from the collection and disposed of. A record of withdrawn media materials including the manner of their disposal shall be maintained for a period of three years.

### **Gifts**

Gifts to the media centers shall be evaluated to determine their appropriateness before they are placed in any media center. The evaluation shall use the same criteria as for all other materials considered for inclusion in the media centers. Any items determined to be unacceptable shall be returned to the donor or disposed of at the discretion of the media specialist. The media centers shall have a list of desired items to give to prospective donors to aid them in their selection of materials to donate.

### **Challenges:**

The parent of a student affected by a media selection, or a District employee may formally challenge the appropriateness of a media center selection by following the procedure outlined in this policy. The challenged material shall remain available throughout the challenge process.

In order for a request for Reconsideration of a work to be handled effectively, requests may only be accepted beginning the first day of any school year through the last student contact day in May. To assure that all materials will be dealt with fairly, no more than two (2) requests for reconsideration of a work will be accepted from one patron at a time. When a Request for Reconsideration is in process, no other requests concerning the same material filed at any other school will be heard until the request on file is complete. In order to establish a process to allow all materials be dealt with fairly, these procedures will allow no more than a total of four (4) books to be under reconsideration within the district at any given time.

Before any formal challenge can be filed, the individual contesting (hereinafter complainant) the appropriateness of the specified item shall request a conference through the principal's office with a licensed media center employee. The complainant shall be given a copy of this policy and the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* prior to the conference. The meeting shall take place at the earliest possible time of mutual convenience, but in no case later than five (5) working days from the date of the request unless it is by the choice of the complainant.

In the meeting, the media specialist shall explain the selection criteria and how the challenged material fits the criteria. The complainant shall explain his/her reasons for objecting to the selected material. If, at the completion of the meeting, the complainant wishes to make a formal challenge to the selected material, he/she may do so by completing the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* and submitting it to the principal's office.

To review the contested media, the principal shall select a committee of five (5) to seven (7) licensed personnel consisting of the principal as chair and two media specialists. The remaining committee members shall be personnel with curriculum knowledge appropriate for the material being contested and representative of diverse viewpoints. Additionally, two (2) parents may be appointed if appropriate. The task of the committee shall be to determine if the challenged material meets the criteria of selection. No material shall be withdrawn solely for the viewpoints expressed within it and shall be reviewed in its entirety and not selected portions taken out of context.

The principal shall convene a meeting after a reasonable time for the committee members to adequately review the contested material and the *Request for Formal Reconsideration Form* submitted by the complainant. The complainant shall be allowed to present the complaint to the committee after which time the committee shall meet privately to discuss the material. The committee shall vote by secret ballot to determine whether the contested material shall be removed from the media center's collection. A member from the voting majority shall write a summary of the reasons for their decision. A notice of the committee's decision and the summary shall be given (by hand or certified mail) to the complainant.

If the decision is to not remove the material, the complainant may appeal the committee's decision to the district Board of Directors by filing a written appeal to the Superintendent within 5 working days of the committee's decision or of written receipt of the decision. The Superintendent shall present the original complaint and the committee's decision along with the summary of its reasons for its position plus a recommendation of the administration, if so desired, to the Board within 15 days of the committee's decision. The Board shall review the material submitted to them by the Superintendent and make a decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the information. The Board's decision is final.

## **5.8—USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS**

### **Use of Copyrighted Work in Face-to-Face Classroom**

The Board of Education encourages the enrichment of the instructional program through the proper use of supplementary materials. To help ensure the appropriate use of copyrighted materials, the Superintendent, or designee, will provide district personnel with information regarding the "fair use" doctrine of the U.S. Copyright Code as detailed in the "Agreement on Guidelines for Classroom Copying in Not-for-Profit Educational Institutions with Respect to Books and Periodicals" and "Guidelines for Educational Uses of Music."

### **Use of Copyrighted Works in Digital Transmissions**

#### **Definitions**

"Class session" means the length of time provided for students to access the materials necessary for the completion of course assignments and tests. Depending on the copyrighted work's overall importance to the course, which can vary from a single assignment to an entire course focusing on the copyrighted work, the class session will end on:

- The date set by the teacher for an assignment to be submitted; or The date on the school calendar for the end of classes.

"Course packs" are premade compilations of book excerpts; newspaper, magazine, and journal articles; and instructor-authored materials.

"Mediated Instructional activities" includes textbooks, workbooks, and course packs.

"Transmission" is the remote accessing, whether on or off campus, by students of a copyrighted work by means of a closed circuit television, an educational television channel, or in a digital format on a password protected secure webpage.

The District recognizes that advances in technology have resulted in the need for guidelines for the use of copyrighted materials that are transmitted to students through a digital network. While the requirements to use a copyrighted work in a digital transmission have many similarities to those required to use a copyrighted work in a face-to-face classroom, Federal law places several additional requirements on the District's teachers, IT staff, and librarians for the use of a digitally transmitted copyrighted work. The District is dedicated to providing the tools necessary for teachers, IT staff, and librarians to meet these additional Federal requirements.

The District shall make sure the server where materials are stored is secured, whether the server is located locally or remotely.

The District's Informational Technologies staff shall develop the proper protocols and train teachers on their use in order to ensure:

1. The transmission of the copyrighted work is limited to only the students enrolled in the course;
  - Each student shall have a unique ID and password for accessing digital courses/materials; or Each course shall have a unique password to access course materials; and The password to access the course materials shall be changed immediately following the close of the course.

2. To prevent students from retaining or further disseminating the copyrighted work for more than one class session;
  - The print function will be disabled; A transparency shall be placed over any literary work, sheet music, or photograph; Audio and video transmissions will be set to be streamed; and The link to the webpage with a copyrighted work shall be deactivated at the end of the applicable class session.

Teachers who wish to provide copyrighted works to students through a digital transmission as part of a digital course as well as teachers wishing to supplement a face-to-face classroom course with a digital transmission must meet applicable copyright statutes and policy 5.11—DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES as well as the following requirements in order to use a copyrighted work:

- A. The use of the copyrighted work(s), whether in whole or in part, must be a part of regular classroom instruction and must be directly related and of material assistance to the course content;
- B. The extent of a copyrighted work that is used must comply with one or more of the following criteria:
  - The entirety of a non-dramatic literary or musical work may be used. A non-dramatic literary work includes poems and short stories. A non-dramatic musical work covers all music that is not part of an opera or musical and does not cover the use of the music video format of a song.
  - Dramatic literary and musical works as well as videos may only be used in limited portions.
  - Dramatic literary and musical works may only be used in the same amount as set forth in the requirements for a face-to-face classroom while videos, including music videos, may only have the portion used that is directly related to the subject of the class session and may not be transmitted in their entirety.
  - Still images or slides that a teacher would have used in the ordinary course of a face-to-face classroom session on a projector or a transparency may be used in a transmission.
  - Works primarily produced or marketed for use in the digital education market may not be transmitted.
  - Works the teacher had knowledge or reasonably believes to be unlawfully made or acquired may not be used.
  - Mediated Instructional activities may not be transmitted.
- C. A statement that works may be subject to copyright shall be placed in at least one of the following areas to provide notice to students of copyright status:
  - Course syllabus;
  - Home webpage for the course;
  - Webpage for the particular class session; and/or
  - webpage with the copyrighted work.

The teacher and the District librarian shall work together when making digital copies of copyrighted work from physical or analog versions and shall fulfill the following requirements:

- I. The amount converted is only the amount allowed by law; **and**
- II. The District has no digital copy of the copyrighted work available; **or**
- III. The District's digital copy of the copyrighted work that is available has technological protections that prevent the use of the copyrighted work in the manner prescribed by law.

The District will not be responsible for any employee violations of the use of copyrighted materials.

Notes: A useful checklist for Districts to use to help ensure compliance with Federal copyright laws can be found at <http://library.uncc.edu/copyright/TEACH/teachtools>.

### **5.9—COMPUTER SOFTWARE COPYRIGHT**

The District shall observe copyright laws governing computer software reproduction. Unless specifically allowed by the software purchase agreement, the Copyright Act allows the purchaser of software to:

1. Make one copy of software for archival purposes in case the original is destroyed or damaged through mechanical failure of a computer. However, if the original is sold or given away, the archival copy must be destroyed;
2. Make necessary adaptations to use the program; and/or
3. Add features to the program for specific applications. These improvements may not be sold or given away without the copyright owner's permission.

The District shall abide by applicable licensing agreements before using computer software on local-area or wide-area networks.

### **5.10—RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS**

The First Amendment of the Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." As the Supreme Court has stated (*Abington School District v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203) the Amendment thus, "embraces two concepts—freedom to believe and freedom to act. The first is absolute but, in the nature of things, the second cannot be." Therefore, it is the Board's policy that the school system, as an agency of the government, shall be neutral in matters regarding religion and will not engage in any activity that either advocates or disparages religion. The District shall assume no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student.

The need for neutrality does not diminish our school system's educational responsibility to address the historical role of religion in the development of our culture. Since we live in a diverse society, the District's goal shall be to address the subject of religion objectively in such a way that it promotes an understanding of, and tolerance for, each other's religious or non-religious views.

Discussions concerning religious concepts, practices, or disciplines are permissible when presented in a secular context in their relation to an inclusive study of religion or to the study of a particular region or country. The discussions shall be such that they are objective and academically informational and do not advocate nor denigrate any particular form of religious practice.

Instructional activities in the schools that are contrary to a pupil's religious beliefs or teachings shall be optional.

The teacher in charge of each classroom may, at the opening of school each day, conduct a brief period of silence with the participation of all students in the classroom who desire to participate. (Legal Reference: A.C.A. § 6-10-115)

Students and employees may engage in personal religious practices, such as prayer, at any time, and shall do so in a manner and at a time so that the educational process is not disrupted.

### **5.11—DIGITAL LEARNING COURSES**

#### **Definitions**

For the purposes of this policy: "Blended Learning" is education in which instruction and content are delivered through supervised instruction in a classroom and online delivery of instruction with some element of student control over time, place, path, or pace.

"Digital Learning" means a digital technology or internet-based educational delivery model that does not rely exclusively on compressed interactive video (CIV). Digital learning includes online and blended learning.

"Highly Qualified Teacher" means a teacher who holds at least a Bachelor's Degree and has demonstrated subject area competence in each of the core academic subjects in which the teacher teaches. A highly qualified teacher that delivers digital learning courses under this policy is not required to be licensed as a teacher or administrator by the State Board of Education. This definition, however, does not override the fact that Federal laws or regulations may require teachers in certain subject areas to hold a teaching license (e.g., special education teachers who teach core academic subjects).



"Instructional Materials" means:

1. Traditional books, textbooks, and trade books in printed and bound form;
2. Activity-oriented programs that may include:
  - o Manipulatives;
  - o Hand-held calculators;
  - o Other hands-on materials; and
3. Technology-based materials that require the use of electronic equipment in order to be used in the learning process.

"Online Learning" is education in which instruction and content are delivered primarily over the Internet. The term does not include print-based correspondence education, broadcast television or radio, videocassettes, compact disks and stand-alone educational software programs that do not have a significant Internet-based instructional component.

#### **Digital Course Offerings**

The District shall offer one or more digital learning course(s) through one or more District approved provider(s) as either a primary or supplementary method of instruction. The courses may be in a blended learning, online-based, or other technology-based format and shall be tailored to meet the needs of each student.

All digitally offered courses shall meet or exceed the State Board of Education's curriculum standards and requirements and be capable of being assessed and measured through standardized or local assessments. Additionally, the District shall ensure there is sufficient infrastructure to handle and facilitate a quality digital learning environment.

As an approved digital learning provider, the District shall annually determine what District created digital learning courses it will provide to our students. The District may also choose to provide digital learning courses by contracting with outside providers of such courses, who have been pre-approved by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE). The School Board shall determine the provider method or combination of methods for the District. The Superintendent shall ensure that all digital learning courses provided to District students, regardless of the source of the course, have been approved by ADE.

District created digital courses and any digital courses the district purchases from outside providers shall adhere to the guidelines for the use of digitally transmitted copyrighted materials set forth in Policy 5.8—USE OF COPYRIGHTED MATERIALS as well as applicable statutory requirements.

The District shall require all outside providers to incorporate Policy 5.8 as a condition of the service contract. Failure of the outside provider to abide by Policy 5.8 shall constitute a breach of contract and the outside provider shall be responsible for any costs resulting from such breach.

Students may take 2 digital learning courses. Students must be physically present for each digital learning class he/she takes. The District is responsible for providing all instructional materials for each student who enrolls in a District approved digital learning course.

Regardless of any other provisions of this policy, the District may restrict a student's access to digital courses when the student's building principal determines the student's participation in such a course would not be academically appropriate based on the student's past performance in digital courses. Furthermore, the student's building principal may revoke a student's eligibility to continue taking a digital learning course if the student's performance during the semester indicates the student is not succeeding in the course.

#### **5.12– Policy Deleted - Language moved to new policy 4.55**

#### **5.13—SUMMER SCHOOL**

The Mena School District shall offer remediation programs during the school year to those students in kindergarten through third grade (K-3) not performing at grade level.

#### **5.14—HOMEWORK**

Homework is considered to be part of the educational program of the District. Assignments shall be an extension of the teaching/learning experience that promotes the student's educational development. As an extension of the classroom, homework must be planned and organized and should be viewed by the students as purposeful.

Teachers should be aware of the potential problem students may have completing assignments from multiple teachers and vary the amount of homework they give from day to day.

Parents shall be notified of this policy at the beginning of each school year.

#### **5.15—GRADING**

Parents or guardians shall be kept informed concerning the progress of their student. Parent-teacher conferences are encouraged and may be requested by parents, guardians, or teachers. If the progress of a student is unsatisfactory in a subject, the teacher shall attempt to schedule a parent-teacher conference. In the conference, the teacher shall explain the reasons for difficulties and shall develop, cooperatively with the parents, a plan for remediation, which may enhance the probability of the student succeeding. The school shall also send timely progress reports and issue grades for each nine (9) week grading period to keep parents/guardians informed of their student's progress.

The evaluation of each student's performance on a regular basis serves to give the parents/guardians, students, and the school necessary information to help effect academic improvement. Students' grades shall reflect only the extent to which a student has achieved the expressed educational objectives of the course.

The grades of a child in foster care shall not be lowered due to an absence from school due to:

A change in the child's school enrollment; The child's attendance at a dependency-neglect court proceeding; or The child's attendance at court-ordered counseling or treatment.

The grading scale for all schools in the district shall be as follows:

A = 100 – 90, B = 89 – 80, C = 79 – 70, D = 69-60, F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be:

A = 4 points, B = 3 points, C = 2 points, D = 1 point, F = 0 points

The grade point values for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), and approved honor courses shall be one (1) point greater than for regular courses with the exception that an F shall still be worth zero (0) points.

The final grades of students who transfer in for part of a semester will be determined by blending the grades earned in the district with those earned outside the district. Each final grade will be the sum of the percentage of days in the grading period transferred from outside the district times the transferred grade from outside the district plus the percentage of days in the grading period while in the district times the grade earned in the district.

For example: The grading period had forty (40) days. A student transferred in with a grade of eighty-three percent (83%) earned in ten (10) days at the previous school. The student had a grade of seventy-five percent (75%) in our district's school earned in the remaining thirty (30) days of the grading period. Ten (10) days is twenty-five percent (25%) of forty (40) days while thirty (30) days is seventy-five percent (75%) of forty (40) days. Thus the final grade would be  $(0.25 \times 83) + (0.75 \times 75) = 77\%$ .

## **5.16—COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSE PREREQUISITES AND PROGRESSION**

### **Traditional Progression**

A student who has not previously received a computer science credit may elect to take an introductory level computer science course. A student who passes a computer science course level is eligible to take the next level computer science course in the same computer science course emphasis.

### **Alternative Progression**

A student who does not have credit for any computer science course, the introductory level computer science course for the particular computer science emphasis, or the preceding level course for the computer science emphasis may be placed in a computer science course based on any combination of the following factors:

- The student's grade point average; Recommendation from the student's teacher(s); Completion of computer science internships or independent studies; Demonstration of previous computer science work by the student; or Proficiency report from a computer science proficiency evaluation tool.

## **5.17—HONOR ROLL AND HONOR GRADUATES**

### **HONOR ROLL**

Students in grades K-5 who maintain a 3.0 grade point average (GPA) for the grading period will be recognized as honor roll students for that grading period. Semester grades will determine the honor roll at the end of each semester.

Students in grades 6-12 who participate in the Smart Core Curriculum and maintain a 3.0 GPA for the grading period will be recognized as honor roll students for that grading period. Semester grades will determine the honor roll at the end of each semester.

### **HONOR GRADUATES**

Candidates for honor graduate status must meet the criteria below.

General Requirements are as follows: 1. No course may be repeated for the purpose of improving a student's GPA; 2. A student must complete at least sixteen (16) units selected from the honor core. The subjects are marked with either a full or half unit; 3. Students must be enrolled in a minimum of four (4) academic core classes during their senior year; 4. Students must maintain a 3.2500 or better cumulative GPA for eight (8) consecutive semesters during grades 9-12.

Recognition will be earned as follows: 1. Distinguished honors: Minimum of 3.9200 GPA including designated courses (Gold Stole and Cord); 2. High Honors: Minimum of 3.7600 GPA including designated courses (Gold Stole); 3. Honors: Minimum of 3.2500 GPA (Silver Stole)

**English: Need four (4) units from the following list:**

Honor graduate requirements: English 9 (1 unit), English 10 (1 unit), English 11 (1 unit), English 12(1 unit), English Composition I (1/2 unit), English Composition II (1/2 unit), Additional English requirements are as follows: - To earn Distinguished or High Honors, students must take a full year from the following options: Either Advanced Placement Literature or English Comp I and II.

**Math: Need four (4) units from the following list:** Incoming freshman must plan to take four full credits from the following list:

Honor graduate requirements: Algebra I (1 unit), Algebra II (1 unit), Geometry (1 unit), Trig / Pre-Calculus (1 unit), Calculus (1 unit), College Algebra (1/2 unit), Functional Math (1 unit), Additional Math requirements for Distinguished and High Honors are as follows: Must take one of the following courses: Calculus, College Algebra, or Advanced Placement Calculus. -Algebra A and B cannot be substituted for Algebra I, -Geometry A and B cannot be substituted for Geometry

**Science: Need four (4) units from the following list:** Honor graduate requirements: Physical Science (1 unit), Biology (1 unit), Chemistry I (1 unit), AP Chemistry (1 unit), Physics (1 unit), Environmental Science (1 unit), Additional Science requirements are as follows: -Distinguished and High Honors require students to include AP Chemistry or Physics within their choices

**Social Studies: Need three (3) units from the following list:** Honor graduate requirements: World History (1 unit), U.S. History (1 unit), American Government (1 unit), Contemporary American History (1 unit), Additional Social Studies requirements are as follows: Distinguished and High Honors require Advanced Placement U.S. Government and Politics, or American National Government, or American Government.

**Foreign Language: Need two (2) courses from the following:** Spanish I (1 unit), Spanish II (1 unit), Spanish III (1 unit), RMCC Spanish I (1/2 unit), RMCC Spanish II (1/2 unit)

Parents or guardians of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, who choose to not have the student publicly identified as an honor roll or honor graduate student must submit a written request that the student not be so identified.

### **5.17F— HONOR ROLL AND GRADUATE OPT OUT FORM**

I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to having the student named below publicly identified as an honor roll or honor graduate student.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of student (Printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of parent (or student, if 18 or older)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

## **5.18—HEALTH SERVICES**

The Board believes that healthy children promote a better learning environment, are more capable of high student achievement, and will result in healthier, more productive adults. Therefore, the goal of the District's health services is to promote a healthy student body. This requires both the education of students concerning healthy behaviors, as well as providing health care services to pupils. While the school nurse is under the supervision of the school principal, the delegation of health care duties shall be in accordance with the Arkansas Nurse Practice Act and the Arkansas State Board of Nursing Rules and Regulations Chapter Five: Delegation of Nursing Care.

## **5.19— Policy Deleted - Language moved to new policy 4.56**

## **5.20—DISTRICT WEBSITE**

The Mena 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 Mena 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 Master and the District's website shall be under the supervision of the District's Web Master. 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 and School Web Masters 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:

1. All pages on the District's website may contain advertising and links only to educational sources.
2. 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.
3. Photos along with the student's name shall only be posted on web pages after receiving written permission from the student's parents or the student if the student is over the age of eighteen (18).
4. The District's web server shall host the Mena District's website.
5. No web page on the District website may contain public message boards or chat rooms.
6. All web pages on the District website shall be constructed to download in a reasonable length of time.
7. 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.
8. 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 Mena School District.
9. Included on the District's web site shall be:
  - Local and state revenue sources; Administrator and teacher salary and benefit expenditure data; District balances, including legal balances and building fund balances; Minutes of regular and special meetings of the school board; The district's budget for the ensuing year; A financial breakdown of monthly expenditures of the district; The salary schedule for all employees including extended contract and supplementary pay amounts; Current contract information (not including social security numbers, telephone numbers, personal addresses or signatures) for all district employees; The district's annual budget; The annual statistical report of the district; The district's personnel policies; and 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.

**5.20 F1—PERMISSION TO DISPLAY PHOTO OF STUDENT ON WEB SITE**

I hereby grant permission to the Mena School District to display the photograph or video clip of me/my student (if student is under the age of eighteen {18}) on the District's web site, including any page on the site, or in other District publications without further notice. I also grant the Mena School District the right to edit the photograph or video clip at its discretion.

The student's name may be used in conjunction with the photograph or video clip. It is understood, however, that once the photograph or video clip is displayed on a web site, the District has no control over how the photograph or video clip is used or misused by persons with computers accessing the District's web site.

Name of student (Printed)	Signature of student (only necessary if student is over 18)
Signature of parent (required if student is under 18)	Date

**5.20.1—WEB SITE PRIVACY POLICY**

The Mena School District operates and maintains a web site for the purpose of informing the citizens of the district about its activities. The web site does not use "cookies" or ISP addresses to collect or retain personally identifying information about visitors to its web site 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 web site without the prior written consent of the parent (or the student if 18 or older).

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.

**5.21—ADVANCED PLACEMENT, INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE, and HONORS COURSES**

Students in grades 7-12 who take advanced placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, or honors or concurrent credit college courses approved for weighted credit by the Arkansas Department of Education shall be graded according to the following schedule.

A =100 – 90, B = 89 – 80, C = 79 – 70, D = 69-60, F = 59 and below

For the purpose of determining grade point averages, the numeric value of each letter grade shall be

A = 5 points, B = 4 points, C = 3 points, D = 2 point, F = 0 points

For a student to be eligible to receive weighted credit for an AP, or IB course, the student's course must have been taught by an Arkansas licensed teacher who has received the appropriate training required by Arkansas statute and ADE Rule or, for an AP teacher, is in the process of completing an Additional Training Plan.

Additionally, for students taking AP or International Baccalaureate courses to receive weighted credit they must take the applicable AP or IB examination after completing the entire course. Credit shall be given for each grading period during the course of the year, Credit shall be given for each grading period during the course of the year, but shall be retroactively removed from a student's grade for any course in which the student fails to take the applicable AP exam. Students who do not take the AP exam shall receive the same numeric value for the grade he/she receives in the course as if it were a non-AP course.

"Honors Courses" are those courses that have been approved by a Department of Education Committee as honors courses. Honors courses must stress higher order learning and be offered in addition to curriculum offerings required by the Standards for Accreditation, Arkansas Public Schools.

Students who transfer into the district will be given weighted credit for the Advanced Placement courses, International Baccalaureate courses, honors courses approved by the Arkansas Department of Education, and concurrent college courses taken for weighted credit at his/her previous school(s) according to the preceding scale.

### **5.22—CONCURRENT CREDIT**

A ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) through twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade student who successfully completes a college course(s) from an institution approved by the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) shall be given credit toward high school grades and graduation at the rate of one (1) high school credit for each three (3) semester hours of college credit. Unless approved by the school's principal, **prior to enrolling for the course**, the concurrent credit shall be applied toward the student's graduation requirements as an elective.

As permitted by the ADE Rules Governing Concurrent College and High School Credit, a student who takes a three (3) -semester hour remedial/developmental education course, shall receive a half (1/2) credit for a high school career focus elective. The remedial/developmental education course cannot be used to meet the core subject area/unit requirements in English and mathematics.

Participation in the concurrent high school and college credit program must be documented by a written agreement between:

- The student, the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) if the student is under the age of eighteen (18); The District; and The publicly supported community college, technical college, four-year college or university, or private institution the student attends to take the concurrent credit course.

Students are responsible for having the transcript for the concurrent credit course(s) they've taken sent to their school in order to receive credit for the course(s). Credit for concurrent credit courses will not be given until a transcript is received. Students may not receive credit for the course(s) they took or the credit may be delayed if the transcripts are not received at all or in a timely manner; this may jeopardize students' eligibility for extracurricular activities or graduation.

Students will retain credit earned through the concurrent credit program that was applied toward a course required for high school graduation from a previously attended, accredited, public school.

A student eligible to receive free or reduced price meals shall not be responsible for any of the costs for the student's first six (6) concurrent credit hours so long as the concurrent credit courses are taught on the District grounds and by a teacher employed by the District. Any and all costs of concurrent credit courses beyond the six (6) hours permitted, that are not taught on the District's campus, or are not taught by a teacher employed by the District are the responsibility of the student. Students who are not eligible to receive free or reduced price meals are responsible for any and all costs associated with concurrent credit courses.

### **5.23—EQUIVALENCE BETWEEN SCHOOLS**

This policy is not required for districts with only one building per grade span.

### **5.24—STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN SURVEYS**

Section One: No student shall be required to submit to a survey, analysis, or evaluation which is administered or distributed by a school, and is funded in whole or in part by any program administered by the U.S. Department of Education without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian that reveals information concerning the following:

1. political affiliations; mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or his family; sex behavior and attitudes; illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, and demeaning behavior; critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships; legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent; or income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Section Two: No surveys shall be administered without the prior approval of the school principal. Any survey created by a third party, or funded, in whole or in part, as part of any US Department of Education administered program, containing one or more of the eight categories listed above shall be available to be inspected by a student's parent/guardian before the survey is administered or distributed by a school to a student. Parents/guardians shall have the right to deny permission for their child to participate in the taking of the survey. The school shall not penalize students whose parents/guardians exercise this option. The school shall take reasonable precautions to protect students' privacy during their participation in the administration of any survey, analysis, or evaluation containing one or more of the eight categories listed above.

Section Three: Parents or guardians wishing to inspect a survey, analysis, or evaluation shall be able to do so in the administrative office of the administering school where the surveys shall be available for inspection for a period of ten (10) days (regular school days when school is in session) after the notice of intent to administer the survey is sent. Included in the notice shall be information regarding how the survey or questionnaire will be administered; how it will be utilized; and the persons or entities that will have access to the results of the completed survey or questionnaire. Parents may refuse to allow their student to participate before or after reviewing the survey or questionnaire.

The requirements of sections one, two, and three of this policy do not apply to a survey administered to a student in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Section Four: Prior written parental permission is required before any survey or questionnaire (not including tests mandated by state or Federal law or regulation and standardized scholastic achievement tests) is administered to a student the responses to which are to be provided to a person or entity other than another public school, school district, or any branch of the Federal Government and which requests or requires a student to provide any of the eight (8) categories of information listed above and/or the following:

1. A student's name;
2. The name of the student's parent or member of the student's family;
3. The address, telephone number, or email address of a student or a member of a student's family;
4. A personal identification number, such as a social security number, driver's license number, or student identification number of a student or a member of the student's family;
5. Any information, the disclosure of which is regulated, or prohibited by any other state or federal law or regulation.

The rights provided to parents under this policy transfer to the student when he/she turns 18 years old.

### **5.24F1—OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATION IN SURVEYS, ANALYSIS, OR EVALUATIONS**

I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby note my objection to participation by the student named below in the following survey, analysis, or evaluation.

I choose not to have my student participate in the following survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Name of specific survey \_\_\_\_\_ All surveys

Name of student (Printed) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of parent (or student, if 18 or older) \_\_\_\_\_ Date form was filed (To be filled in by office personnel)

### **5.24F2—PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN A SURVEY, ANALYSIS, OR EVALUATION**

I, the undersigned, being a parent or guardian of a student, or a student eighteen (18) years of age or older, hereby grant my permission for the student named below to participate in the following survey, analysis, or evaluation.

Name of survey \_\_\_\_\_

---

Name of student (Printed)      Signature of parent (or student, if 18 or older)      Date form was filed (To be filled by office personnel.)

**5.25—MARKETING OF PERSONAL INFORMATION**

The Mena School District shall not collect, disclose, or use personal information for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information or to otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose.

Personal information is defined, **for the purposes of this policy only**, as individually identifiable information including

1. a student or parent's first and last name, a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), telephone number, and social security identification number.

The district may collect, disclose, or use personal information that is collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions such as the following:

- a. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment;
- b. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low cost literary products;
- c. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools;
- d. Tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments;
- e. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school related or education related activities; and
- f. Student recognition programs.

**5.26—ALTERNATIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

The District shall provide an eligible alternative learning environment (AE) for each eligible AE student enrolled in a District school.

The AE shall be part of an intervention program designed to provide guidance, counseling, and academic support to students who are experiencing emotional, social, or academic problems. Placement of a student in an AE shall not be punitive in nature.

The superintendent or designee shall appoint an Alternative Education Placement Team which shall have the responsibility of determining student placement in the AE. A student may be enrolled in an ALE only on the referral of the Alternative Education Placement Team. The team's placement decision is final and may not be appealed.

The team is to be comprised of the following:

- a school counselor from the referring school; the AE administrator and/or AE teacher; the building principal or assistant principal from the referring school; a parent or legal guardian (if they choose to participate); The District shall document its efforts to contact the student's parent or guardian to schedule a meeting or a phone call for a placement meeting at the parent or guardian's convenience, and maintain such documentation in the student's Student Action Plan (SAP). LEA special education/504 representative (if applicable); at least one (1) of the student's regular classroom teacher(s); and if the District so chooses, the student.

Students who are placed in the AE shall exhibit at least two of the following characteristics a through I:

Disruptive behavior; Dropping out from school; Personal or family problems or situations; Recurring absenteeism;

For the purposes of the AE, personal or family problems or situations are conditions that negatively affect the student's academic and social progress. These may include, but are not limited to:

Ongoing, persistent lack of attaining proficiency levels in literacy and mathematics, Abuse: physical, mental, or sexual; Frequent relocation of residency; Homelessness; Inadequate emotional support; Mental/physical health problems; Pregnancy; or Single parenting.

No later than five (5) school days after a student begins alternative education interventions, the Alternative Education Placement Team shall develop a signed agreement between the AE, the parent or legal guardian (if they choose to participate), and the student, outlining the responsibility of the AE, parent or legal guardian, and the student to provide assurance that the plan for each student is successful.

No later than one (1) week after a student begins alternative education interventions, the Alternative Education Placement Team shall assess the student's current functioning abilities and all relevant social, emotional, academic, career, and behavioral information and develop an SAP outlining the intervention services to be provided to the student that is in compliance with the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Rules. The SAP may be revised from time to time by the AE placement team and a positive behavior or transitional plan shall be developed and added to the SAP prior to a student's return to the regular educational environment.

The district's AE program shall follow class size, staffing, curriculum, and expenditure requirements identified in the ADE Rules.

**5.26.1—AE PROGRAM EVALUATION**

The ALE program shall be evaluated at least annually to determine its overall effectiveness. The evaluation shall specifically address how the use of ALE funds is in alignment with the district's ACSIP in addressing identified achievement gaps and student performance deficiencies.

**5.27—ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS**

The district shall utilize the special needs funding it receives for identified English Language Learners on activities, and materials listed in the ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds.

The expenditures of ELL supplemental funding shall be evaluated at least annually to determine their overall effectiveness. The evaluation shall specifically address how the use of ELL funds is in alignment with the district's ACSIP in addressing identified achievement gaps and student performance deficiencies.

**5.28—NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH ACT FUNDING EXPENDITURES**

Funding received from the state based on the number of students eligible for free and reduced-priced meals under the National Student Lunch Act shall be expended in accordance with guidelines outlined in the ADE Rules Governing the Distribution of Student Special Needs Funding and the Determination of Allowable Expenditure of These Funds.

The district shall at least annually evaluate programs supported by NSLA funds to determine the effectiveness of the programs and to ensure they are providing intervention/prevention services designed to increase student achievement which are in alignment with the district's ACSIP.

**5.29—WELLNESS POLICY**

The health and physical well-being of students directly affects their ability to learn. Childhood obesity increases the incidence of adult diseases occurring in children and adolescents such as heart disease, high blood pressure and diabetes. The increased risk carries forward into their adulthood. Research indicates that a healthy diet and regular physical activity can help prevent obesity and the diseases resulting from it. It is understood that the eating habits and exercise patterns of students cannot be magically changed overnight, but at the same time, the Board of Directors believes it is necessary to strive to create a culture in our schools that consistently promotes good nutrition and physical activity.

The problem of obesity and inactivity is a public health issue. The Board of Directors is keenly aware that it has taken years for this problem to reach its present level and will similarly take years to correct. The responsibility for addressing the problem lies not only with the schools and the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE), but with the community and its residents, organizations and agencies. Therefore, the District shall enlist the support of the larger community to find solutions that improve the health and physical activity of our students.

#### **Wellness Committee**

To enhance the district's efforts to improve the health of our students, a School Nutrition and Physical Activity Advisory Committee (SNPAAC) shall be formed. It shall be structured in a way to ensure age-appropriate recommendations are made that correlate to the District's grade configurations. The SNPAAC shall have the powers and responsibilities delegated to it by statute and Rule and are incorporated into this policy by reference. The overarching goal of the committee shall be to promote student wellness by monitoring how well the District is doing at implementing this policy. The SNPAAC shall use modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 of the Centers For Disease Control' (CDC) School Health Index as a basis for annually assessing each school's progress toward meeting the requirements of this policy. The results of the annual assessment shall be included in each school's ACSIP, provided to each school's principal, and reported to the board. Goals and objectives for nutrition and physical activity shall also be included in the ACSIP.

The SNPAAC shall be made up of Individuals from the following groups to the extent interested persons from each group desire to be included in the development, implementation, and periodic review of the District's wellness policy: Members of the District's Board of Directors; School administrators; School nutrition personnel; Teacher organizations; Teachers of physical education; Parents; Students; Professional groups (such as nurses); School health professionals (such as school nurses, school counselors, and social workers); and Community members.

The SNPAAC shall provide written recommendations to the District's Child Nutrition Director concerning menus and other foods sold in the school cafeteria. Such recommendations shall be based, at least in part, on the information the Committee receives from the District on the requirements and standards of the National School Lunch Program and from menus for the National School Lunch Program and other food sold in the school cafeteria on a quarterly basis.

The SNPAAC will meet at least quarterly. Meeting dates for the SNPAAC will be placed on the District's calendar.

#### **School Health Coordinator**

To assist the SNPAAC in ensuring that the District fulfills the requirements of this policy, a District level School Health Coordinator (Designated District Official) shall be appointed. In addition, a school level School Health Coordinator shall be appointed who shall be responsible for assisting the District level School Health Coordinator in ensuring that each school fulfills the requirements of this policy.

#### **Goals**

In its efforts to improve the school nutrition environment, promote student health, and reduce childhood obesity, the District will adhere to the ADE Rules Governing Nutrition and Physical Activity Standards And Body Mass Index For Age Assessment Protocols. To promote nutrition, physical activity, and other school based activities that will improve student wellness, the District, working with the SNPAAC, has established the following goals:

1. Implement a grade appropriate nutrition education program that will develop an awareness of and appreciation for nutrition and physical activity throughout the curriculum;
2. Enforce existing physical education requirements and engage students in healthy levels of vigorous physical activity;
3. Strive to improve the quality of physical education curricula and increase the training of physical education teachers;
4. Follow the Arkansas Physical Education and Health Education Frameworks in grades K-12;
5. Not use food or beverages as rewards for academic, classroom, or sports performances;
6. Establish class schedules and bus routes that do not directly or indirectly restrict meal access;
7. Provide students with ample time to eat their meals in pleasant cafeteria and dining areas;
8. Abide by the current allowable food and beverage portion standards;
9. Meet or exceed the more stringent of Arkansas' or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Nutrition Standards for reimbursable meals and a la' carte foods served in the cafeteria;
10. Restrict access to competitive foods as required by law and Rule;
11. Conform new and/or renewed vending contracts to the content restrictions contained in the Rules and reduce district dependence on profits from the sale of competitive foods.
12. Provide professional development to all district staff on the topics of nutrition and/or physical activity;
13. Utilize the School Health Index available from the CDC to assess how well the district is doing at implementing this wellness policy and at promoting a healthy environment for its students.

#### **Food and Beverages Outside of the District's Food Service Programs**

The District will insure that drinking water is available without charge to all students throughout the school including, but not limited to, in the District's food service areas.

All food and beverages sold to students on school campus during the school day by school administrators or school non-licensed or licensed staff (principals, coaches, teachers, club sponsors, etc.); students or student groups; parents or parent groups; or another person, company, or organization associated with the school shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks requirements and Arkansas Nutrition Standards at a minimum. These restrictions include, but are not limited to, food and beverages sold in vending venues (machines, ice chests, cabinets) in school stores or as part of school fundraisers.

All food and beverages provided, but not sold, to students on the school campus during the school day by school administrators or school non-licensed or licensed staff (principals, coaches, teachers, club sponsors, etc.); students or student groups; parents or parent groups; or another person, company, or organization associated with the school shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks requirements and Arkansas Nutrition Standards at a minimum. These restrictions include, but are not limited to, food and beverages provided in vending venues (machines, ice chests, cabinets) in school stores or as part of school fundraisers.

Up to a maximum of nine (9) times per school year, school administration may schedule school wide events where food and beverages provided to students are not required to meet the Federal Smart Snacks standards during the scheduled time. The schedule of the events shall be by school, approved by the principal, and shall be part of the annual school calendar.

Food and beverages outside of the District's food service programs may not be sold, served, or provided to students in the District's food service areas during meal times.

Elementary students shall not have in-school access to vending machines.

The District does not place nutrition restrictions on food or beverages brought from home that are intended for personal consumption only.

**Advertising**

In accordance with the USDA regulations, oral, written, or graphic statements made for the purpose of promoting the sale of a food or beverage product that are made by the producer, manufacturer, seller, or any other entity with a commercial interest in the product shall only be permitted on school campus during the school day if they meet or exceed the Federal Smart Snacks standards. This restriction does not apply to: Materials used for educational purposes in the classroom, including, but not limited to: The use of advertisements as a media education tool; or Designing and implementing the health or nutrition curriculum; Clothing, apparel, or other personal items used by students and staff; The packaging of products brought from home for personal consumption; and Currently existing advertisements on school property, including but not limited to, the exterior of vending machines, posters, menu boards, coolers, trash cans, cups used for beverage dispensing, and other food service equipment; however, all future contracts and replacement items shall meet the Federal Smart Snacks standards.

**Community Engagement**

The District will work with the SNPAAC to: Encourage participation in extracurricular programs that support physical activity, such as walk-to-school programs, biking clubs, after-school walking etc.; Encourage the implementation of developmentally appropriate physical activity in after-school childcare programs for participating children; Promote the reduction of time youth spend engaged in sedentary activities such as watching television and playing video games; and Encourage the development of and participation in family-oriented community-based physical activity programs.

The District will annually inform the public: Of the web address where the policy is located; Of any changes made to this policy since the previous year; Of the health and wellness priority goals in the District's ACSIP; That a printed copy of the policy may be picked up at the District's central office; and The amounts and specific sources of funds received and expenditures made from competitive food and beverage contracts.

**Assessment of District's Wellness Policy**

At least once every three years, with input from the SNPACC, the District shall assess both the District as a whole and individual schools' status in regards to the implementation and compliance of the goals of this policy, including the health and wellness goals in the District's ACSIP. The assessment shall be based, at least in part, on: The extent to which District schools are in compliance with this policy; The extent to which this policy compares to other model local school wellness policies; The annual reviews of this policy based on modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 of the CDC's School Health Index; and A description of the progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

On the years the assessment occurs, the assessment results shall be reported to the public, including parents, students, and other members of the community as part of the District's annual report to the public.

The District will update the wellness policy based on the results from the three (3) year assessment.

**District Website**

The District will place on its website: The name, District phone number, and District email address for the District Level School Health Coordinator; The names, district phone numbers, and district email addresses for the School Level School Health Coordinators; The names of the members of the SNPAAC; Meeting dates for the SNPAAC; Information on how community members may get involved with the SNPAAC; A copy of this policy; A copy of the annual review of this policy based on modules 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8 of the CDC's School Health Index; and A copy of the most recent three (3) year assessment of this policy.

**MENA PUBLIC SCHOOLS CALENDAR  
2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR**

August 15	First day of school
September 3	Labor Day Holiday
September 12	Midterm Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Conferences (3:30 – 6:30)
October 12	First grading period ends
October 22	Fall Break
November 14	Midterm Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Conferences (3:30 – 6:30)
November 19-23	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 21	Second grading period and first semester ends
December 24 – Jan 4	Christmas Holiday
January 7	Second semester begins
February 7	Midterm Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Conferences (3:30 – 6:30)
February 18	President’s Day Holiday (possible snow day)
March 8	Third grading period ends
March 18-22	Spring Break
April 18	Midterm Progress Reports and Parent Teacher Conferences (3:30 – 6:30)
May 10	Last Day for Seniors
May 20	<b>Graduation</b>
May 23	Fourth grading period and second semester ends (barring inclement weather)
May 24 – May 28-31	Inclement weather make up days