

CROSS COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

ELEMENTARY STUDENT HANDBOOK



2021-2022 School Year

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Table of Contents

Welcome	4	Opting out of Assessments	34
Intent of Handbook	5	Parental Involvement	35
Notice of Nondiscrimination	5	Parties	36
Attendance	6	Personal Items	36
Before and After School Care	11	Physical Education	36
Bills	11	Physical Exam	36
Books and Supplies	11	Pictures	36
Bulletin Boards	11	Playground Rules	36
Bullying	12	Police Questioning and Apprehension	37
Cafeteria Rules	13	Promotion and Retention	37
Candy and Gum	13	Protection of Student Rights	38
Cell phones and other electronic devices	13	Public Display of Affection	38
Cheating, plagiarism and academic dishonesty	14	Recess	38
Child Abuse and Neglect	15	Rights of Parents	38
Class Dismissal	15	Secret Organizations	39
Classroom Behaviors	15	School Day	39
Coats and Boots	15	Diabetes and Asthma	39
Communicable Diseases	16	Smoking and Tobacco	40
Communicating with Parents	16	Sniffer Dogs	40
Complaint Procedures	16	Standardized Testing	40
Computer Network Use by Students	21	Student Assistance	40
Conferences	24	Student Fee Policy	41
Copyright and Fair Use	24	Student Illness	45
Damage to School Property	24	Student Management System	45
Dating Violence	25	Student Records	46
Discrimination and Harassment	25	Tardiness	48
Dress Code	25	Telephone Calls at School	48
Drug Free Schools	26	Threat Assessment	49
Emergency Contact Information	27	Transportation Services	51
Evacuation	27	Video Surveillance & Photos	54
Eye Exams	27	Visitors	55
Food Service Program	27	Weather and School Closing	55
Field Trips	29	Withdrawal from School	56
First Aid	29	Grade Reports	57
Head Lice	29	Grades	57
Health Problems	30	Homework	57
Health Screening	30	Special Education	58
Health Services	30	Discipline Philosophy	60
Homebound Instruction	30	Forms of School Discipline	60
Homeless Children	31	Discipline Guidelines	64
Illness or Injury at School	31	Due Process	68

Immunizations	32	Board of Ed/Staff	70
Initiations and Hazing	33	Important Dates	71
Lockers and other School Property	33	Title IX Policy	72
Lost and Found	33	Notice of Forms	92
Medication	33	Receipt of Handbook	93
Media Center	34	Emergency Information	94
Memorials	34	Internet Safety Agreement Form	96
		Drug Adm. Forms	97

WELCOME

Dear Students and Parents:

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

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

There are several forms at the end of this handbook that you must read, sign, and return no later than Thursday, August 19, 2021.

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

Sincerely,

Brent Hollinger
Superintendent

Intent of Handbook

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

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

Notice of Nondiscrimination

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

Name: Brent Hollinger
Title: Superintendent
Address: P. O. Box 525, Stromsburg, NE 68666
Telephone: (402) 764-5521
E-mail: bhollinger@crosscounty.esu7.org

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

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

SECTION ONE

BASIC SCHOOL RULES AND GENERAL PRACTICES

Attendance

Required Attendance

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

Mandatory Attendance Age

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

Exceptions

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

A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1 of the current school year may be excused from mandatory attendance if the child's parent or guardian completes an affidavit affirming that alternative educational arrangements have been made for the child. A copy of the required affidavit is attached to this policy.

Minimum Age

A child shall be eligible for admission into kindergarten at the beginning of the school year if the child is five years of age or will be five years of age on or before July 31 of the calendar year in which the school year for which the child is seeking admission begins.

Early Admission into Kindergarten

The School Board shall admit a child who will reach the age of five years on or after August 1 and on or before October 15 of such school year if the parent or guardian requests such entrance and provides an affidavit stating that (i) the child attended kindergarten in another jurisdiction in the current school year; (ii) the family anticipates a relocation to another jurisdiction that would allow admission within the current year; or (iii) the child is capable of carrying the work of kindergarten which can be demonstrated through a recognized assessment procedure approved by the Board.

Early kindergarten enrollment exceptions may be made for younger children who are intellectually advanced. At a minimum, eligibility for the admission shall be based upon an analysis of the child's: (1) mental ability, (2) emotional/social development, (3) pre-academic skills, and (4) fine motor skills.

The kindergarten early entrance assessment procedures are designed to identify and place in kindergarten those children who:

- will turn 5 years of age between August 1 and October 15;
- are deemed by parents or guardians as being intellectually advanced and likely to benefit from advanced grade placement; and
- are selected on the basis of district approved testing by professionals trained and certified to administer the assessments.

In the discretion of the Superintendent or designee, the assessments may be administered by the School District's professional staff, or the parents or guardians may be required, at their own expense, to have all or some of the required assessments completed by reputable professionals and to submit the results of such assessments to the School District.

The decision regarding early entrance to kindergarten requires careful consideration of all factors that affect kindergarten success with final determination to be made based on the recommendation of the District Evaluation Team, to be composed of such individuals as the Superintendent or designee determine appropriate. The academic, social, and emotional readiness, as well as the student's physical development and well-being, must be weighed with institutional factors also considered. Sound decision making in the area of early entrance to kindergarten is dependent upon reliable information regarding a student's readiness and a thoughtful balancing of the myriad of factors implicated by the decision. Parents will be notified in writing of the results of the Early Kindergarten Entrance assessment and the determination of the District Evaluation Team in a timely fashion; not to exceed three weeks after the assessments are completed.

Families who seek early admission of their child into kindergarten must obtain an Early Entrance to Kindergarten Packet from the School District Administrative.

Parents must fill out the early entrance application forms, which include a parent questionnaire and obtain and attach a reference letter from someone who is well acquainted with the child but not a relative of the child. The person providing this reference should know the child well enough that they can speak with some expertise about the child's attributes and abilities. The reference

letter should indicate whether this person recommends the child be schooled with children who will be a year older than the child and, if so, the evidence this person has concerning the child's mental ability, fine and gross motor ability, visual and auditory discrimination, emotional/social development, and communication skills. Suggestions for this reference letter are a preschool teacher, a Sunday school teacher, a day-care provider, or a physician.

The assessment request, reference letter and parent questionnaire must be completed and returned to the District no later than May 25th of the spring before fall enrollment to allow summer assessment to be completed.

Decisions regarding early kindergarten entrance must include consideration of the above and shall not be made based on race, color, gender, religion, ancestry, national origin, marital status, age, disability, or sexual orientation of the child or the child's parents or guardians. Institutional factors, such as capacity, may also be considered.

Birth Certificates

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

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

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

Discontinuing Enrollment – 5 Year Old Students

The person seeking to discontinue the enrollment of a student who will not reach six years of age prior to January 1 of the current school year shall submit a signed, written request and to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The school district may request written verification or documentation that the person signing the form has legal or actual charge or control of the student. The school district shall discontinue the enrollment of

any student who satisfies these requirements. Any student whose enrollment is discontinued under this subsection shall not be eligible to reenroll in this school district until the beginning of the following school year unless otherwise required by law.

Attendance Officer

Each building principal is designated as an attendance officer for the district. Each building principal, at his or her discretion, may delegate these responsibilities to any other qualified individual. The attendance officer is responsible for enforcing the provisions of state law relating to compulsory attendance. This responsibility includes but is not limited to filing a report with the county attorney of the county in which a student resides. Compensation for the duties of attendance officer is included in the salary for the superintendent or designee.

Excused Absences

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

1. Physical or mental illness of the student or of a child whom the student is parenting (a physician's verification is required after four (4) consecutive days of absence for illness)
2. Severe weather
3. Medical appointments for the student
4. Death or serious illness of the student's family member
5. Attending a funeral
6. Appearance at court
7. College planning visits, subject to the terms of this handbook
8. Personal or family vacations

Excessive Absenteeism

When a student receives five (5) unexcused absences or the hourly equivalent in any semester, the Attendance Officer will follow the district's policy to address barriers to the student's attendance.

When a student is absent more than twenty (20) days per year or the hourly equivalent and any portion of the absences is unexcused, the Attendance Officer shall file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. For example, if the student accumulates twenty days of excused absences due to documented illness and is tardy one time, the Attendance Officer must file a report with the appropriate county attorney.

Illness

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

Students need to be fever free or not vomiting for a minimum of 24 hours before returning to attendance at school.

Students returning from absences due to illness that lasted three days or longer may be required to submit verification from a physician prior to re-admittance.

Notification to Office

If your child will not be in attendance, please call the office no later than 8:30 A.M.

Planned absences

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

Students are obligated to:

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

Parents are obligated to:

- 1) Call the appropriate building office to inform the school of the reason for each absence.
- 2) Submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness that exceeds five days.

Before and After School Care

Due to state regulations Before School Care will be available through an application/screening process and will be limited space. If a child/family qualifies, before school care is available from 7:15 a.m.- 8:00 a.m. and after school care is available from 3:30 – 5:00. A school staff member staffs this program. This opportunity is available every day for qualified families except for early dismissals. If at any time, a child or family abuses this privilege their spot may be revoked.

Bills

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

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

Books and Supplies

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

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

Bulletin Boards

Bulletin boards are maintained throughout the building to communicate general information, material, and school announcements. Students should check the bulletin boards carefully each school day. A written copy of daily announcements will be posted on the main bulletin board by the offices.

Bulletin board or electronic publishing space may be provided for the use of students and student organizations for notices relating to matters of general

interest to students. The following general limitations apply to all posting or publishing:

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

Bullying

Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of bullying. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines bullying as “any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated.” Nebraska statute defines bullying as “an ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse.” The District’s administrators will consider these definitions when determining whether any specific situation constitutes bullying. Both of these definitions include both in-person and cyberbullying behaviors.

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

Reporting Bullying

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

Bullying Investigations

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

Cafeteria Rules

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

Candy and Gum

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

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices while at school during passing time and during lunch. Cell phones are not allowed to be used during class unless it is approved by the teacher for classroom use. When entering the classroom, students will be instructed to put cell phones in a storage holder on or by door.

Students may not use cell phones or other electronic devices while they are in locker rooms or restrooms.

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

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

Students who violate this policy will have their cell phones or other electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the offending student at the end of the school day on the first offense. The second offense a parent or guardian must meet with principal before the phone is returned to student. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, including the loss of cell phone for entire school year and possible suspension or expulsion.

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

Cheating, Plagiarism, and Academic Dishonesty

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

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

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

Child Abuse and Neglect

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

Class Dismissal

Classes are in session from the ringing of the tardy bell until the teacher dismisses the class.

Classroom Behavior

Student behavior and attitude in the classroom must be cooperative and serious. All students must:

- arrive to class on time;
- prepare for class with all necessary materials;
- be considerate of others;
- respond promptly to all directions of the teacher; and
- take care of school property and the property of others.

Teachers will establish classroom conduct rules that students must obey.

Coats and Boots

Elementary students must wear coats outdoors when the weather makes it advisable. The staff will decide when coats are required for recess.

Elementary students may choose to wear overshoes or boots when the playground is wet or muddy. Waterproof boots worn to school should be taken off and regular shoes worn during the day. Boots worn to school must be marked with the student's name.

Communicable Diseases

Any student who has contracted a contagious disease may be restricted from attendance at school until the student is no longer contagious. The school district uses the Title 173- Nebraska Health and Human Services/Control of Communicable Disease, Chapter 3 of the Nebraska Administrative Code as a "best practice" guideline for contagious and infectious diseases. If there are questions regarding the communicability of your child's health condition or if you know your child has contracted a contagious or communicable disease or condition not otherwise specified in board policy or this handbook, please call the school at 402-764-5521.

Communicating with Parents

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

Complaint Procedure

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

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

Complaint and Appeal Process.

1. The first step is for the complainant to speak directly to the person(s) with whom the complainant has a concern. For example, a parent who is unhappy with a classroom teacher should initially discuss the matter with the teacher. However, the complainant should skip the first step if complainant believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant to discrimination or harassment.
2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, Title IX/504 coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below.
 - a) Complaints about the operation, decisions, or personnel within a building should be submitted to the principal of the building.
 - b) Complaints about the operations of the school district or a building principal should be submitted in writing to the superintendent of schools.
 - c) Complaints about the superintendent of schools should be submitted in writing to the president of the board of education.
 - d) Complaints involving discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, marital status, disability, or age may also be submitted, at any time during the complaint procedure to the School District's Title IX/504 coordinator. Complaints involving discrimination or harassment may also be submitted at any time to the Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education: by email at OCR.KansasCity@ed.gov; by telephone at (816) 268-0550; or by fax at (816) 268-0599.
3. When a complainant submits a complaint to an administrator or to the Title IX/504 coordinator, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the staff member involved.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the administrator or Title IX/504 coordinator will urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with that staff member, if appropriate.

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

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

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

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

No Retaliation.

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

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

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

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

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

Complaints about the educational services provided to a student who is suspected of having a disability must be submitted in writing to the school district’s Director of Special Education or to the district’s 504 Coordinator. The Director of Special Education or 504 Coordinator will either refer the student for possible verification as a student with a disability or will provide prior written notice of the district’s refusal to do so.

Bad Faith or Serial Filings.

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

Computer Network Use by Students

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

I. Student Expectations in the Use of the Internet

A. Acceptable Use

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

B. Unacceptable Use

1. Students shall not use school computers to gain access to material that is obscene, pornographic, harmful to minors, or otherwise inappropriate for educational uses.
2. Students shall not engage in any illegal or inappropriate activities on school computers, including the downloading and copying of copyrighted material.
3. Students shall not use e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, or other forms of direct electronic communications on school computers for any unauthorized or unlawful purpose or in violation of any school policy or directive.
4. Students shall not use school computers to participate in on-line auctions, on-line gaming or mp3 sharing systems including, but not limited to Aimster or Freenet and the like.
5. Students shall not disclose personal information, such as

their names, school, addresses, or telephone numbers outside the school network.

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

II. **Enforcement**

A. Methods of Enforcement

1. The district monitors all Internet communications, Internet usage, and patterns of Internet usage. Students have no right of privacy to any Internet communications or other electronic files. The computer system is owned by the school district. As with any school property, any electronic files on the system are subject to search and inspection at any time.
2. The school district uses a technology protection measure that blocks access to some Internet sites that are not in

accordance with the policy of the school district. Standard use of the Internet utilizes a proxy server-based filter that screens for non-curriculum related pages.

3. Due to the nature of filtering technology, the filter may at times filter pages that are appropriate for student research. The system administrator may override the technology protection measure for the student to access a site with legitimate educational value that is wrongly blocked.
4. The school district staff will monitor students' use of the Internet through direct supervision and by monitoring Internet use history to ensure enforcement of the policy.

B. Consequences for Violation of this Policy

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

III. Protection of Students

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

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

B. Education About Appropriate On-Line Behavior

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

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

Conferences

Students' academic success has been closely linked to parental involvement in school. The school district has formal parent-teacher conferences twice each year.

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

Copyright and Fair Use

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

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. "Fair use" of a copyrighted work includes reproduction for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research. Students who are unsure whether their proposed reproduction of copyrighted material constitutes "fair use" should consult with their teacher or building principal, review the school district's copyright compliance policy, and review *Copyright for Students* found at <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/resources/student-copyright/>. You can find more information on copyright compliance requirements and permitted uses from the U.S. Copyright Office and the Library of Congress at the following site: <http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/copyright.html>.

Damage to School Property

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

Dating Violence (Policy 5030)

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

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

Discrimination and Harassment

The school district prohibits discrimination and harassment based upon or related to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, marital status, disability, age or any other unlawful basis that (1) has the purpose or effect of creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive school environment, (2) has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with a student's school performance, or (3) otherwise adversely affects a student's school opportunities. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mrs. Jo Moody or Mr. Aaron Neujar at (402)764-5521, jmoody@crosscounty.esu7.org, aneujar@crosscounty.esu7.org or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Superintendent Brent Hollinger at (402) 764-5521, bhollinger@crosscounty.esu7.org or in person at school. Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact Superintendent Brent Hollinger at (402) 764-5521, bhollinger@crosscounty.esu7.org or in person at school. Students may report discrimination or harassment to any staff member who will then forward it on to the appropriate coordinator or administrator. The staff member will follow school district policies to respond to the report.

Dress Code

Students must come to school dressed in clean, neat, and appropriate clothing to conform to educational standards.

Students are prohibited from wearing the following attire:

1. Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans
2. Clothing that advertises or displays alcohol, tobacco or any illegal substance

3. Caps, hats and bandannas during the school day or at school-sponsored events
4. Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)
5. Short-shorts, biker shorts, or cutoffs are unhemmed or do not extend past the student's fingertips when the student's arms and hands are held at his/her side
6. Hairstyles which distract from the learning process or the health and safety for either the student or others
7. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property
8. Clothing that is torn, ripped, or cut excessively where they become a distraction.
9. Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened
10. "Grubby clothes," those which are purposely torn or bedraggled or threadbare, dirty or disheveled
11. Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions
12. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low cut blouses, halters, tops with straps less than two inches in width (spaghetti straps)
13. Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments
14. Pants that drag on the floor
15. Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts
16. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member
17. Any other attire which creates a material disruption to the learning environment

Clothing usually worn as undergarments may not be worn as outer garments. Any visible body piercing or tattoos that are deemed inappropriate by the administration must be removed or covered up.

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

Drug Free Schools

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

prohibits the use or possession of alcohol, controlled substances and tobacco at all times.

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

Emergency Contact Information

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

Evacuations

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

Eye Exams

All students enrolling in kindergarten or transferring into the school district from out of state must undergo a visual examination by a physician, a physician assistant, an advanced practice registered nurse, or an optometrist, which consists of testing for amblyopia, strabismus, and internal and external eye health, with testing sufficient to determine visual acuity, except that no such physical examination or visual evaluation shall be required of any child whose parent or guardian objects in writing. They must provide evidence of the vision examination within six months prior to entrance. The cost of such physical examination and visual evaluation shall be borne by the parent or guardian of each child who is examined.

Food Service Program

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

Breakfast

The school will serve breakfast daily during home room hour. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast. The school district charges students \$1.80 for breakfast.

Lunch

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives. Lunch for students grades K-5 is \$2.50.

Payment for Meals

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

If a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, the student will be permitted to charge up to five meals. Thereafter, if a student has no funds available to pay for a meal, no food will be provided.

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

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

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

The school district is required to make reasonable efforts to collect unpaid meal charges. The building principal or his or her designee will contact households about unpaid meal charges and notify them again of the availability of the free and reduced meal program and/or establish payment plans and due dates by telephone, e-mail, or other written or oral communication. If these collection efforts are unsuccessful, the school district may pursue any other methods to collect delinquent debt as allowed by law. Collection efforts may continue into a new school year.

Notice of Non-discrimination

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

information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

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

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

Field Trips

Elementary classes take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. Parents sign a permission slip at the beginning of the year that allows their child or children to participate. Parents will be notified ahead of each field trip so parents are aware that their child or children will be leaving school grounds. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

First-Aid

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

Head Lice

Students found to have head lice, louse eggs, or nits will not be permitted at school and will be sent home. Upon discovering the presence of any indication of lice, louse eggs, or nits, the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) will be notified, and if appropriate will be asked to pick up the student from school immediately.

Students will not be permitted to return to school until the district finds that no live lice, eggs, or nits can be detected. The parent(s) or guardian(s) will be required to treat the student and accompany the student to school to be examined.

The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Health Problems Limiting Activities

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

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

Health Screenings

Children in Preschool and Kindergarten through third grade, as well as children in sixth and ninth grades are screened for vision, hearing, dental defects, height and weight. Students entering the Student Assistance Process at any grade level, and those about whom health concerns are identified to the school nurse, may also be screened. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school screening program must communicate this in writing to the school health office at the start of the school year. Because Nebraska statutes require school-age screening, parents who remove their child from the screening program must submit findings from an alternate medical provider to the school by December 1.

Health Services

Student Illnesses

School health personnel will notify parents when a student needs to be sent home from school due to illness. Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: Temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, or on determination by the school nurse or front office staff that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the educational program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves. **Students need to be fever free or not vomiting for a minimum of 24 hours.**

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

Homebound Instruction

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

Homeless Children and Youth

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

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

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

If a homeless child registered to attend school in the district is receiving family reconciliation services pursuant to state law, the district will work in cooperation with any county or department of social services in the district to jointly develop an educational program for the child. The district's homeless coordinator is HS Principal Justin DeWitt who may be contacted at (402) 764-5521, jdewitt@crosscounty.esu7.org or in person at school.

Illness or Injury at School

Students who feel ill or are hurt while at school should seek immediate assistance from their classroom teacher or the nearest staff member. The school will contact parents to pick students up from school whenever necessary.

Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: Temperature greater than 100.4°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, or on determination by the school nurse that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the educational program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves.

When school officials determine that a student needs immediate medical attention but the parents cannot be reached by phone, emergency services will be summoned or the student will be taken directly to the doctor and/or hospital. Parents must complete an emergency information card for each child enrolled in the district. The card should list the family physician's name, where parents or a responsible adult can be located, and any necessary emergency instructions.

Immunizations

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

- proof of adequate immunizations for mumps, measles, rubella; diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus; polio; and hepatitis B series; or
- a signed parental statement of refusal to provide the immunization history. Homeless students who are in need of immunizations will be referred to the homeless coordinator, who shall assist in obtaining necessary immunizations or medical records.

Provisional Enrollment. Students who meet the statutory requirements for provisional enrollment shall be allowed to attend school for sixty days without the necessary immunizations.

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

Initiations and Hazing

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

Initiations are defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the

level of “hazing” as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent.

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

Lockers and Other School Property

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

Lost and Found

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

Medications

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

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

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

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

Media Center

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

Memorials

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

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

Opting Out of Assessments

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

Parental Involvement

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

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

These may include cooperation with other community programs such as Head Start and preschools and other community services such as the public library.

7. The district will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.

Parties

Elementary classes may have seasonal parties during the year. Such parties generally last from forty-five (45) minutes to an hour. Parents shall communicate with their student's classroom teacher for the teacher's rules regarding birthday and holiday parties. If treats or other items are brought for a class in recognition of a student's birthday or other event, enough should be brought for the entire class.

Invitations for private parties and non-school-sponsored events may not be distributed at school unless an entire class is invited and permission to distribute such invitations is granted by the classroom teacher.

Personal Items

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

Physical Education

The school district requires students to receive physical education to assist them in developing gross and fine motor skills. Students are encouraged to wear tennis shoes for P.E.

Physical Exam

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

Pictures

The school district arranges for a photographer to be present at school in the fall to take class pictures. Parents will be notified of the date. Included in the individual packet is a class composite. Parents who want pictures of their

students or of their student's class composite may purchase them directly from the photographer.

Playground Rules

Students must follow these rules to keep the playground safe when they are using the playground as part of the school day:

1. Students must obey the playground supervisor at all times.
2. Students may not enter the street/highway to retrieve a ball unless given permission by the playground supervisor.
3. Students must play away from the school windows.
4. Touch and flag football are permitted, but tackle football is prohibited. Students may only play football on grassy areas.
5. Students may throw balls and other authorized play equipment. They may not throw rocks, gravel, snowballs, and clothing.
6. Students must use the playground equipment properly and in a safe manner.
7. Students may not leave the playground after they have arrived at school for the day.

Students who violate these rules will be disciplined with the loss of recess or other privileges, detention, and/or other consequences.

The school's playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas are generally not supervised. Staff will supervise students when the students are using these areas as part of the school day or as part of a school activity. At all other times and in all other circumstances, the school district does not provide supervision of its playgrounds, equipment, and surrounding areas.

Police Questioning and Apprehension

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

Promotion and Retention

Any elementary teacher considering the retention of a student must submit a report of the reasons to the elementary principal. The report shall include a summary of conferences held with the parents/guardians.

The teacher, parents and elementary principal will attempt to reach a unanimous decision on whether or not a student will be retained. If agreement cannot be reached the final decision will be made by the elementary principal.

Protection of Student Rights

The Board of Education respects the rights of parents and their children and has adopted a Protection of Pupil Rights policy in consultation with parents to comply with the Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment (PPRA). The policy is available on the district's website or upon request from the district's administrative office. Parents may opt their child out of participation in activities identified by the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent. Cross County does not currently plan to conduct any surveys covered by the PPRA policy.

Public Displays of Affection

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

Recess

All students are expected to play outside for recess. In case of rainy or cold weather a schedule will be followed for use of the gym and classrooms. On snowy days when it isn't too cold outside the children will be allowed to play in the snow if they have boots, snow pants, mittens or gloves, and hats. You may also send extra shoes, socks, pants, etc. to change into.

Staff members make decisions regarding recess pursuant to guidelines established by the Polk County Health Department.

If your child has been ill and cannot play outside, please send a doctors note to the teacher.

Rights of Custodial and Non-Custodial Parents

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

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

The district will not restrict the access of custodial and non-custodial parents to their students and their students' records, unless the district has been provided a copy of a court order that limits those rights. If the district is

provided such a court order, school officials will follow the directives set forth in the order.

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

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

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

Secret Organizations

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

School Day

The school day typically begins at 8:20 a.m. and ends at 3:20 p.m. Students are to leave the school grounds after dismissal unless the student is part of the after school care program.

For the protection of the child and the reassurance of both parents and teachers, if a child is to go somewhere other than the usual place, please inform the school by 2:00 p.m. via phone call.

School staff will provide supervision for students on school grounds thirty (30) minutes before the school day begins and ten (10) minutes after the school day ends. Children who are not appropriately registered for before school care should not arrive before 7:50. **There will be no supervision provided by the school before or after these times.** Parents must arrange for their children to leave school promptly at the end of the day.

In the morning, children will be expected to assemble in the East commons area until 8:15. At that time they may go to their classrooms with designated staff members.

If your child will not be in attendance, please call the office no later than 8:30 a.m.

Self Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis

Subject to school policy, the school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with appropriate medical professionals to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis. Parents desiring to develop such a plan should contact Superintendent Brent Hollinger at (402) 764-5521, bhollinger@crosscounty.esu7.org or in person at school.

Smoking and Tobacco

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

Sniffer (Drug) Dogs

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

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

Standardized Testing

MAPS test is administered three times each year and the results are shared at PT conference or sent home.

Student Assistance

Parents who believe their students have any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that they believe are not being addressed by the school district should contact the student's teacher. If appropriate, the teacher may convene the Student Assistance Team (SAT). The SAT can explore possibilities and strategies that will best meet the educational needs of the student.

Student Fee Policy

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

Definitions.

1. "Students" means students, their parents, guardians or other legal representatives.

2. "Extracurricular activities" means student activities or organizations that (1) are supervised or administered by the district; (2) do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades; and (3) are not otherwise required by the district.

3. "Post-secondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a post-secondary educational institution.

Listing of Fees Charged by this District.

- 1. Clothing Required for Specified Courses and Activities.** Students are responsible for complying with the district's grooming and attire guidelines and for furnishing all clothing required for any special programs, courses, or activities in which they participate. The teacher, coach, or sponsor of the activity will provide students with written guidelines that detail any special clothing requirements and explain why the special clothing is required for the specific program, course, or activity.
- 2. Safety Equipment and Attire.** The district will provide students with all safety equipment and attire that is required by law. Building administrators will assure that (a) such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, (b) teachers are directed to instruct students in the use of such devices, and (c) students use the devices as required. Students are responsible for using the devices safely and as instructed.
- 3. Personal or Consumable Items.** The district does not provide students with personal or consumable items for participation in courses and

activities including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, and notebooks. Students who wish to supply their own personal or consumable items may do so, as long as those items comply with the requirements of the district. The district will provide students with facilities, equipment, materials, and supplies, including books. Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of such property. Students will be charged for damage to school property caused by the student and will be held responsible for the reasonable replacement cost of any school property that they lose.

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

5. Technological Devices. The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. 80As with all school property, students may be charged for damage to such devices. To protect against such potential losses, students and parents may, but are not required, to purchase insurance coverage for the devices. The maximum dollar amount of this insurance coverage facilitated by the district will be \$30.00.

6. Extracurricular Activities. The district does not charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

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

- Student Activity Card: \$30.00
 - Covers admission to all extracurricular events

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

8. Transportation Costs. The district does not charge students reasonable fees for transportation services provided by the district to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations.

9. Copies of Student Files or Records. The district will not charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Parents of students have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records.

10. Participation in Before-School, After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services. At this time, the district does NOT charge any fees for participation in the before or after school program.

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

The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for summer and night school shall be \$300.00.

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

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

- Breakfast Program – Grades K-5
 - Regular Price \$1.80
- Breakfast Program – Grades 6-12
 - Regular Price \$1.80
- Lunch Program – Grades K-5
 - Regular Price \$2.50
- Lunch Program – Grades 6-12
 - Regular Price \$2.80

13. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities. Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. The following list details the maximum dollar amount of all musical extracurricular activities fees and the equipment or attire required for participation in musical extracurricular activities:

- Band: No participation activity fee.
 - Students must provide their own instruments.
- Choir: No participation activity fee.
 - Students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group (Black Pants as an example). The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be \$150.00.

14. Contributions for Class Extracurricular Activities. Students are eligible to participate in a number of unique extracurricular activities during their last two years in high school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district may ask each student to make a contribution to their class’s fund. This contribution is completely voluntary. Students who chose not to contribute to the class fund are still eligible to participate in the extra activities. The suggested donation to the class fund will be \$25.00.

Waiver Policy.

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

waiver application to their building principal. Application forms are available in the school building.

Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

When appropriate, the district will request donations of money, materials, equipment, or attire from parents, guardians and other members of the community to defray the costs of providing certain services and activities to students. These requests are not requirements, and staff members of the district are directed to communicate that fact clearly to students, parents, and patrons.

Fund-Raising Activities

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

Student Illness

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

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

Student Information Management System

Cross County School District utilizes the PowerSchool student information management system to manage various student data regarding attendance,

grades, credits, transcripts, registration, etc. This secured system is accessed through the Internet and can be accessed at any time by school officials, students, and parents through individualized security codes and passwords. Please contact any Cross County school office for further information on this system.

Student Records

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA") provides parents certain rights with respect to their student's education records. These rights include the right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the date the school receives a request for access; and the right to request the amendment of the student's education records that you believe to be inaccurate.

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

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

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

user). Directory information does not include a student's social security number.

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

Federal law requires school districts to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education with the names, addresses, and telephone listings of high school students unless parents have notified the school district in writing that they do not want this information disclosed without prior written parental consent. Military recruiters will be granted the same access to a student in a high school grade as is provided to postsecondary educational institutions or to prospective employers of such students.

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

Non-Directory Information

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

One FERPA exception permits disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests without consent. A school official includes, but is not necessarily limited to, a teacher or other educator, administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); school board member; volunteer; contractor or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of PII from education records, such as an attorney, representative of the district's insurance providers, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or a third-party website operator who has contracted with the school district or its agent to offer online programs for the benefit of students and/or the district; members of law enforcement acting on behalf of

the school district; a parent or student volunteering to serve on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee; or a parent, student, or other volunteer assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official typically has a "legitimate educational interest" if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill a school-related professional, contractual, statutory, or regulatory responsibility.

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

Transfer of Records Upon Student Enrollment

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

Complaints

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

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

Tardiness

Morning tardy bell is at 8:20. Students must be in the classroom by 8:20. Excessive tardies will lead to further discipline actions. A tardy may be excused at the discretion of the principal.

Telephone Calls and Student Contact

The school telephones are for school business. A school cell phone is available in front office and can be used by students who obtain permission from either the principal or a secretary if a call needs to be made in emergency or other necessary situations. No texting on the school cell phone.

When a student is in class, the message will then be relayed to them at the end of class, during passing periods, or during lunch hour unless it is deemed an emergency. Otherwise, the student will not be pulled out of class to take the phone call.

Threat Assessment and Response

The board of education is committed to providing a safe environment for members of the school community. Students, staff and patrons are urged to immediately report any statements or behavior that makes the observer fearful or uncomfortable about the safety of the school environment.

1. Definitions

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

from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.

All staff and students must report **substantive threats** to a member of the administration immediately and comply with any other mandatory reporting obligations. Staff and students who are unsure whether a threat is substantive or transient should report the situation. Staff and students must make such report regardless of the nature of the relationship between the individual who initiated the threat or threatening behavior and the person(s) who were threatened or who were the focus of the threatening behavior. Staff and students must also make such reports regardless of where or when the threat was made or the threatening behavior occurred.

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

3. Threat Assessment Team

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of Superintendent, building principals, guidance counselor, classroom teachers, and when available the school nurse and local law enforcement. The threat assessment team may also include members of the crisis team and safety team. Not every team member needs to participate in every threat assessment. If the threat has been made by or is directed towards, a student with a disability, the threat assessment team must include a staff member who is knowledgeable about special education services or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, as appropriate. Neither the student nor their student's family members are part of the threat assessment team.

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

4. Threat Assessment Investigation and Response

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

administrator believes that an individual poses a clear and immediate threat of serious violence.

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

- Review of the threatening behavior and/or communication;
- Interviews with the individuals involved including students, staff members, and family members as necessary and/or appropriate;
- Review of school and other records for any prior history or interventions with the students involved;
- Any other investigatory methods that the team determines to be reasonable and useful.

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

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

5. Communication with the Public about Reported Threats

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

6. Coordination with the Crisis Team After Resolution of Threat

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

Transportation Services

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

Locations

The East Loop is utilized for bus pick up and drop off, and for preschool morning drop off and afternoon drop off/pick up. Unattended parked cars are not allowed in the East Loop from 2:45 P.M. to 3:30 P.M.

The West Loop is utilized for parents dropping off or picking up children in personal vehicles.

Transportation to School

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

Any questions or concerns about busing should be made to the Superintendent. If there is a discipline situation that occurred on the bus, please contact the principal.

Bus Regulations

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

a) Rules of Conduct on School Vehicles:

- 1) Students must obey the driver promptly.
- 2) Students must wait in a safe place for the bus to arrive, clear of traffic and away from where the vehicle stops.
- 3) Students are prohibited from fighting, engaging in bullying, harassment, or horseplay.
- 4) Students must enter the bus without crowding or disturbing others and go directly to their assigned seats.
- 5) Students must remain seated and keep aisles and exits clear while the vehicle is moving.
- 6) Students are prohibited from throwing or passing objects on, from, or into vehicles.
- 7) Students may not use profane language, obscene gestures, tobacco, alcohol, drugs, or any other controlled substance on the vehicles.

- 8) Students may not carry weapons, look-a-like weapons, hazardous materials, nuisance items, or animals onto the vehicle.
- 9) Students may carry on conversations in ordinary tones, but may not be loud or boisterous and should avoid talking to the driver while the vehicle is in motion. Students must be absolutely quiet when the vehicle approaches a railroad crossing and any time the driver calls for quiet.
- 10) Students may not open windows without permission from the driver. Students may not dangle any item (e.g. legs, arms, backpacks) out of the windows.
- 11) Student must secure any item or items that could break or produce injury if tossed about the inside of the vehicle if the vehicle were involved in an accident
- 12) Student must respect the rights and safety of others at all times.
- 13) Students must help keep the vehicle clean, sanitary, and orderly. Students must remove all personal items and trash upon exiting.
- 14) Students may not leave or board the vehicle at locations other than the assigned stops at home or school unless approved prior to departure by the superintendent or designee.
- 15) Video cameras may be placed on buses, at random, to monitor student behavior on the bus.

b) **Consequences**

Drivers must promptly report all student misconduct to the administration. These reports may be oral or written. Students who violate the Rules for Conduct will be referred to their building principal for discipline. Disciplinary consequences may include a note home to parents, suspension of bus riding privileges, exclusion from extracurricular activities, in-school suspension, short term or long term suspension from school, and/or expulsion.

These consequences are not progressive, and school officials have discretion to impose any listed punishment they deem appropriate, in accordance with state and federal law and board policy.

c) **Records**

Records of vehicle misconduct will be forwarded to the appropriate building principal and will be maintained in the same manner as other

student discipline records. Reports of serious misconduct may be forwarded to law enforcement.

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

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

Transportation to Activities

The school district provides transportation to students who are participating in school-sponsored events and they must ride to those events in a school vehicle. A participant may ride home with his or her parent/guardian only if the parent/guardian personally contacts the sponsor at the activity and provides a signed note stating his/her child will not be riding the bus. Parents are discouraged from requesting to take their children home after an away contest or performance. Travel to and from an event provides time for the students to further develop a strong team concept.

Video Surveillance and Photographs

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

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

generally prohibits students from using smart-speakers or other devices which actively or passively create or transmit audio or video recordings, including Google Home, Amazon Alexa, Apple HomePod, and AngelSense devices.

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

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

Visitors

For safety reasons, all visitors must check into the office to sign in and receive a nametag.

Parents are encouraged to visit your child's class when school is in session. Visits must be arranged with, and approved by, the principal so that we can accommodate your visit with a minimum amount of distraction and a maximum benefit for you and the students.

Guidelines

Visits should be limited to 20-30 minutes. If you are interested in observing a certain area of the curriculum, it is best to call the teacher before the visit to find out what time that subject is normally taught. Time probably will not allow for individual conferences with the teacher during the classroom visit. Please set an appointment.

It is best not to bring younger children as visitors to the classroom. They are certainly welcome at school events and in the lunchroom. Children who are visiting must be accompanied by an adult.

There are a few times during the school year that require teachers to focus entirely on students and their needs. Visits are unlikely to be permitted during these times, which generally include times:

- immediately before or after a special program
- during achievement tests
- during the first week and last week of school
- during days prior to a holiday break

Weather-Related School Closing

The Superintendent will occasionally announce an emergency early school dismissal, late start, or cancellation of school due to extreme heat, snow, or ice. School closings will be announced on radio stations KTMX (104.9 fm),

KLIR (101.1 fm), television station KHAS-TV (Ch. 5), and KLKN-TV (Ch. 8), and KOLN/KGIN (Ch. 10/11) and through the ALERTNOW notification system. Parents should assume that school is open and a regular schedule is being followed if there is no announcement concerning the school district. Please do not call the school or individual staff members to find out whether school is being canceled. Parents who do not believe it is safe to transport their students to school may keep their students home after contacting the district office.

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

Withdrawal From School

Students who are moving from the district must notify the school office.

SECTION TWO

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Grade Reports

Report cards will be distributed as soon as possible following the end of each quarter. Parents/guardians of all students can view their student's academic records at any time through the PowerSchool grade system. They will also receive mid-term reports at approximately the midpoint of each quarter. Comments on coursework, commendations, or recommendations for improvement may be included with the mid-term reports and are also available through the PowerSchool system. Weekly grade reports of unsatisfactory work also relay grade and eligibility status to students and parents/guardians.

Grades

Kindergarten, First and Second grade students are graded by mastery of skills. Their grade symbols are:

E= Excellent, S= Satisfactory, U= Unsatisfactory, N= Needs Improvement

Third grade – Fifth Grade students receive report card grades.

A+ = 99-100	A = 95-98	A- = 93-94	B+ = 91-92
B = 88-90	B- = 86-87	C+ = 84-85	C = 80-83
C- = 78-79	D+ = 76-77	D = 72-75	D- = 70-71
F=0-69			

Elementary physical education, instrumental music, vocal music and library skills are graded as follows:

Excellent, Satisfactory, Improving, Growth Needed, and Unsatisfactory.

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

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

Homework

Classroom teachers will often assign homework. Parents who have questions about homework or concerns about class work should contact the teacher.

Questions not resolved by the teacher should be referred to the administration.

Each student is expected to spend some time preparing for studies outside of school hours. The amount of time that is needed will depend upon each student.

Special Education Services

What Does Special Education Mean?

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

Students Who May Benefit

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

How are Students With Disabilities Identified?

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

Reevaluation

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

Individual Education Program (IEP)

Upon a student being verified as having a disability, a conference will be held with parents. At the conference, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed specifying programs and services which will be provided by the schools. Parent consent will be obtained prior to a student being placed

for the first time in a program providing special education and related services or early intervention services to infant and toddlers. Once in place, the IEP is reviewed on an annual basis, or more frequently as needed. Parents are given a copy of the IEP.

Special Education Placement

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

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

More Information

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

SECTION THREE

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

General Discipline Philosophy

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

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

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

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

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

Forms of School Discipline

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

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

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

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

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

After School Sessions and Detentions

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

If a teacher or administrator has a student staying after school, parents will be notified so they are aware.

- A student who fails to attend an after school session may be given a detention by the teacher or may face additional disciplinary consequences up to and including long-term suspension and/or expulsion. A student who has a conflict with an after-school session is responsible for working it out with the teacher.
- Standard Detentions are 30 minutes, served in the central office or the detention room designated by the building principal.

In-School Suspension

The building administrator may require a student to serve in-school suspension. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students placed in in-school suspension. Students not completing their In-School Suspension will face further disciplinary action.

Emergency Exclusion

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

Short-Term Suspension

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

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

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

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

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

4. Students who are short-term suspended will be given the opportunity to complete classwork.

Weapons and/or Firearms

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

Long-Term Suspension

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

Expulsion

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

student, the student may be readmitted only by action of the board. Otherwise, the student may be readmitted by action of the Superintendent.

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

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

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

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

influence of a controlled substance or alcoholic liquor (*note: the term "under the influence" for school purposes has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant*);

7. Public indecency as defined in section 28-806, except that this prohibition shall apply only to students at least twelve years of age but less than nineteen years of age;
8. Engaging in bullying as defined in section 79-2,137 and in these policies;
9. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person if a complaint has been filed by a prosecutor in a court of competent jurisdiction alleging that the student has sexually assaulted or attempted to sexually assault any person, including sexual assaults or attempted sexual assaults that occur off school grounds not at a school function, activity, or event. For purposes of this subdivision, sexual assault means sexual assault in the first degree as defined in section 28-319, sexual assault in the second degree as defined in section 28-320, sexual assault of a child in the second or third degree as defined in section 28-320.01, or sexual assault of a child in the first degree as defined in section 28-319.01, as such sections now provide or may hereafter from time to time be amended;
10. Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Nebraska which activity constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes; or
11. A repeated violation of any of the following rules, or a single violation if the conduct amounts to a criminal act, if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes:
 - a. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, sex, national origin, or religion;
 - b. Dressing or grooming in a manner which violates the school district's dress code and/or is dangerous to the student's health and safety, a danger to the health and safety of others, or which is disruptive, distracting or indecent to the extent that it interferes with the learning and educational process;
 - c. Violating school bus rules as set by the school district or district staff;
 - d. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing tobacco, drug paraphernalia, an electronic nicotine delivery system, or a tobacco imitation substance or packaging, regardless of form, including cigars, cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and any other form of

- tobacco, tobacco derivative product or imitation, or electronic cigarettes, vapor pens, etc.;
- e. Possessing, using, selling, or dispensing any drug paraphernalia or imitation of a controlled substance regardless of whether the actual substance possessed is a controlled substance by Nebraska law;
 - f. Possession of pornography;
 - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically);
 - h. Engaging in initiations, defined as any ritualistic expectations, requirements, or activities placed upon new members of a school organization for the purpose of admission into the organization, even if those activities do not rise to the level of "hazing" as defined below. Initiations are prohibited except by permission of the superintendent;
 - i. Engaging in hazing as defined by state law and this policy. Hazing is defined as any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership in any school organization. Under state criminal law, hazing activities include, but are not limited to, whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with the intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any unlawful act that endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person. For purposes of school rules, hazing also includes any activity expected of someone joining a group, team, or activity that humiliates, degrades or risks emotional and/or physical harm, regardless of the person's willingness to participate; personal servitude; restrictions on personal hygiene; yelling, swearing and insulting new members/rookies; being forced to wear embarrassing or humiliating attire in public; consumption of vile substances or smearing of such on one's skin; binge drinking and drinking games; sexual simulation and sexual assault;
 - j. Bullying which shall include cyber-bullying, defined as the use of the internet, including but not limited to social networking sites such as Facebook, cell phones or other devices to send, post or text message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass

another person. This may include, but is not limited to; continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said they want no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums, and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data, such as the victim's real name, address, or school at websites or forums; posing as the identity of the victim for the purpose of publishing material in their name that defames or ridicules them; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages or emails to the victims; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target;

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

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

Reporting Requirement to Law Enforcement

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION FOUR

Board of Education/School Staff

Members of the Board of Education:

Kurt Moore President
Coreen Rafert Vice-President
Cindy Nyberg..... Secretary
Quinn Peterson..... Treasurer
Jason Fellows Member
Aaron Phillips Member

Administrative Staff:

Brent Hollinger.....Superintendent
Justin DeWitt.....Middle/High School Principal
Tammy Schaefer..... Elementary Principal/Sped Director

Transportation Department

Alan Pruter..... Transportation Coordinator/ Route Driver

IMPORTANT DATES

August 13	Students First Day- 1:00 Dismissal
September 6	Labor Day/No School
September 7	No School/Teacher In-service
September 22	Parent Teacher Conference- 1:00 Dismissal (4-8 pm)
September 23	Parent Teacher Conference (4-8 pm)
September 24	No School/Teacher comp day
October 15	End of 1st Quarter
October 22	No School/ Fall Break
October 27	1:00 Dismissal/Teacher In-service
November 17	1:00 Dismissal/Teacher In-service
November 24-28	Thanksgiving Break
December 8	1:00 Dismissal/Teacher In-service
December 21	1:00 Dismissal/ End of 2nd Quarter (1st Semester)
December 22-31	Christmas Break
January 1-3	Christmas Break
January 4	No School/Teacher In-service
January 5	Students Report
January 26	No School/Teacher In-service
February 9 & 10	Parent Teacher Conference (4-8 pm)
February 11	No School/ Teacher comp day
February 23	1:00 Dismissal/ Teacher In-service
March 8	End of 3rd Quarter
March 9-11	Spring Break
March 23	1:00 Dismissal/Teacher In-service
April 15-18	No School/ Easter Break
April 20	1:00 Dismissal/Teacher In-service
May 14	Graduation
May 18	1:00 Dismissal/Last day End of 4th Quarter (2nd Semester)

Title IX Policy

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

1. Title IX Coordinator

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

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

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

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

2.3. Formal complaint means a document filed by a complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator alleging sexual harassment against a

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 2.6.3.2.1. **Incest**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse between persons who are related to each other within the degrees wherein marriage is prohibited by law
 - 2.6.3.2.2. **Statutory Rape**—Non-Forcible sexual intercourse with a person who is under the statutory age of consent
 - 2.6.4. **Dating violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(10), which means violence committed by a person—
 - 2.6.4.1. who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim; and
 - 2.6.4.2. where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors:
 - 2.6.4.2.1. The length of the relationship.
 - 2.6.4.2.2. The type of relationship.
 - 2.6.4.2.3. The frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.
 - 2.6.5. **Domestic violence**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(8), which includes felony or misdemeanor crimes of violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse or intimate partner, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction receiving grant monies, or by any other person against an adult or youth victim who is protected from that person’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction.
 - 2.6.6. **Stalking**, as defined in 34 U.S.C. § 12291(a)(30), which means engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to—
 - 2.6.6.1. fear for his or her safety or the safety of others; or
 - 2.6.6.2. suffer substantial emotional distress.

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

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

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

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

- 3.2.1. Treat one person differently from another in determining whether such person satisfies any requirement or condition for the provision of such aid, benefit, or service;
- 3.2.2. Provide different aid, benefits, or services or provide aid, benefits, or services in a different manner;
- 3.2.3. Deny any person any such aid, benefit, or service;
- 3.2.4. Subject any person to separate or different rules of behavior, sanctions, or other treatment;

- 3.2.5. Apply any rule concerning the domicile or residence of a student or applicant;
- 3.2.6. Aid or perpetuate discrimination against any person by providing significant assistance to any agency, organization, or person which discriminates on the basis of sex in providing any aid, benefit or service to students or employees;
- 3.2.7. Otherwise limit any person in the enjoyment of any right, privilege, advantage, or opportunity.

3.3. Complaint Procedure. All complaints regarding any alleged discrimination on the basis of sex, including without limitation violations of this policy, 34 C.F.R. part 106, Title IX, Title VII, or other state or federal law—when the alleged discrimination does not arise from or relate to an allegation of sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6 above—shall be addressed pursuant to the district’s general complaint procedure, Board Policy 2006.

4. **Response to Sexual Harassment**

4.1. Reporting Sexual Harassment. Any person who witnesses an act of unlawful sexual harassment is encouraged to report it to the District’s Title IX Coordinator. No person will be retaliated against based on any report of suspected sexual harassment or retaliation. Any District employee who receives a report of sexual harassment or has actual knowledge of sexual harassment must convey that information to the Title IX Coordinator as soon as reasonably practicable, but in no case later than the end of the following school day.

4.2. General Response to Sexual Harassment. When the district has actual knowledge of sexual harassment in its education program or activity against a person in the United States, the district will respond promptly in a manner that is not deliberately indifferent. The district will be deemed to be deliberately indifferent only if its response to sexual harassment is clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. For the purposes of this policy “education program or activity” includes locations, events, or circumstances over which the district exercised substantial control over both the respondent and the context in which the sexual harassment occurs. The district’s response will treat complainants and respondents equitably by offering supportive measures as defined in subsection 2.7 above to a complainant, and by following the grievance process described in section 5 below before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not

supportive measures, against a respondent. The Title IX Coordinator will promptly contact the complainant to discuss the availability of supportive measures, consider the complainant's wishes with respect to supportive measures, inform the complainant of the availability of supportive measures with or without the filing of a formal complaint, and explain to the complainant the process for filing a formal complaint.

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

4.4. Administrative Leave. Nothing in this policy precludes the district from placing a non-student employee respondent on administrative leave during the pendency of a grievance process that complies with section 5 below. This provision may not be construed to modify any rights under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

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

5. Grievance Process for Formal Complaints of Sexual Harassment.

5.1. General Requirements.

5.1.1. Equitable Treatment. The district will treat complainants and respondents equitably by providing remedies to a complainant where a determination of responsibility for sexual harassment has been made against the respondent, and by following the grievance process described in this section 5 before the imposition of any disciplinary sanctions or other actions that are not supportive measures against a respondent. Remedies will be designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity. Remedies may include the same individualized services

described in subsection 2.7 as “supportive measures”; however, remedies need not be non-disciplinary or non-punitive and need not avoid burdening the respondent.

5.1.2. **Objective Evaluation.** This grievance process requires an objective evaluation of all relevant evidence—including both inculpatory and exculpatory evidence. Credibility determinations may not be based on a person’s status as a complainant, respondent, or witness.

5.1.3. **Absence of Conflicts of Interest or Bias.** The district will require that any individual designated by a recipient as a Title IX Coordinator, investigator, decision-maker, or any person designated by a recipient to facilitate an informal resolution process, not have a conflict of interest or bias for or against complainants or respondents generally or an individual complainant or respondent.

5.1.4. **Training.** The district will ensure that all individuals or entities described in this Training section 5.1.4 receive training as provided below. Any materials used to train these individuals will not rely on sex stereotypes and will promote impartial investigations and adjudications of formal complaints of sexual harassment.

5.1.4.1. **All District Employees and Board Members.** All district employees and board members will be trained on how to identify and report sexual harassment.

5.1.4.2. **Title IX Coordinators, Investigators, Decision-Makers, or Informal Resolution Facilitators.** The district will ensure that Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, or any person designated by the district to facilitate an informal resolution process receive training on:

5.1.4.2.1. The definition of sexual harassment in subsection 2.6;

5.1.4.2.2. The scope of the district’s education program or activity;

5.1.4.2.3. How to conduct an investigation and grievance process including hearings, appeals, and informal resolution processes, as applicable; and

- 5.1.4.2.4. How to serve impartially, including by avoiding prejudice of the facts at issue, conflicts of interest, and bias.
- 5.1.4.3. **Decision-Makers.** The district will ensure that decision-makers receive training on issues of relevance of questions and evidence, including when questions and evidence about the complainant's sexual predisposition or prior sexual behavior are not relevant, as set forth in subsection 5.6.
- 5.1.4.4. **Investigators.** The district will also ensure that investigators receive training on issues of relevance to create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence, as set forth in subsection 5.5.8.
- 5.1.5. **Presumption.** It is presumed that the respondent is not responsible for the alleged conduct until a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process.
- 5.1.6. **Reasonably Prompt Time Frames.** This grievance process shall include reasonably prompt time frames for conclusion of the grievance process, including reasonably prompt time frames for filing and resolving appeals and informal resolution processes if the district offers informal resolution processes. The process shall also allow for the temporary delay of the grievance process or the limited extension of time frames for good cause with written notice to the complainant and the respondent of the delay or extension and the reasons for the action. Good cause may include considerations such as the absence of a party, a party's advisor, or a witness; concurrent law enforcement activity; or the need for language assistance or accommodation of disabilities.
- 5.1.7. **Range of Possible Sanctions and Remedies.** Following a determination of responsibility, the district may impose disciplinary sanctions and remedies in conformance with this and the district's student discipline policy, and other state and federal laws. Depending upon the circumstances, these policies provide for disciplinary sanctions and remedies up to and including expulsion.
- 5.1.8. **Range of Supportive Measures.** The range of supportive measures available to complainants and respondents include those listed in subsection 2.7.

5.1.9. **Respect for Privileged Information.** The district will not require, allow, rely upon, or otherwise use questions or evidence that constitute, or seek disclosure of, information protected under a legally recognized privilege, unless the person holding such privilege has waived the privilege.

5.2. **Notice of Allegations.**

5.2.1. **Initial Notice.** Upon receipt of a formal complaint, the district will provide the following written notice to the parties who are known:

5.2.1.1. A copy of this policy.

5.2.1.2. Notice of the allegations of sexual harassment potentially constituting sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6, including sufficient details known at the time and with sufficient time to prepare a response before any initial interview. Sufficient details include the identities of the parties involved in the incident, if known, the conduct allegedly constituting sexual harassment, and the date and location of the alleged incident, if known. The written notice will include a statement that the respondent is presumed not responsible for the alleged conduct and that a determination regarding responsibility is made at the conclusion of the grievance process. The written notice will inform the parties that they may have an advisor of their choice, who may be, but is not required to be, an attorney, under subsection 5.5.5, and may inspect and review evidence under subsection 5.5.5. The written notice will inform the parties of any provision in the district's code of conduct that prohibits knowingly making false statements or knowingly submitting false information during the grievance process.

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

5.3. **Dismissal of Formal Complaint.**

5.3.1. The district will investigate the allegations in a formal complaint.

5.3.2. **Mandatory Dismissals.** The district **must** dismiss a formal complaint if the conduct alleged in the formal complaint:

5.3.2.1. Would not constitute sexual harassment as defined in subsection 2.6 even if proved;

5.3.2.2. Did not occur in the district's education program or activity; or

5.3.2.3. Did not occur against a person in the United States.

5.3.3. **Discretionary Dismissals.** The district **may** dismiss the formal complaint or any allegations therein, if at any time during the investigation or hearing:

5.3.3.1. The complainant notifies the Title IX Coordinator in writing that the complainant would like to withdraw the formal complaint or any allegations therein;

5.3.3.2. The respondent is no longer enrolled in or employed by the district; or

5.3.3.3. Specific circumstances prevent the district from gathering evidence sufficient to reach a determination as to the formal complaint or allegations therein.

5.3.4. Upon a dismissal required or permitted pursuant to subsections 5.3.2 or 5.3.3 above, the district will promptly send written notice of the dismissal and an explanation of that action simultaneously to the parties.

5.3.5. Dismissal of a formal complaint under this policy does not preclude the district from taking action under another provision of the district's code of conduct or pursuant to another district policy.

5.4. **Consolidation of Formal Complaints.** The district may consolidate formal complaints as to allegations of sexual harassment against more than one respondent, or by more than one complainant against one or more respondents, or by one party against the other party, where the allegations of sexual harassment arise out of the same facts or circumstances. Where a grievance process involves more than one complainant or more than one respondent, references in this policy to the singular "party," "complainant," or "respondent" include the plural, as applicable.

5.5. Investigation of Formal Complaint. When investigating a formal complaint and throughout the grievance process, the district will:

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

- 5.5.7. Provide both parties an equal opportunity to inspect and review any evidence obtained as part of the investigation that is directly related to the allegations raised in a formal complaint, including the evidence upon which the district does not intend to rely in reaching a determination regarding responsibility and inculpatory or exculpatory evidence whether obtained from a party or other source, so that each party can meaningfully respond to the evidence prior to conclusion of the investigation. Prior to completion of the investigative report, the district will send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the evidence subject to inspection and review in an electronic format or a hard copy, and the parties will have at least 10 calendar days to submit a written response, which the investigator will consider prior to completion of the investigative report; and
- 5.5.8. Create an investigative report that fairly summarizes relevant evidence and, at least 10 calendar days prior to the time of determination regarding responsibility, send to each party and the party's advisor, if any, the investigative report in an electronic format or a hard copy, for their review and written response.

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

5.7. Determination Regarding Responsibility

- 5.7.1. **Decision-Maker(s).** The decision-maker(s) cannot be the same person as the Title IX Coordinator or the investigator(s).
- 5.7.2. **Written Determination.** The decision-maker(s) will issue a written determination regarding responsibility. To reach this

determination, the decision-maker(s) will apply the preponderance of the evidence standard. The written determination will include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

5.8.3. As to all appeals, the district will:

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

5.8.3.2. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal is not the same person as the decision-maker(s) that reached the determination regarding responsibility or dismissal, the investigator(s), or the Title IX Coordinator;

5.8.3.3. Ensure that the decision-maker(s) for the appeal complies with the standards set forth in subsections 5.1.3–5.1.4.

- 5.8.3.4. Give both parties a reasonable, equal opportunity to submit a written statement in support of, or challenging, the outcome;
- 5.8.3.5. Issue a written decision describing the result of the appeal and the rationale for the result; and
- 5.8.3.6. Provide the written decision simultaneously to both parties.

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

5.9.1. Provides to the parties a written notice disclosing:

- 5.9.1.1. The allegations;
- 5.9.1.2. The requirements of the informal resolution process including the circumstances under which it precludes the parties from resuming a formal complaint arising from the same allegations;
- 5.9.1.3. That at any time prior to agreeing to a resolution, any party has the right to withdraw from the informal resolution process and resume the grievance process with respect to the formal complaint; and
- 5.9.1.4. Any consequences resulting from participating in the informal resolution process, including the records that will be maintained or could be shared;

5.9.2. Obtains the parties' voluntary, written consent to the informal resolution process; and

- 5.9.3. Does not offer or facilitate an informal resolution process to resolve allegations that an employee sexually harassed a student.

5.10. Recordkeeping.

- 5.10.1. The district will maintain for a period of seven years records of:

5.10.1.1. Each sexual harassment investigation including any determination regarding responsibility, any disciplinary sanctions imposed on the respondent, and any remedies provided to the complainant designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity;

5.10.1.2. Any appeal and the result therefrom;

5.10.1.3. Any informal resolution and the result therefrom; and

5.10.1.4. All materials used to train Title IX Coordinators, investigators, decision-makers, and any person who facilitates an informal resolution process. The district will make these training materials publicly available on its website, or if the district does not maintain a website then the district will make these materials available upon request for inspection by members of the public.

- 5.10.2. For each response required under section 4, the district will create, and maintain for a period of seven years, records of any actions, including any supportive measures, taken in response to a report or formal complaint of sexual harassment. In each instance, the district will document the basis for its conclusion that its response was not deliberately indifferent, and document that it has taken measures designed to restore or preserve equal access to the district's education program or activity. If the district does not provide a complainant with supportive measures, then the district will document the reasons why such a response was not clearly unreasonable in light of the known circumstances. The documentation of certain bases or measures does not limit the district in the future from providing additional explanations or detailing additional measures taken.

- 6. Superintendent Authorized to Contract.** The board authorizes the Superintendent to contract for, designate, and appoint individuals to serve in

the roles of the district's investigator(s), decision-maker(s), informal resolution facilitator(s), or appellate decision-maker(s) as contemplated by this policy.

7. **Access to Classes and Schools.**

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

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

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

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

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

7.2. **Classes and Extracurricular Activities.** The district may provide nonvocational single-sex classes or extracurricular activities as permitted by 34 C.F.R. part 106.

8. **Athletics.** It is the policy of the district that no person shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, be treated differently from another person or otherwise be discriminated against in any interscholastic, club, or intramural athletics offered by the district, and that the district will not provide any such athletics separately on such basis.

8.1. **Separate Teams.** Notwithstanding the foregoing paragraph, the district may operate or sponsor separate teams for members of each

sex where selection for such teams is based upon competitive skill or the activity involved is a contact sport.

8.2. Equal opportunity. The district will provide equal athletic opportunity for members of both sexes. Unequal aggregate expenditures for members of each sex or unequal expenditures for male and female teams will not constitute noncompliance with this section.

9. Certain Different Treatment on the Basis of Sex Permitted. Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit the district from treating persons differently on the basis of sex as permitted by Title IX or 34 C.F.R. part 106. For example, and without limiting the foregoing, the district may provide separate toilet, locker room, and shower facilities on the basis of sex, but such facilities provided for students of one sex shall be comparable to such facilities provided for students of the other sex.

10. Retaliation Prohibited. Neither the district nor any other person may intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by Title IX, 34 C.F.R. part 106, or this policy, or because the individual has made a report or complaint, testified, assisted, or participated or refused to participate in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this policy. The district will keep confidential the identity of any individual who has made a report or complaint of sex discrimination, including any individual who has made a report or filed a formal complaint of sexual harassment, any complainant, any individual who has been reported to be the perpetrator of sex discrimination, any respondent, and any witness, except as may be permitted by the FERPA statute, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, or FERPA regulations, 34 C.F.R. part 99, or as required by law, or to carry out the purposes of 34 C.F.R. part 106, including the conduct of any investigation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising thereunder. Complaints alleging retaliation may be filed according to shall be addressed pursuant to Board Policy 2006 (Complaint Procedure).

10.1. Specific Circumstances.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECTION FIVE

PK-5 Parent/Student Signature Forms

FORMS

This section contains forms that students and their parents must complete and return to the school office **NO LATER THAN THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2021.**

Electronic handbook can be found at www.crosscountyschools.org



RECEIPT

This Student Handbook is distributed in accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-262, paragraph three which states in part: "Rules and Standards which form the basis for discipline shall be distributed to students and parents at the beginning of each school year or at the time of enrollment..."

Parents (or guardians) and students are required to sign & return the receipt form below before August 19, 2021.

PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook that describes the Cross County School District's discipline policies, regulations, rules, and expectations to be followed by students enrolled in the Cross County Community Schools, including the Drug Free School Policy. My child and I have discussed these policies and understand that we must comply with them.

RECOGNITION OF POTENTIAL AMENDMENTS OR SUPPLEMENTS

In light of the unique challenges and circumstances posed by the outbreak of the novel coronavirus and the recent promulgation of expansive federal regulations, the rules and information provided in this handbook may be supplemented or amended by the School District's administration at any time, consistent with applicable law and board policy. All parents shall be provided notice of any such changes by the district's regular means of contact. By signing below, you agree that you will read any such information and communications, discuss them with your child, and recognize that you must comply with all rules, procedures, and requirements as they apply at that time

Student's Signature Date

Parent/Guardian's Signature Date

Cell Phone Number (Optional)

Cell Phone Number (Optional)

Parent's Email Address (Optional)

Parent's Email Address (Optional)

EMERGENCY INFORMATION:

_____ Student's Name	_____ Parent/Guardian's Name(s)
_____ Mailing Address	_____ Home Phone
_____ Father's Employer	_____ Business Phone
_____ Mother's Employer	_____ Business Phone
_____ Other Person Who May Be Contacted in Case of Emergency	_____ Phone
_____ Choice of Doctor	_____ Phone

STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Cross County Community Schools community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, Cross County Community Schools requires student users and parents to sign the following statement:

I _____ (print student's name) received a copy of, and read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Cross County Community Schools, and understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Cross County Community Schools and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should any such violation be committed, access privileges may be revoked and school disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I _____ (print parent's name) received a copy of, and read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by Cross County Community Schools. As parent or guardian of the student named below, I grant permission for my son or daughter to access networked computer services such as electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet. I understand that this free access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that individuals may be held liable for violations of those Terms and Conditions. However, I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold Cross County Community Schools responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network.

The undersigned parties agree not to hold the Cross County Community Schools, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Cross County Community Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Signature _____

Date _____

Parent's Signature _____

Date _____

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORM
ADMINISTRATION OF NON- PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO STUDENTS**

While the administration of medications to students should be scheduled outside of school hours whenever possible, occasionally it may be necessary for school personnel to administer nonprescription drugs to a student as authorized by the student’s parents, guardians, or medical professionals and state law. School personnel will only dispense those nonprescription drugs which have been approved by state and federal law for use as a drug and meet the definition of nonprescription drugs in Nebraska’s Medication Aide law which states:

Nonprescription drugs means nonnarcotic medicines or drugs which may be sold without a medical order and which are prepackaged for use by the consumer and labeled in accordance with the requirements of the laws and regulations of this state and the federal government.

In order for students to be administered nonprescription medication by school personnel, a parent or guardian must:

- Complete and return this authorization form.
- Provide the district with any nonprescription drugs you wish to be administered in its original container from the manufacturer, which must include legible, unadulterated manufacturer instructions. The container must be labeled with the student’s name.
- Provide the district with specific written instructions regarding the requested nonprescription drug’s administration, including the date(s) the student is to be administered the drug, the dosage to be administered, the frequency of administration, and any other details or conditions relevant to administration.

School personnel will not administer nonprescription drugs in a manner inconsistent with the manufacturer instructions or state law. School personnel will not administer non-prescription drugs that is expired.

The undersigned are the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of

(name of the student)

I authorize and request school personnel to administer nonprescription drugs to my student. I release the school district, its officials, and employees from any and all liability concerning the administration of nonprescription drugs to my student.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent/Guardian

**PARENTAL AUTHORIZATION AND RELEASE FORM
ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS TO STUDENTS**

The undersigned are the parent(s), guardian(s), or person(s) in charge of

(name of the student)

It is necessary that the student receive (name of drug) _____, a physician-prescribed drug, during school intervals beginning on (date) _____ and continuing through _____ (date)

I hereby request that the School District, or its authorized representative, administer the drug named above to my child named above, in accordance with the prescribing physician's instructions, and agree to:

1. Submit this request to the teacher.
2. Make certain the Physician's Request for the Administration of Prescription Medication by School Personnel is submitted to the teacher.
3. Make sure personally that the drug is received by the teacher and/or county nursing service administering it, in the container in which it was dispensed by the prescribing physician or licensed pharmacist.
4. Make sure personally that the container in which the drug is dispensed is marked with the drug name, dosage, interval dosage, and date after which no administration should be given.
5. Submit a REVISED STATEMENT signed by the physician prescribing the drug to the teacher IF ANY OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE PHYSICIAN CHANGES.
6. Release the School District and the Board of Education of the School District and all employees, agents, and the representatives of the School District from any liability concerning the giving or non-giving of the drug to the student.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20__.

Parent/Guardian

**ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS
PHYSICIAN'S REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIPTION
MEDICATIONS BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL**

DATE _____

CHILD'S FULL NAME _____ is under my care and must take medication which I have prescribed during the school day.

Name of medication (as it appears on container in which the drug is stored)

Dosage and time _____

Date administration of drug is to begin

Possible adverse reactions to be reported to physician _____

Special instructions for the administration and storage of the drug _____

I or my designee(s) have trained school personnel or approved alternative training as adequate to administer the medication, have evaluated the situation, the general administration plan and if applicable, the self administration plan or emergency care plan, and deemed each to be safe and appropriate, and if applicable authorize the use of hypodermic syringes and needles or similar medical terms.

Name of Physician and Designee

Print or Type

Primary Phone Number

Secondary Phone Number

Signature of Physician

RECORD OF SELF-ADMINISTRATED MEDICINE

Parent's Phone _____

Student Name _____ Grade _____

Date to Begin _____ Date to End _____

Name of Medication _____

Dosage of Medication _____ Time _____

Doctor _____ Phone #1 _____

Phone # _____

Possible Adverse Reaction: _____

_____ gives permission for _____ our son/daughter to self-administer specific medications at school. This medication cannot be taken at any other non-school time.

DATED this _____ day of _____, 20____.

Students who are able to self-administer specific medication may do so provided:

1. The physician provides written authorization allowing self-administration of said medication.
2. The parent provides written authorization allowing self-administration of said medication.
3. Such medication is transported to the school and maintained under the student's control in the original, properly labeled package and (a) is not opened except when self-administering the medication, (b) is not self-administered during instructional time or in the presence of other students unless medically necessary, and (c) is not shown or exhibited to other students.
4. The student's physician or physicians' designee has (1) evaluated the situation and deemed it to be safe and appropriate; (2) documented this on the physician's authorization for the student's cumulative health record, and (3) approved the general administration plan.
5. The student and the student's physician or physician's designee have developed a plan for reporting and supervising self-administration.
6. The principal and appropriate teacher are informed that the student is self-administering prescribed medication.

Doctor's Signature
