PREFACE

The policies of Unified School District 487 are the results of a combined effort of the professional staff of the Kansas Association of School Boards, the board of education and the district's staff.

The staff of KASB has written the policy model and integrated into that model appropriate policies and procedures being used in the district at the time of the first draft. Upon completion of the first draft, a KASB staff member and selected district staff members edited the proposed policies resulting in preparation of a second draft to be presented to the board. When requested, KASB staff members consulted with the board and selected staff members to arrive at the final draft. This final draft was then adopted by the board.

Understanding the Policy System

Policies are principles adopted by the school board to chart a course of action. They tell WHAT is wanted and may include also WHY and HOW MUCH. They should be broad enough to provide the administrators with guidance in handling the day-to-day issues which arise; they should be narrow enough to give the administration clear guidance.

This philosophy was incorporated into thinking that produced the model and guided the board and the district's staff in developing the final, adopted policies.

There is one binder containing thirteen sections of policies. These sections are:

A -- SCHOOL DISTRICT ORGANIZATION
B -- SCHOOL BOARD OPERATIONS
C -- GENERAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION
D -- FISCAL MANAGEMENT
E -- BUSINESS MANAGEMENT
F -- FACILITY EXPANSION PROGRAM
G -- PERSONNEL (certified and noncertified)
H -- NEGOTIATIONS
I -- INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM
J -- STUDENTS

K -- GENERAL PUBLIC RELATIONS
L -- INTERORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONS
M -- RELATIONS WITH OTHER EDUCATION AGENCIES

The system's ultimate success depends on using these policies daily to guide administrators and other staff, as a management tool to facilitate school board operations and actions.

The coding or "tracking" of terms is by letter rather than by number. Letter (alpha) encoding offers two major advantages over number coding. A letter system offers more flexibility. The code has available 26 separate letters to use compared to only ten digits. A letter system requires no decimal points. This tends to reduce the likelihood of errors in reproduction and filing.

The Index

The index is designed to help the user find the subject described in the appropriate policy.

When Using This Manual

To use this manual properly, the reader should look up the subject matter in the index and turn to the policy section first. The reader should check the table of contents found in the front of each policy section to determine if the desired subject is cross-referenced to any other policy. The reader should turn to the alpha code in the appropriate section and read the policy. After the reader has done this, cross-references should also be read.

State Law and Negotiated Contracts

These policies <u>do not contain</u> any statutory language, except where necessary, or negotiated contract language. They exist in other, separate documents, which should be consulted if needed. If the reader is in doubt about the subject being pursued, guidance should be sought from the superintendent or another administrative staff member.

Definitions

1. When the masculine pronoun is used throughout these policies, it is intended to refer to both feminine and masculine antecedents.

2. Wherever the word "superintendent" or "principal" occurs, the words "or designated representative" are assumed to be included.