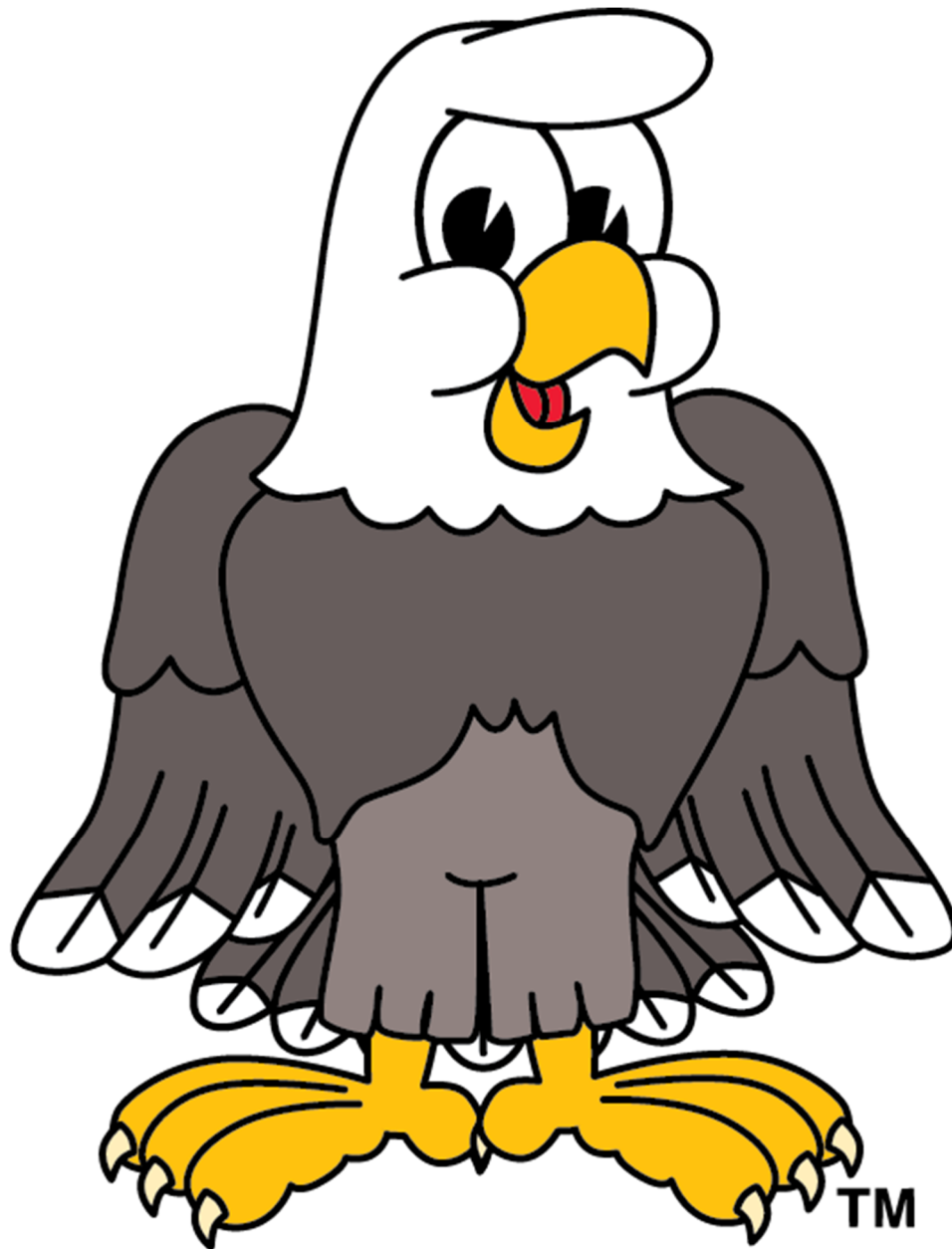


OVERTON ELEMENTARY STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK



2025-2026

OVERTON ELEMENTARY STUDENT - PARENT HANDBOOK 2025-2026



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Overton Elementary School Student-Parent Handbook 2025-2026 School Year

Foreword

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. 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.

Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise during any school day, or school year. This handbook does not create a “contract” with parents, students, or staff, and the administration reserves the right to make decisions and make rule revisions at any time to implement the educational program and to assure the well-being of all students and the educational program. The administration will be responsible for interpreting the rules contained in the handbook. Should a situation or circumstance arise that is not specifically covered in this handbook, the administration will make a decision based upon all applicable school district policies, and state and federal statutes and regulations. If you are ever in doubt about what is the right thing to do, ask a classroom teacher, speak with the guidance counselor, or contact the principal’s office.

There are several forms at the end of this handbook which you must read, sign and return no later than the Friday of the 1st week of school.

Notice of Non-Discrimination

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 school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mandi Wallace at (308) 987-2424, mandi.wallace@overtoneagles.org or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Brian Fleischman at (308) 987-2424, brian.fleischman@overtoneagles.org, 401 7th Street Overton, NE 68863 or in person at school. The School District’s specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link: <https://www.overtoneagles.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Board%20Information>.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator Brian Fleischman at (308) 987-2424, brian.fleischman@overtoneagles.org, 401 7th Street Overton, NE 68863 or in person at school.

Foreword

Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the principal at (308) 987-2424, brian.fleischman@overtoneagles.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.

For additional prohibited discrimination and related information, please review school district Policy 3053 – Nondiscrimination. For Title IX information refer to school district Policy 3057.

School Mission Statement

The mission of Overton Public School is to provide an inclusive education that results in academic success, virtuous character, and positive social outcomes. We provide opportunities for everyone to be engaged, empowered, and enlightened.

School Improvement Goals:

- 1) Overton Public School will increase Reading skills.
- 2) Overton Public School will increase Math skills

Members of the Board of Education

Mr. Joel Meier
Mr. Gordon Lassen
Mr. Jared Walahoski
Mr. Clayton Jeffries
Mr. Logan Kizer
Mr. Jacob Olmstead

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer
Member
Member

Administrative Staff

Mr. Mark Aten
Mr. Brian Fleischman
Mr. Bill Johnson

Superintendent
PK-4 Principal / AD
5-12 Principal

Teaching Staff

Miss Mackenzie Brand
Mrs. Emily Brooks
Miss Becka Bruntz
Mrs. Jennifer Cordes
Mr. Dana Dea
Mrs. Missy Eilers
Miss Haeley Folk
Ms. Mary Fruhling
Mr. Marcus Harvey
Miss Kaylee Kathman
Mrs. Alicia Lassen
Mrs. Juliana Loudon
Mrs. Alicia Luther

Pre-Kindergarten
K-12 Art
Vocal Music
Pre-School
Industrial Technology
Fourth Grade
5, 7-8 English
Kindergarten
K-12 P.E./Health/JHPE
5-8 Social Sciences
Language Arts 6/LMC
Agriculture
Spanish / EL

Foreword

Mr. Jeffrey Matthews
Mrs. Brandi McCarter
Mrs. Shalee McCarter
Mr. Evan Neben
Mr. Michael Phelps
Mr. Derrick Pulliam
Mrs. Alisha Remmenga
Mrs. Gabrielle Renderos
Miss Jordan Rush
Mrs. Hayley Ryan
Miss Jody Skallberg
Mr. Scott Stecklein
Mr. Keith Swift
Mrs. Mandi Wallace
Mrs. Cydney Weiss
Mr. Andrew Weitzel
Mrs. Ashley Wyatt

Business Education / Technology
Second Grade
Family & Consumer Science
Instrumental Music/Technology
9-12 Social Sciences
8-12 Mathematics
5-10 Mathematics
7-12 Special Education
First Grade
PK-6 Special Education
Guidance Counselor
7-12 Science
5-12 Science
Title/JHPE
Pre-School/CIP/Asst. AD
Third Grade
9-12 English/Speech

Support Staff

Mrs. Deb Jehorek
Mrs. Shelley Shively
Mrs. Joan Gehrt
Mr. Jack Belle Isle
Mrs. Kimi Wolfe
Ms. Dianne Eby
Ms. Tommye Davenport
Mrs. Terah Smith
Ms. Amy Barnes
Mrs. Kathy Potter
Mrs. Leigh Ann Kyle
Mrs. Jayde McCarter
Mrs. Sherry Area
Mrs. Darla Cox
Mrs. Michele Araujo
Mrs. Debbie Ditson
Ms. Shirley Ryan
Mrs. Kori Shubert
Mrs. Darcy Smith
Mrs. Judy Weston

Administrative Assistant/Bookkeeper
Administrative Assistant
Nurse
Maintenance/Custodian
Custodian
Evening Custodian
Evening Custodian/ School Nutrition
School Nutrition Director
School Nutrition /Bus Driver
School Nutrition
School Nutrition
Substitute Teacher/Paraprofessional
Paraprofessional
Paraprofessional
Media Aide
Paraprofessional
Paraprofessional/Bus Driver
Paraprofessional
Paraprofessional
Paraprofessional

School Calendar**Overtown Public School****2025-2026****Academic Year Calendar**

APPROVED 12-9-24 (Updated 2-26-25)

**AUGUST**

- 5 Teacher In-Service (1)
- 6 Teacher In-Service (2)
- 7 1st Day of School
2:30 Dismissal
- 19 1st Day of Pre-School

August 25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

SEPTEMBER

- 1 No School - Labor Day
- 17 P/T Conferences
(12:30-6:30PM)
(11:30 Dismissal)
- 18 Teacher In-Service (3)
- 19 No School

OCTOBER

- 10 End of Q1 (44 days)
- 16-17 No School

October 25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

NOVEMBER

- 14 Teacher In-Service (4)
- 26 - 28 No School
Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

- 19 Last Day of 1st Sem.
(44/88 Days)
- 22-31 No School
- 24-28 NSAA Moratorium

December 25

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

January 26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY

- 1-2 No School
- 5 1st Day of 2nd Sem.
- 19 Teacher In-Service (5)

FEBRUARY

- 12 P/T Conferences
(12:30-6:30PM)
(11:30 Dismissal)
- 13 No School
- 16 No School

February 26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

MARCH

- 11 End of 3rd Quarter
(45 days)
- 12 Teacher In-Service (6)
- 13 No School

APRIL

- 3 No School
- 6 No School
- 21 No School - TR Invite
Teacher/TR Workday

April 26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

MAY

- 1 No School - FKC TR
- 9 Graduation 1:30PM
- 11 Pre-K Graduation 10AM
- 20 Last Day of School
(44/89 Days)
- 21-28 +5 Weather Days
- 25 Memorial Day

JUNE**June 26**

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 26

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

JULY

- Students = 177
- PK = 134
- Teachers = 184

NO SCHOOL - Teacher In-Service Days
 First Day of Semester
 NO SCHOOL

End of Quarters/Semester
 Parent/Teacher Conferences

2025-2026 School Supply List

PRE-SCHOOL & PRE-KINDERGARTEN

1 Box of 24 crayons
Glue sticks (5-PreSchool / 8-PreKindergarten)
2 Bottle Elmer's Glue (Pre-School)
Crayola washable markers (1-PreSchool / 2-PreK.)
1 Box of 12 colored pencils (Pre-Kindergarten)
1 Pair of Scissors
2 Dry Erase Markers
1 Large t-shirt for painting (long sleeve works well)
1 Regular size backpack (without wheels)
2 Boxes of Kleenex
2 Containers of Hypoallergenic baby wipes
1 Box of Sandwich Bags (Pre-School)
1 Plastic Pencil Box (Pre-Kindergarten)
2 Containers of Play-Doh (Pre-Kindergarten)
Snacks for the class to share

KINDERGARTEN

2 Large Boxes of Kleenex
4 Glue Sticks (will need more later in year)
1 Boxes of 10-Count Washable Markers
1 Box 24-Count Crayola Crayons
#2 Pencils
Kids Scissors
1 Pink Pearl Eraser
1 Folder
Paint Shirt
Plastic School Box
School Bag (Without Wheels)
P.E. Shoes
3 Dry erase markers
Headphones (Aux Jack)

GRADE 1

24 Count Crayons
1 Box of Yellow #2 Pencils
2 Pink Pearl Erasers
6 Glue Sticks
1 Scissors
3 Dry Erase Markers
1 8-Pack Washable Markers
1 Pocket Folders
Paint shirt
1 Large box of Kleenex
1 Clorox Wipes
P.E. Shoes
Small plastic supply box
School bag (Without wheels)
Earbuds / Headphones

GRADE 2

1 Wide rule spiral notebook
1-1" 3-Ring Binder
Yellow #2 Pencils
Big erasers & Pencil Top Erasers
24 Count crayons
12 Count colored pencils

8 Count washable markers
4 Glue sticks
2 Dry Erase markers
Scissors
Plastic pencil box
2 Pocket Folders (w/o prongs)
Headphones
P.E. Shoes
Paint shirt
2 Large boxes of Kleenex
School bag (Without wheels)

GRADE 3

#2 Pencils
3 Pink Pearl Erasers
1 12-pack Colored Pencils
1 24-pack Crayons
1 10-pack Markers
4 Glue Sticks
Glue Bottle
1 Package Highlighters (yellow, pink, & green)
Scissors
3 Dry Erase Markers
Small Plastic Supply Box
2 Boxes of Kleenex
1-Subject Notebook
2 Pocket Folders
PE Shoes
Paint Shirt
School Bag (Without Wheels)
Earbuds or Headphones (No Bluetooth headphones)

GRADE 4

12-24 Count colored pencils
8 Count washable markers
Pencils (several)
White Pentel Hi-Polymer Eraser
4 White glue sticks (no purple)
Small bottle of white glue
1 (2 inch) 3 ring notebook
1 Pkg. wide-ruled notebook filler paper
1 Pkg. of page dividers w/8 tabs (write-on)
1 One subject wide ruled notebook
2 Highlighters (different colors)
Scissors
4-6 Dry erase markers
2 Portfolio pocket folders
Small plastic supply box
3 Large boxes of Kleenex
PE shoes
Paint shirt
School bag without wheels
Earbuds/Headphones (no Bluetooth)

*****This is an initial supplies list*****

*****Please mark all supplies with your student's initials*****

Section 1 –Basic School Rules & General Practices

Daily Schedules

Monday – Thursday	
Student Entry Bell	8:00
Student Tardy Bell	8:05
K-1 Lunch 2-4 Lunch	11:40-12:05 12:00-12:25
Student Dismissal	3:20
Detention Begins	3:25
Busses Leave	3:25
Teacher Dismissal	4:00

Friday	
Student Entry Bell	8:00
Student Tardy Bell	8:05
K-1 Lunch 2-4 Lunch	11:40-12:05 12:00-12:25
Student Dismissal	2:20
Detention Begins	2:25
Busses Leave	2:25
Teacher Dismissal	3:00

Smoke-Free Environment

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. We would appreciate your help in meeting the goal of a smoke and tobacco-free environment for our children. When you attend school events, including athletic events, please abide by our District's policy.

Visitors

All visitors must report to the office, upon entering the main entrance, to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. Visits by parents to classrooms will be limited to ensure limited disruption to the educational program, individual students, or create a safety concern. Visits by parents must be scheduled with the Classroom Teacher or Principal ahead of time.

Supervision Responsibility Before/After School

Arrival at School/Dismissal From School

Students are expected to arrive at school no more than 20 minutes prior to the first class or school program in which they are participating, unless they are receiving help from a **teacher. Prior to that time, the school is not responsible for supervision of the students. Students will be** admitted to the school building 20 minutes prior to the first class. Students will not be permitted to enter earlier unless the Principal determines it to be necessary due to inclement weather or other factors. Students are to enter through their assigned entrance and proceed to designated areas.

Students will be dismissed at the end of the last period of the school day unless there are other circumstances (early dismissal, detention etc.). Upon dismissal, students must leave the school grounds and proceed home or to a previously designated location unless participating in a school-sponsored

Section 1 – Basic School Rules & General Procedures

activity. **The school is not responsible for supervision of students once the students are to have left school grounds.**

Certain days on the calendar are “shortened days,” meaning that the school day starts or ends other than on the normal schedule. Parents are strongly encouraged to be aware of those days so their children are not left in an unsupervised situation or without a means to get home upon dismissal.

Parents/Guardians are to drop students off and pick them up in front of the school and not the school parking lot before and after school.

Signing a Child In and Out of School

If you are taking children from school during the school hours, please report to the school secretary or principal so the teacher may be notified. Anybody entering the school who is not a staff member or student must stop in the office to sign in and get a Visitor's Pass. If a child becomes ill or injured at school, every effort will be made to contact the parent. If that isn't possible, the emergency number will be called. When a child needs to be picked up early for any reason, the person picking them up will need to go to the classroom to pick up the student. Students will not be sent to the front doors to be picked up. They will remain in the classroom or other designated area until that person is there to pick them up.

If there is a special circumstance, such as a court order limiting access to a student by a parent or guardian, affecting who a student can be released to, the parent must inform the Principal and provide the Principal with a copy of that order to maintain on file at the school.

Students wishing to watch siblings in JH activities or Elementary activities must have a parent note turned into the office two days prior to the activity.

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 which students must obey.

Students are not allowed to distribute invitations to private birthday parties at school unless the entire class or all boys or girls are being invited. Balloons/flowers brought to school will be kept in the Principal's office and picked up after school by the student. Balloons must be latex free.

Care of School Property

1. Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies and furniture supplied by the school.
2. Students, who disfigure property, break windows or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay for the damage done or replace the item.
3. Fines for textbook damage will be assessed by the classroom teacher at the end of the school year based upon the damage to the textbook. Students may be charged the full replacement cost of the

Section 1 – Basic School Rules & General Procedures

book if the amount of damage warrants such a fine. Students will be charged the full replacement cost for lost textbooks.

School-issued items that are stolen or damaged from unlocked lockers are the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued. Students must pay all fines before they can receive school publications and final grades.

Use of Telephone

School telephones are business phones. Students may receive permission to use the phone only for emergencies. Social calls and calls concerning after school activities should be made at home. When they leave home in the morning, students should know where they are to go after school.

Video Surveillance & Video Recordings

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.

Staff members may make audio and video recordings of classroom instruction and school activities upon authorization of the superintendent or supervising administrator.

Recordings Made by Parents/Guardians and Patrons. Parents/guardians and patrons may make recordings of school activities intended to be public in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and school board meetings to the extent permitted by law unless otherwise lawfully restricted by the administration. Parents/guardians or patrons may not make recordings if they are volunteering or visiting school during the school day without permission of the administration or supervising staff member and subject to this policy, such as recording their child's classroom activities or recess. Parents may not record meetings with administrators or staff, including meetings related to a student's IEP or 504 Plan. Violation of this policy will result in immediate termination of any meeting that is being recorded and may be grounds for exclusion from school property, loss of volunteer privileges, or other restrictions deemed appropriate by the administration.

Recordings Made by Students. This policy applies to students 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. Students may make recordings of school activities in a non-disruptive manner including things like athletic contests and other extracurricular performances to the extent permitted by law. Students generally are not permitted to record classroom instruction or members of the school community during the school day without the express consent of a staff member or as required by the student's education plan. Student use of assistive technology that has the capacity to record and/or transmit recordings (e.g. AngelSense) must be approved by the student's education team or administration. Students remain subject to all other district policies and rules. In no event shall 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.

Section 1 – Basic School Rules & General Procedures

Student Valuables

The school provides the necessary equipment for classroom and school day activities. The school is not responsible for ruined or lost personal equipment. 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. Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property.

Lost and Found

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner. Students may also check with the custodial staff regarding lost items. If articles are lost at school, report that loss to office personnel. Students items left on the locker room floors, at the end of the school day, will be placed in lost and found.

Insurance

The school district is not an insurer of student safety, and parents are encouraged to secure insurance covering their students' healthcare needs, including catastrophic coverage for injuries which may be sustained while participating in athletics or other extracurricular activities.

Field Trips

Classes occasionally take field trips off school property for educational enrichment. A student's parent, or "caregiver" as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, must authorize a student to participate in a field trip by signing a permission slip and providing it to the school before the field trip. Students who have not completed classroom work on time may not be allowed to attend field trips. Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones. School Board Policy 6027 will be followed regarding all field trips.

Parties

Elementary classes may have seasonal parties during the year. Parents shall communicate with their student's classroom teacher for the teacher's rules regarding birthday and holiday parties.

Physical Education Expectations

The elementary physical education program is the place where students learn about all of the benefits gained from being physically active. They learn important motor skills as well as teamwork and playing fairly. All students are expected to participate in PE. Students who have health reasons that prohibit participation in PE must bring a doctor's note outlining what activities the students should avoid. Students will be expected to participate in all PE activities without such note. Any extenuating circumstances must be approved by the physical education teacher and/or administration.

Recess Expectations

Students in grades K-4 will have recess times scheduled as part of each day. Be sure to consider the weather forecast when you dress for school each morning. Recess will be outside as much as possible and as the weather permits. The decision for outside/inside recess will be made by the principal. All students will be expected to participate in this outside activity. Parents should not request to have their children remain inside the building at these times unless arrangements have been made with the principal. Remember that recess time is necessary preparation time for teachers, and provides a healthy release of student energy. At the teacher's discretion, recess can be used for students to receive additional help on assignments or to complete make-up and/or incomplete classwork.

Playground Rules

Students must follow these rules to keep the playground safe:

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 need to understand that recess time is a privilege for them. Students are to be conducting themselves on the playground under basically the same rules and codes of behavior that are expected in the classroom setting. Recess time can be a fun social time or students, but inappropriate behavior and actions will cause recess to become unsafe for everyone. Playground supervisors will use their own discretion and judgment when on duty. If any student or students threaten the safety of other students and/or the supervisors, the student or students will be removed from the playground area.

School staff supervises the playground during school hours. However, it is not supervised after school, and students should not play on the equipment without adult supervision.

Athletic Contest Rules

The following are rules for students attending sporting events at Overton: during football games no students are to bring balls of any kind to play with. Students are to stay close to the track and out of the area behind the end zones. Students are not allowed to roll down the hills on each side of the bleachers at the football field. Students are not to be riding bicycles at the football games. During the basketball games students must be in the gym and seated in the bleachers while the varsity games are in progress. It is strongly recommended that parents attend games and sit with students in grades K-4. Students may leave the gym to go to the concession stand and restrooms at the end of each quarter and between games. They are to return to the gym as soon as the game starts. If an emergency occurs students may get special permission from the Principal, Superintendent, or Athletic Director to leave the gym during the game. Students are never to go outside the building after arrival until they are ready to leave the premises for the night. If you leave the event, you will not be allowed to re-enter the building. The parking lot is off limits. Students misbehaving during football or basketball games will be asked to sit with their parents. If parents are not in attendance they will be asked to leave and detentions will be assigned. Students will be suspended from sporting events if their behavior is not satisfactory. Students who do not plan on watching the games should not be in attendance.

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 which 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.

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Cafeteria Rules

Overton Public School is committed to providing a quality breakfast and lunch program for our students. Proper nutrition is a key element to academic success. While in the cafeteria, the following rules will be in place:

1. All leftover food, napkins, milk cartons, and other items should be deposited in the trash cans.
2. 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. There will be no throwing of food or other items.
5. Second servings are available to those who have made an effort to clean their trays.
6. Students should remain at their tables until they are dismissed. Students are expected to eat lunch at school or bring their own lunch from home.
7. Students must treat lunch personnel with respect.
8. Students who violate the above rules will be disciplined

Bulletins and Announcements

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. The announcements will also be emailed out to all staff and students in grades 7-12.

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.

Transportation to School

Bussing:

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.

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

Non-resident or option enrollment students may ride the buses, but they will be charged a fee to be established by the board of education. The Superintendent will schedule bus routes, and questions concerning them should be directed to that office.

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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.

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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).

Bicycles. Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided on the West side of the building. We recommend all bicycles be equipped with locks and licenses. The school is not responsible for damage or theft of parts while bicycles are on school property.

Transportation to Activities

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

Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The Superintendent may close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify local news media when inclement weather warrants such action. The information will be broadcast on Channel 13 (NTV), www.nebraska.tv, and radio station KRVN-Lexington. This information will also be sent through the One-Call Alert System.

Decision to Close Schools. A decision to close school is made when forecasts by the weather service, law enforcement advisories or civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise to hold school. If possible, a decision about the next school day will be made by 9 p.m. for announcement during the 10 p.m. news. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessments of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning (by 6 a.m. if possible). In any case, an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed. In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be cancelled (bus transportation, kindergarten, student activities).

After School Starts. Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases as much advance notice as possible will be given to parents. If school is closed during the day the notice will be broadcast by the media. Parents should have a plan in place to accommodate these circumstances.

Parental Decisions. Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be

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marked absent. The absence will be treated like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather during the school day. Students will not normally be dismissed from school during severe weather on the basis of a telephone request.

What Not To Do. Parents should not attempt to come to school during a tornado warning. School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning. Tornado safety procedures are practiced regularly by students and staff members. Also, parents are urged not to call radio and television stations and school buildings during severe weather.

Emergency Conditions. The school has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. Regular drills are held as required by law through the school year. There are plans for Emergency Exit system, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response.

Child Abuse and Neglect

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

Complaint Procedures

Good communication helps to resolve many misunderstandings and disagreements. This complaint procedure applies to complaints unless the complaint is subject to a different procedure required by law, policy or contract. Individuals who have a complaint should discuss their concerns with appropriate school personnel in an effort to resolve problems at the lowest level of the chain of command. When those 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 in any specific policy addressing those areas or the procedures set forth below. Allegations of sex discrimination covered by Title IX will be addressed through the board's Title IX policy.

References to "coordinator" in this policy refer to the board-designated coordinator for the applicable area, such as the Section 504 Coordinator for allegations of disability-based discrimination.

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

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complainant reasonably believes speaking directly to the person would subject complainant or complainant's student to discrimination or harassment.

2. The second step is for the complainant to speak to the building principal, coordinator, superintendent of schools, or president of the board of education, as set forth below. Anyone with questions about the appropriate person to speak with may request clarification from the superintendent.
 - 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 applicable 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 coordinator, the administrator or coordinator shall first determine whether another applicable procedure is required by policy or law and if so, direct the complaint to the appropriate person to follow that procedure. If not, the administrator or coordinator will promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
 - a) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the respondent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, urge the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the respondent, if appropriate.
 - 2) If the complainant refuses to discuss the matter with the respondent, the administrator or coordinator shall, in his or her sole discretion, determine whether the complaint should or must be pursued further.
 - b) Strongly encourage the complainant to reduce his or her concerns to writing.
 - c) Interview the complainant and, if necessary, the respondent against whom the complaint is filed, 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 involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the administrator or coordinator receives the complaint.
4. If either the complainant or the respondent is not satisfied with the decision he or she may appeal the decision to the superintendent. The superintendent may assign a qualified designee to hear any appeal. This provision applies to appeals under the board's policies governing complaints of discrimination or harassment, including Title IX and any other policy with a separate grievance or complaint procedure, unless that other procedure includes its own appeal process. All requirements for appeals within any other policy apply, and in addition to those requirements, the following also apply.
 - a) The appeal must be in writing.

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- b) This appeal must be received by the superintendent no later than three (3) calendar days from the date of the decision.
 - c) For complaints addressed through other applicable procedures that do not include a separate investigatory process, the superintendent will investigate as he or she deems appropriate.
 - d) The superintendent will prepare a written decision and provide it to the complainant and any other person entitled by law to receive the appeal decision. For complaints involving discrimination or harassment, the superintendent shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after the superintendent received complainant's written appeal. Appeals to the superintendent from complaints involving discrimination or harassment are final once the superintendent delivers the written decision, as are all other appeals/complaints to the superintendent unless the complaint can be appealed on the limited grounds to appeal to the board below.
5. The board's role is to set policy, establish and implement a budget, and evaluate the superintendent. The board does not manage the daily operations of the school district entrusted to its administration unless required by law or policy. Because of the board's statutory roles, it does not hear complaints or appeals that may involve oversight or discipline of students, staff, or others, unless those involve the superintendent as discussed below. The board does not hear complaints or appeals based on allegations of discrimination or harassment unless otherwise required by law. The board will hear appeals only in the following circumstances:
- a) When the complaint is about a board policy, not implementation of the policy;
 - b) When the complaint involves the budget or school expenditures that have been or must be approved by the board; or
 - c) When the board is required by law, policy, or contract to hear a complaint or appeal.
6. If a complaint involves those limited grounds and a party is not satisfied with the superintendent's decision regarding the complaint or appeal, 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) calendar 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 allegations against the superintendent shall be promptly and thoroughly investigated by the board president or a designee.
 - d) The board president will notify the complainant and any other person legally required to receive the decision in writing of its decision. If the complaint involves discrimination or harassment allegations against the Superintendent, the board president shall submit the decision within 180 calendar days after receiving the written appeal.
 - e) There is no appeal from any decision of the board unless authorized by law.
7. Formal complaints about the superintendent shall be filed with the president of the board. However, complaints about the superintendent do not include disagreement with the superintendent's decision on appeal based on a complaint of discrimination, harassment, or action of any other employee who is not the superintendent. Upon receipt of a complaint, the board president or his or her designee shall promptly and thoroughly investigate the complaint, and shall:
- a) Coordinate with school district staff, other than the superintendent, to determine if another procedure in policy or law requires the complaint against the superintendent to follow another procedure. If so, the board president will coordinate handling the complaint through that procedure. If another procedure applies, such as in the case of allegations of

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- sex discrimination against the superintendent, the board president or, at his or her discretion, the full board will serve only to hear any appeal by a party to the complaint.
- b) Determine whether the complainant has discussed the matter with the superintendent.
 - 1) If the complainant has not, the board president or designee will urge or require the complainant to discuss the matter directly with the superintendent, if appropriate or required.
 - 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 or must be pursued further.
 - 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 by the full board.
 - d) Respond to the complainant or appeal. If the complaint or appeal involves discrimination or harassment, the response shall be in writing and shall be submitted within 180 calendar days after the president received the complaint.
 - e) Appoint or contract with other individuals qualified to assist the board through this process or any other applicable procedure used to address allegations against the superintendent.

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. Individuals who file complaints (a) without a good faith intention to attempt to resolve the issues raised; (b) for the purpose of adding administrative burden; (c)

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at a volume unreasonable to expect satisfactory resolution; or (c) 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.

Student Fee Policy

The school district shall provide free instruction in accordance with the Nebraska State Constitution and the Nebraska statutes. 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 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

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furnish the materials, purchase the materials from the school, or purchase the materials from an outside vendor with an order form provided by the school.

5. Technological Devices. The district will provide students with the technological devices necessary to complete all basic curricular projects. To the extent that student is not required by the district's curriculum to utilize a device off district property, the district may charge students a convenience fee to take the device off district property. The maximum dollar amount of this convenience fee charged by the district will be \$0.00. As with all school property, students may be charged for damage to such devices. To protect against such potential losses, students and parents may, but are not required, to purchase insurance coverage for the devices. The maximum dollar amount of this insurance coverage facilitated by the district will be \$30.00. The district may also charge deposit which will be returned or may be rolled to cover the damage deposit for the next year if it is not needed to cover the costs of any damage to the device. The maximum dollar amount of this damage deposit will be \$0.00. Additionally, the district may allow students to purchase technological devices by arranging for student to purchase these devices through a single, or series of, payments.
6. Extracurricular Activities. The school district may charge students a fee to participate in extracurricular activities to cover the district's reasonable costs in offering such activities. The district may require students to furnish specialized equipment and clothing that is required for participation in extracurricular activities, or may charge a reasonable fee for the use of district-owned equipment or attire. Attached to this policy is a list of the fees charged for particular activities. The coach or sponsor will provide students with additional written guidelines detailing the fees charged, the equipment and/or clothing required, or the usage fee charged. The guidelines will explain the reasons that fees, equipment and/or clothing are required for the activity.

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

- Student activity card: \$50.00(covers admission to all extracurricular events)
 - Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA):\$25.00 (students will fundraise to attend State & National events)
 - Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA): \$25.00 (students will fundraise to attend State & National events)
 - Cheerleading & Dance team: Students must purchase uniforms and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount for Cheerleading or Dance team uniforms will be \$1200 per activity.
 - Football: Students must provide their own football shoes and undergarments.
 - Golf: Students must provide their own golf shoes, undergarments, and clubs.
 - Track, volleyball, wrestling and basketball: Students must provide their own shoes and undergarments.
 - Future Farmers of America (FFA) \$25.00 (students will fundraise to attend State & National events): Students must purchase their own jackets in addition to paying dues.
7. Post-Secondary Education Costs. Some students enroll in post-secondary courses while still enrolled in high school. As a general rule, students must pay all costs associated with such 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.

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8. Transportation Costs. The district will charge students reasonable fees for district-provided transportation services to the extent permitted by federal and state statutes and regulations. The maximum dollar amount of the transportation fee charged by this district shall be \$0.00 per mile.
9. Copies of Student Files or Records. The school district will charge a fee for making copies of a student's files or records for the student's parents or guardians. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall establish a schedule of student record fees. Students' parents have the right to inspect and review the students' files or records without the payment of a fee, and the district shall not charge a fee to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The district will charge a fee of \$0.00 cents per page for reproduction of student records.
10. Participation in Before-School, After-School or Pre-Kindergarten Services. The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in before-school, after-school or pre-kindergarten services offered by the district pursuant to statute.
11. Participation in Summer School or Night School. The district will charge reasonable fees for participation in summer school or night school and may charge reasonable fees for correspondence courses. The maximum dollar amount for summer and night school shall be \$0.00.
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-12
 - Regular Price \$2.95
 - Reduced Price \$.30
- Lunch Program – Grades K-4
 - Regular Price \$3.95
 - Reduced Price \$.40
- Lunch Program – Grades 5-12
 - Regular Price \$4.45
 - Reduced Price \$.40
- Second milk \$.75 (each)
- Second entrée \$2.00 (each)

13. Charges for Musical Extracurricular Activities. Students who qualify for fee waivers under this policy will be provided, at no charge, the use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. For musical extracurricular activities, the school district will require students to provide the following equipment and/or attire:
 - Band students must provide their own instruments.
 - Swing choir students must purchase outfits and shoes selected by the sponsor and/or student group. The maximum dollar amount charged by the district for these materials will be \$0.00.

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14. Contributions for Class Extracurricular Activities. Students are eligible to participate in a number of extracurricular activities during their years in Junior/ Senior High school, including prom, various senior recognitions, and graduation. In order to fund these extracurricular activities, the school district will ask each student to participate in fundraising activities. No class dues will be charged.

Waiver Policy.

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

Voluntary Contributions to Defray Costs.

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

Fund-Raising Activities.

Students may be permitted or required to engage in fund-raising activities to support various curricular and extra-curricular 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.

Copyright and Fair Use Policy

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>.

Section 2 – Attendance

Attendance Policy

It is the philosophy of the Overton Board of Education and the Administrative Personnel that, in order for the student to obtain maximum benefit and success from their education in the Overton Public Schools, they must attend school regularly and be prompt for the beginning of each class period.

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 discontinue their enrollment pursuant to Board Policy 5001.

Mandatory Attendance Age & Exceptions: All children who are or will turn six years old before January 1st of the current school year are of mandatory attendance age. Children who have not turned eighteen years of age are of mandatory attendance age. This policy does not apply when attendance is made impossible or impracticable by severe weather conditions or by the mental or physical illness of the student or a child whom the student is parenting. A child who will not reach age 7 before January 1st 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.

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.

Discontinuing Enrollment – 16-17 Year Old Students: Only children who are at least 16 years of age may discontinue their enrollment from the district. The person seeking to discontinue the child's enrollment shall submit a signed, written request and submit it to the superintendent using the form which is attached to this policy. The district will follow the procedures outlined on the attached form in considering requests to discontinue enrollment.

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

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.

Attendance and Absences

Parent Responsibilities.

1. Call the office to inform the school of the reason for their child's absence.
2. Submit a doctor's statement, if requested, for each period of absence due to illness or doctor's appointment, that exceeds five days. Obtaining a doctor's statement is encouraged for each visit.

Excused and Unexcused Absences: Absences are either excused or unexcused. 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 (a physician's verification is required after four (4) consecutive days of absence for illness)
2. Severe Weather
3. Medical appointments for the student (bring Dr. note back from appointment)
4. Death or serious illness of the student's family member
5. Attending a funeral, wedding, or graduation
6. Appearance at court or for other legal matters
7. Observance of religious holidays of the student's own faith
8. College planning visits
9. Personal or family vacations

We ask the parents cooperation in seeing that this is kept to a minimum. An absence which is not excused is unexcused. If a student's absence is unexcused the student may receive zeros for any class work missed during the absence, and may be required to make-up work and the time missed. A grade of zero (0) will be given for all unexcused absences and tardies that are not made up. Seventy percent, of the actual grade, will be given for make-up work if the absence is unexcused. Make-up time for unexcused absences shall be made up in the amount of double the time that the student was absent with the minimum time of 30 minutes. Saturday School will be assigned to students with unexcused absences. Routine appointments during the school day are discouraged.

Tardy to School: Students will be considered tardy to school if they are not seated in their assigned class or ready and attentive in their assigned area when the bell for their first class rings. When a student is absent or tardy, parents/guardian must call the school by 8:00 a.m.(987-2424). Students will be assigned to detention on their 4th tardy and all subsequent tardies to school in that semester.

Leaving School or Class. Students who leave school for any reason during the school day must check out at the office before leaving. Students leaving school must be cleared in advance by a note or phone call from the student's parent or legal guardian. Upon returning to school that same day, students are expected to sign in at the office. A sheet will be available on the office counter for this purpose. Students who leave school without permission and without signing out in the proper manner, or who leave their assigned classroom without teacher permission, will be considered truant.

Absence Procedures: A student will not be allowed to enter class after an absence until an admit slip, based upon a written or verbal parental excuse, or a conditional admit slip, is issued by the Principal's office. A conditional admit slip, good for two (2) days, may be issued to allow time to bring an excuse, in

case no excuse has been provided upon returning to school. Work must be made up within the time allowed on the admit slip.

When a student is absent, for any reason, eight times from a semester class a letter will be mailed to the parents/guardians, from the principal, as a reminder of the absence status. When a student has missed ten class periods in a semester without doctors' notes, a letter will be sent to the parents/guardians notifying them of the attendance problem. At this time, the student will be given the option of attending Saturday school to make up the missed class time (one Saturday school will equal one/half school day). If the time is not made up, credit will be withheld for the missed classes. An attendance committee may be asked to review reasons for absences and request additional requirements in addition to making up time. Possible requirements may include completion of missing work, tests, or assessments. If these requirements are not completed within the timeframe set forth by the committee, the student's credit may be withheld.

If a parent/guardian wishes to contest this ruling, they have 10 days after they have received notification of the 10th absence to request a hearing with the principal and the attendance committee.

Pregnant and Parenting Students: The District will not discriminate in its education program or activity against any student based on the student's current, potential, or past pregnancy. Students who are pregnant or parenting are encouraged to continue participating in the district's educational and extracurricular programs. Students who anticipate deviations from their regular school experience or accrue absences due to pregnancy or parenting should notify their building principal as early as possible to discuss their educational programming in collaboration with the Title IX Coordinator. The building principal will work with the student to develop a plan to assist the student in participating in district curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

Excessive Absenteeism

A student who engages in excessive absenteeism or unexcused absences may be considered truant as per state law. Truancy is a violation of school rules. The consequence of truanies may include disciplinary action up to expulsion and referral to the county attorney for compulsory attendance violations.

When a student receives 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 15 days per year or the hourly equivalent and any portion of the absences is unexcused, the Attendance Officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. For example, if the student accumulates 20 days of excused absences due to documented illness and is tardy one time, the Attendance Officer may file a report with the appropriate county attorney. When a student's absences are excused or due to documented illness that makes attendance impossible or impracticable, the Attendance Officer may file a report with the county attorney of the county in which the student resides. "Documented illness" shall mean a health condition that prevents the student from safely attending school that has been confirmed by a written statement by the student's health care provider. Students will have the option to attend Saturday School to make up the missed class time for unexcused absences.

Make-up Work

Students who have advanced knowledge that they will be absent from school must bring a note to the principal (or phone call) from a parent stating the reason and date of the upcoming absence. The Principal may then issue a pre-make-up slip permitting the student to make up work that will be missed. Both the make-up work and make-up slip must be returned to the teacher and principal respectively prior to the actual absence. When parents do not notify the school, the school will try to notify the parents.

The student has the responsibility to contact teachers, initially, regarding make-up assignments. A grade of zero (0) will be given for all unexcused absences and tardies that are not made up. Seventy percent, of the actual grade, will be given for make-up work if the absence is unexcused. Make-up time for unexcused absences shall be made up in the amount of double the time that the student was absent with the minimum time of 30 minutes. Saturday School will be assigned to students with unexcused absences.

For excused absences, two school days will be allowed to make up the work for each day missed with a maximum of ten (10) days allowed to complete make up work. If requested, assignment sheets will be prepared for students who are ill. If parents or students request assignment sheets the school should be contacted by no later than 10:00 a.m.

For unexcused absences, the student will receive a failing mark for or in each class period missed.

Section 3 – Academic Information

Grading System

Students will receive letter grades on report cards and transcripts. The following scales will be used to assign letter grades and a grade point average from a percent:

A	93-100
B	85-92
C	77-84
D	70-76
F	0-69

ADV	Advanced
PRO	Proficient
PRG	Progressing
BEG	Beginning

The following scale will be used to show student progress toward work habits and social skills:

S	Satisfactory
I	Improving
N	Needs Improvement
M	Modified

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.

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

No-Zero Policy for Homework

Academic success or failure is determined by a number of factors. One of the main factors of student failure is homework. Failing to do homework results in two major problems; one, the student does not practice and move toward mastery of a topic; and two, incomplete homework results in a zero in the gradebook. Many students do not realize the devastating effect zeros have on their cumulative grade.

Overton Public School is attempting to eliminate zeros from student grades by making sure all homework is completed and turned in. The teachers have been asked to hold students accountable for all homework. If a student comes to class without homework completed, he or she is to call his or her parent and make arrangements to attend Access Period that afternoon or to come in before school the next morning. Students who ride the bus must stay after school the following day if arrangements cannot be made for that afternoon.

Flexibility is built into the policy to benefit teachers and students. Teachers are allowed to use professional judgment when addressing the needs of the students. Some teachers may find time during the day for the student to come to them and complete the homework rather than having them stay after

school. For example, teachers may ask a student to come in during Homeroom, Study Hall, or during their planning period if the student has time in their current class. Teachers must communicate with the other teachers on the last example. If a student completes their homework during the day, they are still required to turn their homework in after school so the teacher can check the paper for accuracy and to ensure the student comprehends the material unless other arrangements have been made between the student and teacher. If a student does not show up for Access Period, when assigned, the teacher will issue a detention for this action. Zeros may be entered into the gradebook after the teacher has made multiple attempts to get the homework turned in (Access Period, Detention, & Parent Contact) with administration approval.

Promotion and Retention

To ensure the success of a student, a recommendation may be made by a classroom teacher to the principal that the student be retained. The decision to retain a student at a specific grade level is reserved to the school administration. Notice of retention and proper justification shall be provided to the parent/guardian in writing if the decision is made to retain their child. First and second grade students shall be retained if they are not reading at least at their current grade level by the end of the school year except for instances where students have an IEP. Any exceptions to this policy need the approval of the administration.

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.

PowerSchool

Students will be given a password allowing them to access to their grades via PowerSchool. Parents/Guardians will also be given a password to access this information. These passwords will be mailed out within the first two weeks of school. Parents and students will be able to access the student's grades, attendance information, lunch transactions, and much more.

Report Cards

Report cards will be sent home after each quarter in the students folders. The report card of any student owing money to the school for library fines, lost books, lunch charges, or equipment not returned will be withheld until the bill is paid.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences will be held at the end of the 1st quarter and mid-3rd quarter, unless conflicts arise. Refer to the school calendar for the schedule. Conferences with teachers, at any other time, are possible by calling the school office and making arrangements with the teachers. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their student's teacher or the building principal to discuss parental concerns, student needs or any other issue.

Standardized Testing

The NWEA MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) will be administered annually (fall and spring) to grades K-2. The NSCAS Growth (Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System) will be administered annually (fall, winter, and spring) to grades 3-8. These assessments will assist teachers to determine the students' achievement probability for individual success. 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 School.

Academic Integrity

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.
- Use of AI to complete school assignments, exams, research papers, etc.

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

Section 4 - Support Services

Student Assistance

If your child has any learning, behavior, or emotional needs that you believe are not being addressed by the school district under existing circumstances, please contact your child'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 your child.

Special Education Services

All children, regardless of their handicapping condition, are entitled to a free appropriate public education and an equal opportunity for education according to their needs. The district will follow the rules and protocols created by the Nebraska Department of Education and the United States Department of Education in identifying, evaluating, verifying and serving students who may be entitled to rehabilitation or special education services.

The school district shall provide special education and rehabilitative services only to children with verified disabilities and qualifying conditions.

Students with Disabilities: Section 504

The following is a description of the rights granted to qualifying students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The intent of the law is to keep you fully informed concerning the decisions about your child and to inform you of your rights if you disagree with any of these decisions. You have the right to:

1. Have your child take part in, and receive benefits from, public education programs without discrimination because of his/her disability.
2. Have the school district advise you of your rights under federal law.
3. Receive notice with respect to identification, evaluation or placement of your child.
4. Have your child receive a free appropriate public education.
5. Have your child receive services and be educated in facilities, which are comparable to those provided to every student.
6. Have evaluation, educational and placement decisions made based on a variety of information sources and by persons who know the student and who are knowledgeable about the evaluation data and placement options.
7. Have transportation provided to and from an alternative placement setting (if the setting is a program not operated by the district) at no greater cost to you than would be incurred if the student were placed in a program operated by the district.
8. Have your child be given an equal opportunity to participate in nonacademic and extracurricular activities offered by the district.
9. Examine all relevant records relating to decisions regarding your child's identification, evaluation and placement.
10. Request mediation or an impartial due process hearing related to decisions or actions regarding your child's identification, evaluation, educational program or placement. (You and your child may take part in the hearing. Hearing requests are to be made to the Superintendent.)
11. File a local grievance.

Guidance Services

Overton Public Schools employs a counselor for the purpose of assisting with the District's testing program, to assist with scheduling and for students to discuss problems and resolve conflicts. If you wish to see a counselor, stop by a counselor's office and make arrangements for an appointment.

Health Services

Birth Certificate Requirements

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.

Student Illnesses

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 make arrangements 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.

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

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, please call your family physician.

Section 4 - Support Services

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.

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.

Guidelines for Administering Medication

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

Self-Management of Diabetes or Asthma/Anaphylaxis: Subject to school policy, the school district will work with the parent or guardian in consultation with appropriate medical professionals to develop a medical management plan for a student with diabetes, asthma, or anaphylaxis. Parents desiring to develop such a plan should contact the Superintendent or his designee.

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.

Section 4 - Support Services

School Health Screening

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. The screening program also incorporates scoliosis and blood pressure at the sixth and ninth grades. 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 1st.

Physical and Visual Examination

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.

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.

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 exempted from the immunization requirement may be excluded from school in the event of an outbreak of any contagious disease in the school population.

Guidelines for Head Lice

The following guidelines are in place to: better control a nuisance condition; reduce absenteeism due to head lice; and involve parents as partners with the school in control efforts:

1. 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.

Section 4 - Support Services

2. 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.
3. The student cannot ride the school bus until the district has cleared the student to return to school.

Summary of the School Immunization Rules and Regulations For 2025-2026 School Year

Student Age Group	Required Vaccines
Ages 2 through 5 years enrolled in a school based program not licensed as a child care provider	4 doses of DTaP, DTP, or DT vaccine 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of Hib vaccine or 1 dose of Hib given at or after 15 months of age 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine 1 dose of MMR or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age 1 dose of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. 4 doses of pneumococcal or 1 dose of pneumococcal given on or after 15 months of age
Students entering school (Kindergarten or 1st Grade depending on the school district's entering grade)	3 doses of DTaP, DTP, DT, or Td vaccine, one given on or after the 4 th birthday 3 doses of Polio vaccine 3 doses of pediatric Hepatitis B vaccine or 2 doses of adolescent vaccine if student is 11-15 years of age 2 doses of MMR or MMRV vaccine, given on or after 12 months of age and separated by at least one month 2 doses of varicella (chickenpox) or MMRV given on or after 12 months of age. Written documentation (including year) of varicella disease from parent, guardian, or health care provider will be accepted. If the child has had varicella disease, they do not need any varicella shots.
Students entering 7 th grade	Must be current with the above vaccinations AND receive 1 dose of Tdap (contain Pertussis booster)
Students transferring from outside the state at any grade	Must be immunized appropriately according to the grade entered.

Source: Nebraska Immunization Program, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. For additional information, call 402-471-6423.

The School Rules & Regulations are available on the internet: <http://www.hhs.state.ne.us/reg/t173.htm> (Title 173: Control of Communicable Diseases - Chapter 3; revised and implemented 2011)

4. Updated 5/2015

Section 5 - 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 extra-curricular 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.

K-4 Discipline Plan

At the teacher's discretion, a student may be removed from an activity to ensure a positive learning environment for all students. Students may be sent to the Principal's office, at the teacher's discretion, at any time.

Behavior Plan and Consequences (Grades K-2)

Grades K-2 utilize the "Green, Yellow, & Red Card System" for student behaviors in their classrooms. Each student begins the day in the Green or "Ready to Learn" zone. If classroom rules are broken, the consequences are as follows for Grades K-2.

Kindergarten

Name moved to "Yellow" – student was warned about their behavior but continued to disregard the teachers request to change their behavior.

Name moves to "Red" – Student continued behaviors that are not conducive to a productive learning environment. The student will lose some center time. If this behavior continues, the student will be given a detention for their actions. Parents will be contacted about the behavior.

1st Grade

Students will be given a verbal warning to stop inappropriate behaviors.

Section 5 – Student Discipline

Yellow Card – Visual Reminder for the student to stop their behavior

2nd Yellow Card – Student loses some recess time

Red Card – Note sent home, 15-minute detention

2nd Grade

Name moved to “Yellow” – warning for inappropriate behavior

Name moved to “Red” – 2nd offense of warned behavior. Student misses 10 minutes of recess and discusses actions with the teacher.

Name moved to “Black” – 3rd offense of the day. Student stays after school to discuss their behavior with the teacher and how to prevent this from happening in the future.

Behavior Plan and Consequences (Grades 3-4)

Grades 3-4 utilize “Above the Line” Behaviors for student behavior in their classrooms. Students have to make choices every day in every aspect of the school day. Learning to make smart choices and dealing with the consequences of poor choices is part of becoming responsible citizens. Students will discuss examples of above, below, and bottom line behaviors. If a student makes a below the line choice, they will receive a “Making Smart Choices” note. This note must be signed by the parent and returned to school the next day. The student’s key will be moved below the line until the note is returned. The student will receive a detention for not returning the note to school the following day. If a student makes a bottom line choice, the students will receive a detention and think sheet. The principal will be contacted, if necessary, and further consequences could result.

K-4 Detention Rules

1. Detention begins at 3:30 and ends at 4:00. Detention on Friday begins at 2:30 and ends at 3:00.
2. Detentions will be served with the teacher on the day the student received the detention. Time will be doubled for students who skip or minutes late will be doubled.
3. If a student skips detention two days in a row the student will not be allowed back in class until a conference with the parent or guardian has been held with the Principal/teacher. If the teacher cannot contact the parent/guardian detention time will be doubled and served on the next school day.
4. Students will complete a reflection paper or discussion with the teacher about their detention during this time.

General Information

Detentions are utilized for students who choose not to follow the school rules. To make detentions effective, parent support is a must. Knowing this is a key factor, the teachers will make a concerted effort to have parents contacted when students have detention.

We are aware that many students have commitments after school such as doctor's appointments, paper routes, scouts, music lessons and so on. We believe this adds greater responsibility for the child to act responsibly during the day and does NOT serve as an excuse for him/her to make poor decisions. Again, we ask your commitments to this belief for effectiveness and to understand detentions will be served on the day they are received.

Students will report to detention by 3:30 each day Monday-Thursday and 2:30 on Fridays. The teacher will communicate with the parents as the length of the detention.

When a student has accumulated 10 detentions in a semester the student will be suspended from school for one day and the Principal will require a conference with the parents or guardians before the student

will be allowed back in class. When a student has accumulated 20 detentions in a semester the student will be suspended from school for two days and the students and parent/guardian must meet with the Principal/teacher before being allowed back in class. If a student accumulates 30 detentions in a semester the student will be suspended for three days.

Students sent to the Principal's office for major infractions will be required to come to the Principal's office with parents or guardians before they will be allowed back in class.

Parents will be attempted to be contacted by the student or student's teacher when students will be staying for detentions. If they skip detention the time will be doubled the next day.

Forms of School Discipline

Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior which 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; and 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.

A. **Detention:** Detentions can be assigned by any staff member, school employee, or substitute teacher and will be a minimum of 30 minutes. ALL Detentions will be served with the staff member that has assigned the detention. Students skipping detention will receive another detention. Students skipping detention regularly may be assigned a suspension at the discretion of the Principal. If a student receives four written detentions during the school year they will be assigned to one day of Saturday School. This practice will continue until with every fourth detention until the student receives their 20th detention for the school year. At this time the student will be suspended for two days from school. After this suspension, the practice will start over with every 4th detention warranting a day of Saturday School and the 20th being two days of suspension.

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B. In-School Suspension: The Principal may require a student to serve in-school suspension. Students may be required to attend up to six hours per day of school-sponsored suspension a day at a designate location where they will study. There will be zero tolerance for behavior problems from students place in in-school suspension. Students not completing their in-school suspension will face further disciplinary action.

C. 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~~ Any of the conduct described in the subsections under "Grounds for Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion, or Mandatory Reassignment" below irrespective of the location at which such misconduct; 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 all classwork while suspended. All assignments and assessments during the suspension period, will be graded at 70% accuracy.

D. 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 then 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.

E. 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 either provide an alternative school, class or educational program for expelled students or shall follow the pre-expulsion procedures outlined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-266.

F. **Weapons and Firearms. Firearms.** No student may bring, possess, handle or transmit a firearm on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school activity or event off school grounds, except as permitted by this policy. **Definition of Firearm.** The term "firearm, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, means any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any firearm muffler or firearm silencer, or any destructive device (excluding an antique firearm). **Exceptions Regarding Firearms.** The only exceptions for a student to bring or possess a weapon, including a firearm, are as follows:

1. The issuance of firearms to or possession of firearms by members of the Reserve Officers Training Corps when training or
2. Firearms which may lawfully be possessed by the person receiving instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor who may lawfully possess firearms.

Consequences - Firearm. Any student who brings a firearm, as that term is defined in 18 United States Code 921, to school will be expelled from school for one calendar year. The superintendent of schools and the board of education shall have the authority to modify the expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis.

G. **Other Forms of Student Discipline.** Students may be emergency excluded from school pursuant to the board's separate policy on emergency exclusion or state law. 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. Administrative and teaching personnel may take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but are not be limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, 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. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures. A failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

Student Conduct Expectations

Students are not to engage in conduct which causes or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption in or material interference with any school function, activity or purpose or interfere with the health, safety, well-being or rights of other students, staff or visitors.

Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, 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. The board has determined that the use of synthetic media such as deepfakes may constitute “similar conduct”;;
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;

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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 which 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, including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
 - g. Sexting or the possession of sexting images (a combination of sex and texting - the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically), including creation, possession, dissemination, accessing, sale, or any other use of synthetic media, such as deepfakes;
 - 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

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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/newbies; 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.

An elementary school shall not suspend a student in pre-kindergarten through second grade unless the student brings a deadly weapon as defined in section 28-109 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 his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. As an alternative to suspension, the school district may take any action authorized by law, including those provided in section 79-258.

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.

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1. The decision to recommend discipline shall be made within two school days after learning of the alleged student misconduct. 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 can be invoked, the student has a right to a hearing, upon request, and that if the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations, missed during the period of suspension pursuant to district guidelines which shall not require the student to attend the school district's alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or;
 - 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 to the address provided on the form.
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 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 time the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect.
5. If a hearing is requested within five days after receipt of the notice, the Superintendent shall recommend appointment of a hearing examiner within two school days after receipt of the hearing request. The student or the student's parent or guardian may request designation of a hearing examiner other than the hearing examiner recommended by the superintendent if notice of the request is given to the superintendent within two school days after receipt of the superintendent's recommended appointment. Upon receiving such request, the superintendent must provide one alternative hearing examiner who is not an employee of the school district or otherwise currently under contract with the school district and whose impartiality may not otherwise be reasonably questioned. The student or the student's parent or guardian must, within five school days, select a hearing examiner to conduct the hearing who was recommended or provided as an alternative hearing examiner, and shall notify the superintendent in writing of the

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selection. The superintendent must appoint the selected hearing examiner upon receipt of such notice.

6. The hearing examiner must, within two school days after being appointed, give written notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian of the time and place for the hearing.
7. The hearing shall be held within a period of five school days after appointment of the hearing examiner, but such time may be changed by the hearing examiner for good cause with consent of the parties. No hearing shall be held upon less than two school days' actual notice to the principal, the student, and the student's parent or guardian, except with the consent of all the parties.
8. The principal or legal counsel for the school, the student, and the student's parent, guardian, or representative have the right to receive a copy of all records and written statements referred to in the Student Discipline Act as well as the statement of any witness in the possession of the school board or board of education no later than forty-eight hours prior to the hearing.
9. 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 examiner. The hearing will be held according to the requirements of section 79-269. The student shall be entitled to a hearing but the consequence imposed may continue in effect pending final determination.
10. 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).

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 solely 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;
5. It is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code that interferes with school purposes;

Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline: The following additional student conduct expectations are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action. When such conduct 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, the conduct is grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

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:~~

- a. ~~Clothing displaying indecent, suggestive or profane writing, pictures or slogans, displays alcohol, tobacco or vaping device, or illegal substance.~~

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- ~~b. Caps, hats and bandannas during the school day or at school-sponsored events~~
- ~~c. Bare feet (some type of footwear must be worn)~~
- ~~d. Overly revealing shorts and bottoms (keep your privates, private)~~
- ~~e. Hairstyles which distract from the learning process or the health and safety for either the student or others~~
- ~~f. Any clothing that could cause damage to others or school property~~
- ~~g. Shirts, blouses, or other clothing worn unbuttoned, unzipped, or otherwise purposely unfastened~~
- ~~h. Clothes which are purposely torn or bedraggled or threadbare, dirty or disheveled~~
- ~~i. Costumes and/or those clothes intended only for leisure, entertaining or special occasions~~
- ~~j. Bare "midriff" (belly button) styles, see-through and low-cut blouses, halters, tank tops or thin-strapped tops (spaghetti straps). Straps on tops must be "two adult fingers" wide.~~
- ~~k. Pants and shorts worn below the waist so as to expose undergarments~~
- ~~l. Pants that drag on the floor~~
- ~~m. Chains hanging or attached to pants or shorts~~
- ~~n. Coats during school hours unless the student has permission from a faculty member~~
- ~~o. Visible (other than the ear) body or skin piercing, including the tongue and lip. Flat surface studs will be allowed and restricted to be no larger than 3mm in size. Small hoop nose rings, not through the nose cartilage, will be allowed so as they do not pose a safety hazard.~~
- ~~p. All tattoos must not distract from the education process.~~

~~Consideration will be made for students who wear special clothing as required by religious beliefs, disability, or to convey a particularized message protected by law. The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the Principal or Superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school's guidelines, the student should contact the Principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the Principal's office.~~

~~Coaches, sponsors or teachers may have additional requirements for students who are in special lab classes, students who are participants in performing groups or students who are representing the school as part of an extracurricular activity program.~~

~~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. Students will also receive zeros for any class time they miss while correcting the violation. Repeated dress code violations may result in more severe consequences.~~

The District prohibits student attire or appearance that:

- Causes or is likely to cause a material and substantial disruption to the District's programs and activities.
- Promotes, depicts, or refers to violence, drugs, alcohol, vulgarity, obscenity, illegal activity, hate speech, bullying speech, or harassing speech.
- Includes words, gestures, or images that contain or imply sexual content or innuendo.
- Otherwise undermines the District's mission to inculcate the habits, manners, and values fundamental to civility, community, and the educational environment.

Violations of the dress code shall be addressed in a manner consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. The District reserves the right to request immediate attire changes from students. The District will

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require students to adhere to uniform standards and/or wear district approved or issued uniforms in order to participate in activities.

Students may be required to wear protective clothing or equipment or otherwise modify their attire or secure their hair to ensure the safety of themselves and others. In such cases, a good faith effort to reasonably accommodate students will be made to ensure safety without compromising religious beliefs, grooming practices, or requiring students to permanently alter their appearance. The least restrictive means appropriate to address the identified health or safety concern shall be used.

Cell Phones and Other Electronic Devices: Elementary students may not use cellular (cell) phones or other electronic devices while at school.

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 after serving a detention for the first violation. All subsequent violations will result in the following discipline: the device will be confiscated and turned into the administration, a detention will be served, and the phone must be picked up by the offending student's parent/guardian. Students who violate this policy may, at the discretion of the school's administration, be subject to additional discipline, up to and including 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 (commonly called texting, sexting, e-mailing, etc.) 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.

Harassment and Bullying Policy: 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.

Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (IPDA): Students may not engage in public displays of affection that is 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. Students will face the following consequences for IPDA:

- a. 1st Offense: Student will be confronted and directed to cease.
- b. 2nd Offense: Student will be confronted, directed to cease, and parents will be notified. Students may be assigned to detention with the Principal or Counselor.
- c. 3rd Offense: Student will be suspended from school for a minimum of one (1) day, and parents and student will need to meet with Administrator(s) and/or counselor.
- d. If this type of behavior continues, or if the IPDA is lewd or constitutes sexual conduct, the student could face long-term suspension or expulsion.

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. Students will also be subject to suspension from extra-curricular activities as explained in Section 6 of this handbook.

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.

If contraband of any kind is found, the student or staff member shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

Computer Network Use by Students (Board Policy 5037)

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.

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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

Students and parents may be required to sign a computer and network use agreement as a condition of the student being permitted to use such equipment.

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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 school district prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity in any education program or activity that it operates.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their disability, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Section 504 Coordinator: Mandi Wallace at (308) 987-2424, mandi.wallace@overtoneagles.org or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their sex, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title IX Coordinator: Brian Fleischman at (308) 987-2424, brian.fleischman@overtoneagles.org, 401 7th Street Overton, NE 68863 or in person at school. The School District's specific Notice of Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex may be accessed at the following link:

<https://www.overtoneagles.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Board%20Information>.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of unlawful discrimination or harassment due to their race, color, or national origin, or that have other related concerns or questions, should contact the following Title VI Coordinator Brian Fleischman at (308) 987-2424, brian.fleischman@overtoneagles.org, 401 7th Street Overton, NE 68863 or in person at school.

Students who believe that they have been the subject of any other unlawful discrimination or harassment should contact the principal at (308) 987-2424, brian.fleischman@overtoneagles.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.

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

Multicultural Policy

The school district will provide programs which foster and develop an appreciation and understanding of the racial, ethnic, and cultural heritage of all students. These programs will allow students to explore the history and contributions made by various ethnic groups and will emphasize the rich diversity of the population of the United States.

The programs shall be implemented within the guidelines of the State Department of Education and in accordance with any other applicable laws and/or regulations.

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.

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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.

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. The approximate dates during the school year when a survey requesting personal information as defined in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy is scheduled are as follows: during the first few weeks of school. Parents may have access to any survey or other material described in the Protection of Pupil Rights policy by submitting a written request to the superintendent.

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 or 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 also 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

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to which they do not wish directory information to be released. This letter must be received by the school district no later than August 31st of the current 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 re-disclosure 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

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.

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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.

Notice Concerning Disclosure of Student Recruiting Information

Federal law requires that the District provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students’ names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that the District not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student’s name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written parental consent. The District will comply with any such request.

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.

Notice to Parents of Students in Programs Receiving Title I Funding

Staff Qualifications. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 gives parents the right to get information about the professional qualifications of their child’s classroom teachers. Upon request, the school district will give parents the following information about their child’s classroom teacher:

1. Whether the teacher has met state qualifications and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or provisional teaching certificate.
3. The teacher’s baccalaureate degree and major. Parents may also get information about other graduate certification or degrees held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

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Upon request, the school district will inform parents whether their child is being provided services by a paraprofessional and, if so, the paraprofessional's qualifications. The request for such information should be made to the appropriate building administrator.

The school district will provide timely notice to parents if their child has been assigned to, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

Standardized Testing: The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment will be given to students in grades K-11 in the fall (September), winter (December), and spring (March-April) to determine the students' achievement probability for individual success. These scores will also be used to School Improvement purposes to show student growth.

Students in grades 3-8 will take the Nebraska Student-Centered Assessment System (NSCAS) assessments in the spring. These assessments will be in April. Students in grade 11 will take the State ACT assessment in the spring. This date will be set by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE).

Parental Involvement in the Title I Program (Board Policy 5057)

The school district will jointly develop with parents a School-Parent-Student Compact that outlines shared responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The school district recognizes the unique needs of students who are being served in its Title I program, and the importance of parental involvement in the Title I program. Parental Involvement in the Title I Program shall include:

1. An annual meeting to which all parents of participating children will be invited. 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 participation: curriculum objectives, type and extent of participation, and evaluations of progress. This information may be included in the annual Title I Individual Education Plan (IEP) for the student.
3. Opportunities for parent training on ways to support children's learning. This opportunity may include, but is not limited to, attendance at the annual Nebraska State Title I Parent Involvement Conference.
4. Communication to parents about student progress to be provided in the language used in the home. 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.

This policy shall be reviewed annually at the annual meeting where concerned parties can have a conversation about possible changes to the Parental Involvement Policy and either (1) alter the policy and adopted it as altered, or (2) reaffirm the policy following a public hearing.

Homeless Students Policy

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

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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 Mr. Mark Aten, who may be contacted at (308) 987-2424.

Breakfast and Lunch Programs

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

Breakfast

The school will serve breakfast daily from 7:40 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunch also qualify for free or reduced-price breakfast. Students in grades K-12 will be charged \$.30 for reduced price breakfast. The school district charges K-12 students \$2.95 and adults \$3.45 for breakfast. Extra milks may be purchased for \$.75 per half pint.

Lunch

Lunch prices depend on the federal funding that the program receives. Lunch for grades K-4 is \$3.95. Lunch for grades 5-12 is \$4.45 and \$4.95 for adults. Students qualifying for reduced price lunches will be charged \$.40. Extra milks may be purchased for \$.75 per half pint.

Payment for Meals

Student lunch accounts need to be kept in good standing. If a student's account becomes \$50.00 or more overdue, they will receive a sack lunch for two weeks or until the account is brought up to date. Students may not eat breakfast during this time. If the account is not brought up to date within two weeks, the student will not be able to meals at school. This will continue until the student's lunch balance is paid in full or appropriate payment arrangements have been made with the Principal. 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.

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.

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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.

Notice of Non-discrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. 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.

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

This institution is an equal opportunity provide.

Dating Violence (Board Policy 5030)

Dating violence, as that term is defined by Nebraska law, will not be tolerated by the school district. A student who engages 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.

Threat Assessment and Response (Board Policy 3039)

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.

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- 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 assessment them and to manage/address them. Threat assessment is the process of identifying and responding to serious threats in a systematic, data-informed way.
 - i. The threat assessment process is distinct from student disciplinary procedures. The mere fact that the district is conducting a threat assessment does not by itself necessitate suspension, expulsion or emergency exclusion without complying with state law and board policy related governing those actions.
 - ii. The threat assessment process is distinct from specialized instruction which a student with a disability may receive from the school district. The school district will not change a student's educational placement as that term is used in the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act *solely* as part of a threat assessment.

2. **Obligation to Report Threatening Statements or Behaviors.**

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

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

3. **Threat Assessment Team**

The threat assessment team (team) shall consist of the superintendent of schools, building principal, guidance counselor and local law enforcement. 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

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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.

School Wellness Policy (Board Policy 5052)

The school district is committed to providing a school environment that enhances learning and the development of lifelong wellness. The goals outlined in this policy were determined and selected after reviewing and considering evidence-based strategies.

1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

- a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs by such methods as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs and promoting foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.
- c. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.
- d. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.
- e. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day.

2. Goals for Physical Activity

- a. The school district's curriculums shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living.
- b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so.

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- c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

3. Goals for Other School-Based Activities Designed to Promote Student Wellness

- a. The district will participate in state and federal child nutrition programs as appropriate.
- b. The district will provide professional development, support, and resources for staff about student wellness.
- c. Students will be provided sufficient time in which to eat school-provided meals.
- d. The district's lunchrooms will be attractive and well-lighted.
- e. The district will allow other health-related entities to use school facilities for activities such as health clinics and screenings so long as the activities meet the district's requirements and criteria for the use of facilities.
- f. The district may partner with other individuals or entities in the community to support the implementation of this policy.
- g. The district will strive to provide physical activity breaks for all students, recess for elementary students, and before and after school activities, as well as encourage students to use active transport (walking, biking, etc.)
- h. The district will use evidence-based strategies to develop, structure, and support student wellness.

4. Standards and Nutrition Guidelines for All Foods and Beverages Sold to Students on the School Campus and During the School Day

- a. The district will ensure that student access to foods and beverages meet federal, state and local laws and guidelines including, but not limited to:
 - i. USDA National School Lunch and School Breakfast nutrition standards
 - ii. USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards.
- b. The district will offer students a variety of age-appropriate, healthy food and beverage selections with plenty of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains aimed at meeting the nutrition needs of students within their calorie requirements in order to promote student health and reduce childhood obesity.

5. Standards for All Foods & Beverages Provided, But Not Sold to Students During School Day

The district may provide a list of healthy party ideas or food and beverage alternatives to parents, teachers, and students for classroom parties, rewards and incentives, or classroom snacks. The district discourages the use of food and beverages as a reward or incentive for performance or behavior.

6. Food and Beverage Marketing

Marketing and advertising is only allowed on school grounds or at school activities for foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards, except as follows:

- a. This requirement does not apply to marketing that occurs at events outside of school hours such as after school sporting or any other events, including school fundraising events.
- b. The district will not immediately replace menu boards, coolers, tray liners, beverage cups, and other food service equipment with depictions of noncompliant products or logos to comply with the new USDA Smart Snacks in Schools nutrition requirements. All previously purchased products will be used, and all existing contracts honored.
- c. All equipment that currently displays noncompliant marketing materials will not be removed or replaced (e.g., a score board with a Coca-Cola logo). However, as the district reviews and considers new contracts, and as scoreboards or other such durable equipment are replaced or updated over time, any products that are marketed and advertised will meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards

7. Public Participation

Section 7 - State and Federal Programs

Parents, students, representatives of the school food authority, teachers, school health professionals, board members, school administrators, and members of the general public shall be allowed to provide their input to the school district during the wellness policy adoption and review process.

8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, and Fundraisers)

- a. Definitions. "Competitive food" means all food and beverages other than meals reimbursed under programs authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 available for sale to students on the school campus during the school day. For the purpose of competitive food standards implementation, "school day" means the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day.
- b. Applicability. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) or applicable law, all competitive food sold during the school day must meet the USDA Smart Snacks Standards and the nutrition standards found in 7 CFR § 210.11. The competitive food restrictions do not apply to food sold during non-school day hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie dough tubs, etc.)
- c. Fundraiser Exemptions. A special exemption is allowed for the sale of food and/or beverages that do not meet the competitive food standards as required in this section for the purpose of conducting an infrequent school-sponsored fundraiser. The specially exempted fundraisers must not take place more than the frequency specified by NDE during such periods that schools are in session. No specially exempted fundraiser foods or beverages may be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
- d. Other Exemptions. The only other nutrition exemptions from the competitive food requirements are those found in 7 CFR § 210.11.
- e. Other Limitations. No competitive food can be sold to children anywhere on school premises beginning one half hour before breakfast and/or lunch service until one half hour after meal service unless all proceeds earned during these time periods go to the school nutrition program.

9. Triennial Assessment

The school board shall assess and review this policy at least every three years to determine:

- a. Compliance with this policy;
- b. How this policy compares to NDE model wellness policies;
- c. Progress made in attaining the goals of this policy.

The school board will update or modify this policy as appropriate.

10. Public Notice

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of this policy at least annually to the public and other stakeholders identified in this policy by one or more of the following methods: on its webpage, in its newsletter, in the student and employee handbooks, newspaper advertisements, direct mailings, electronic mail, and public postings.

In addition to identifying the topic on its meeting agenda as required by the Open Meetings Act, the school district will provide notice of the Triennial Assessment and progress reports towards meeting the goals in this policy using one or more of those same methods.

11. Recordkeeping

The District will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at

its central office.

12. Operational Responsibility

The superintendent is responsible for coordinating the implementation of this policy and for monitoring the district's progress in meeting the goals established by this policy. The superintendent will periodically report to the board on the district's progress in implementing this policy.

* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated 9/2016 to Reflect the USDA Final Rule) found at

https://www.healthiergeneration.org/_asset/wtqdwu/14-6372_ModelWellnessPolicy.doc.

Title IX (Board Policy 3057)

As required by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 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, or be subject to discrimination under any of the district's programs or activities, or in regards to admission or employment. Any person may report sex discrimination, including sexual harassment. This report must be made by any means to the district's Title IX Coordinator whose contact information can be found on the district's website and in the district's student and staff handbooks. Any other inquiries regarding the application of this policy should be referred to the Title IX Coordinator.

Section 7 – Forms

This section contains forms which students and their parents must complete and return to the school office **NO LATER THAN** the Friday of the 1st Week of School or within 3 days of enrollment at Overton Public School.

The forms contained are as follows:

- Receipt
- Acceptable Use of Technology – Students Agreement
- Acceptable Use of Technology – Parents Agreement
- Parent-Student-Teacher Learning Compact
- Medication Permission Form

RECEIPT

This Student Handbook is distributed in accordance with Nebraska State Law, Section 79-262, and 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 before the Monday of the first full week of school (August 11, 2025) or within 3 days of their enrollment at Overton Public School during the school year.

PARENT/STUDENT AGREEMENT

I have received and read the Student Handbook that describes the Overton School District’s discipline policies, regulations, rules, and expectations to be followed by students enrolled in the Overton Public Schools, including the Drug Free School Policy. I have also read the 504 parent guide included in this handbook. This does not necessarily mean I agree with them. 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 Signature

 Date

 Home Phone Number

 Parent Guardian Email Address

 Mother Cell Phone

 Father Cell Phone

Overton Public School District
Addition to Student Code of Conduct
ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY
STUDENT'S AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Overton Public School District community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, Overton Public Schools asks that you as a student user sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by the Overton Public School District and I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Overton Public School District and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Overton Public School District, any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Overton Public School District responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Name _____

Student's Signature _____ Date: _____

Overton Public School District
Addition to Student Code of Conduct
ACCEPTABLE USE OF TECHNOLOGY
PARENT'S AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Overton Public School District community understand and agree to these rules of conduct, Overton Public Schools ask that you as a parent/guardian sign the following statement:

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by Overton Public School District. 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 Overton Public School District responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network.

I agree not to hold the Overton Public School District any of its employees, or any institution providing network access to Overton Public School District responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____

This form will be retained on file by authorized faculty designee for duration of applicable computer/network/Internet use.

Overton Public School Parent-Student-Teacher Learning Compact

The school will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables children to meet State academic achievement standards.

As a teacher, I, _____ will

- believe that each student can learn
- show respect for each child and his/her family
- come to class prepared to teach
- provide an environment conducive to learning
- help each child grow to his/her fullest potential
- provide meaningful and appropriate homework activities
- enforce school and classroom rules fairly and consistently
- maintain open lines of communication with the student and his/her parents
- seek ways to involve parents in the school program
- demonstrate professional behavior and a positive attitude

As a student, I, _____ will

- always try to do my best in my work and in my behavior
- work cooperatively with my classmates
- show respect for myself, my school, and other people
- obey the school and bus rules
- take pride in my school
- come to school prepared with my homework and my supplies
- believe that I can learn and will learn

As a parent, I, _____ will

- see that my child attends school regularly and on time
- provide a home environment that encourages my child to learn
- insist that all homework assignments are completed
- communicate regularly with my child's teachers
- support the school in developing positive behaviors
- talk with my child about his/her school activities every day
- encourage my child to read at home and to monitor his/her TV viewing
- volunteer my time, if needed, at my child's school
- show respect and support for my child, the teachers, and the school

“Hand in hand we will work together to carry out the agreement of this contract”



MEDICATION PERMISSION FORM

The parents/guardians of a student who is required take prescription or over-the-counter medication during school hours must provide the following information on an annual basis to the school:

- 1) Written permission from the parent/guardian authorizing school officials to administer the medication.
- 2) The medication must be in its original container. If receiving antibiotics during the school day, ask the pharmacist for an additional container.
- 3) Over-the-counter medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen will not be given to any student without written permission from a parent/guardian. In addition the student must provide their own medication to be kept in the main office. This medication must be in its original container.
- 4) Inhalers: please circle if you want your child to self-medicate or if you want the inhaler kept in the office.

Self-Medicate

Kept in the Office

Student Name _____ Today's Date _____

Medication _____

Medication Dose _____ Time _____ Frequency _____

Parent Signature _____

Name of Primary Physician _____

Physician Phone Number _____