

## **6000 Series Policies**

### **Policies Regarding Curricular and Academic Matters**

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**6001**  
**School Organization**

The school district shall be organized under a system whereby kindergarten through 6th grade shall be designated the elementary school, and 7th grade through 12th grade shall be designated the high school.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6002**  
**School Calendar**

The superintendent shall propose the calendar for each school year. The board will approve and/or amend the proposed calendar. The calendar shall provide for sufficient instructional time to meet or exceed the requirements of state statutes and regulations, and should provide time for staff orientation, in-service and curriculum work.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6003**  
**Instructional Program**

1. The minimum number of instructional hours in the school year will be 1,080 for middle school and high school students, 1,032 for elementary students, and 400 for kindergarten students, exclusive of lunchtime.
2. The district may establish special programs for individual students that may deviate from these requirements when, in the opinion of the superintendent or his/her designee, the programs will further the student's educational needs. All special programs must be arranged and approved by the administration with authorization from the student's parents or guardian.
3. The board, acting with the advice of the administration and certificated staff, will adopt a curriculum and procure textbooks and materials to support that curriculum. The administration and certificated staff will design instructional strategies and assessments to implement the curriculum.
4. To the extent possible, practice for, travel to, and participation in activities sponsored by the Nebraska School Activities Association and the Nebraska Department of Education will be scheduled outside of instructional time. Individual student absences because of illness or family-centered activities will be governed by district attendance policies.
5. The board intends to strike a sensible balance between the time spent on academics and time spent on extra-curricular activities, acknowledging that both work and play are important in each student's total development and education.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6004**  
**Curriculum Development**

The superintendent or his/her designee shall be responsible for providing and directing system-wide planning for curriculum, instruction, assessment and staff development.

The curriculum shall be standards-driven and accountability-based. The standards shall be the same as the measurable model academic content standards adopted by or required by the State Board of Education and shall cover at least the same grade levels required by the State Board. The curriculum shall be articulated to include all programs and grade levels offered within the district, K-12 and, if applicable, shall include a preschool program. The curriculum shall reflect the comprehensive plan of the school district. All professional staff members are responsible for implementing the curriculum.

The superintendent or his/her designee will present this curriculum to the board for approval or modification.

The superintendent shall be responsible for establishing curriculum guides to articulate and coordinate the written curriculum, and to provide consistency of the written curriculum from one level of the district to the next. Curriculum guides shall provide for the development of the school district's curriculum and shall set academic standards, identify essential educational outcome criteria, and provide for the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of student learning.

Teachers are responsible for following the curriculum guides and teaching the written curriculum. Principals are responsible for monitoring the curriculum and evaluating teachers to ensure that they are teaching in compliance with the curriculum guides and written curriculum. The superintendent and his/her designee shall ensure that principals monitor the curriculum and evaluate teachers.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: July 10, 2017

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6005**  
**Academic Credits and Graduation**

Students must earn 280 total credit hours in order to graduate from high school. 150 credits must be earned from core classes (Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, and Physical Education).

| <b>Subject Area</b> | <b>Minimum Credit Hours</b> | <b>Graduation Requirements</b>                             |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Language Arts       | 45 Credits                  | 4 Years of English / 1 Semester of Speech                  |
| Mathematics         | 30 Credits                  | 1 Year of Algebra I  |
| Social Studies      | 40 Credits                  | 1 Year of American History / 1 Year of American Government |
| Science             | 30 Credits                  | 1 Year of Physical Science / 1 Year of Biology             |
| Physical Education  | 10 Credits                  |  |
| Electives           | 150 Credits                 |  |

Transfer students must meet the minimum hour requirement for graduation both in terms of total number and specific subject areas. Substitutions may be made for deficiencies in required courses, provided that it was not possible to include the courses on the student's schedule while enrolled at this school district.

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

Parents of students who may not qualify for their high school diploma because of academic deficiencies will be notified of this possibility by the beginning of the second semester of the student's senior year.

Adopted on: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6006**  
**Commencement Ceremony**

The district shall conduct a commencement ceremony for members of the senior class at the end of the school year. Participation in the ceremony is a privilege, not a right, and the superintendent or his/her designee may prohibit students who have violated conduct rules from participating in the ceremony as a consequence for the misconduct.

All students who are enrolled as members of the senior class at the end of a school year, whether students in the regular education curriculum or students with individual education plans, shall be eligible to participate in the ceremony regardless of whether they have completed all graduation requirements. A student may participate in only one ceremony. Being permitted to participate in the ceremony does not constitute graduation, and only those students who have completed all graduation requirements prior to the ceremony will receive a diploma.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**6007**  
**Senior Recognition**

The school district will recognize the outstanding academic achievement of its graduating seniors in the following manner:

Graduating seniors will be awarded for their academic achievements during the annual commencement activities. The winners of these awards will be determined on the basis of student academic achievement in the core curriculum: English, mathematics, science, social studies, business education, foreign language, and computer science.

The valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class shall be the students with the highest and second highest cumulative percentage grade point averages respectively in core curriculum course work completed in grades nine through twelve. These students will receive their awards during commencement exercises.

Students whose cumulative grade point average in core curriculum course work completed in grades nine through twelve ranks them in the top twenty-five percent of their class and will be recognized during commencement exercises.

Adopted on: April 9 , 2012

Revised on: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6008**  
**Class Rank**

Student class rank shall be determined by using a numeric grade point average derived from all classes graded on a numeric basis. To be included in the class ranking, a student must have received a numeric grade for each core curriculum class in which he/she was enrolled. For the purposes of this policy, core curriculum shall include all courses in the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Students who transfer into the school district will be eligible to be included in class ranking after two semesters of attendance.

Students who transfer into the school district in middle of their senior year will be eligible to be included in class ranking, although a mid-year transfer will not displace the ranking of a student who has not transferred mid-year. In those circumstances there will be two students holding the relevant class ranking. Mid-year transfer students will not be eligible to receive senior awards such as valedictorian and salutatorian unless the student has been enrolled in the district's high school for the last two semesters.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012  
Revised on: July 9, 2018  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6009

### **Grade Placement and Academic Credits of Transfer Students**

Subject to a determination on grade placement based on the criteria set forth below, a student transferring from an accredited school generally will be placed at the grade level that is comparable to the placement in the school from which the student is transferring. Temporary placement may be made until a student's records are received to verify the placement.

#### **Elementary Level Students**

The appropriate level of placement for elementary level students may be determined by, but not limited to, consideration of the following information:

- Chronological age
- Previous public school or private school experience
- Diagnostic test data
- Achievement test data
- Criterion-referenced test data

#### **Secondary Level Students**

The appropriate level of placement for secondary students may be determined by, but not limited to, consideration of the following information:

- Chronological age
- Previous public school or private school experience and transcript
- Standardized achievement test data
- Criterion-referenced test data
- Final examination test data
- Diagnostic test data

The district will accept credits toward graduation that were awarded by an accredited school district and which, in the professional judgment of the administrative team, are sufficiently rigorous and comparable to the district's offered courses of study. A student transferring into the school district in grades 9-12 will be responsible for meeting all graduation requirement in order to be awarded a diploma from the district.

Students who transfer from an exempt (home) school and/or a non-accredited school may be awarded credits to be counted toward high school graduation requirements at the discretion of the building principal in consultation with the superintendent of schools. The principal will consider all of the factors listed above and will also consider the student's performance on the district's internal benchmark tests.

The district administration, in conjunction with the building principal, will determine the appropriate grade level/credit status of a student transferring from a foreign country.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: July 9, 2018

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6010**  
**Special Education**

All children with verified disabilities who are eligible for special education services are entitled to a free appropriate public education and an equal opportunity for education according to their needs. The district will follow state and federal law as well as 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.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6011**  
**Fire Instruction and Prevention**

The school district will provide regular periods of instruction in fire danger and fire prevention, and will observe State Fire Day.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6012**  
**Flag Display and Patriotic Observances**

The district shall display the flags of the United States of America and the State of Nebraska prominently on the grounds of every school building each day that school is in session.

Each building principal shall be responsible for the care and display of the flags at his/her assigned building, and shall adhere to the rules and customs pertaining to the use and display of the flags as set forth in the United States Code.

Each day, at the time designated by the building administrator, staff shall ensure that students in grades K-12 will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the presence of the flag of the United States of America. Pupil participation in the recitation of pledge shall be voluntary. Pupils who elect not to participate shall sit or stand silently and must respect the rights of those students choosing to participate.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **6013**

### **Teaching Controversial Issues**

The ability to discuss, listen, and dissent are essential elements of responsible citizenship. The school district encourages students to develop skills in analyzing issues, respecting the opinion of others, distinguishing between fact and opinion, considering all pertinent factors in reaching decisions, and arriving at group decisions.

Teachers may teach or lead discussions about controversial issues if they comply with the following criteria:

1. The issues discussed must be relevant to the curriculum and be part of a planned educational program.
2. Students must have free access to appropriate materials and information for analysis and evaluation of the issues.
3. The teacher must encourage students to consider and discuss a variety of viewpoints.
4. The topic and materials used must be within the range, knowledge, maturity, and competence of the students.
5. The teacher must inform parents and the building principal before discussing sensitive or controversial issues.
6. The teacher must keep detailed, documentary evidence to prove that both sides and/or all facts available were presented.
7. Teachers must refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or selfish propaganda of any kind through any classroom or a school device. However, a teacher shall not be prohibited from expressing a personal opinion as long as the student is encouraged to reach his/her own decision independently.



Teachers who are unsure of their obligations under this policy must confer with their principal prior to discussing controversial issues in the classroom.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6014

### **School Attendance on Days of Scheduled Activities**

In order to participate in practice or an activity, a student must be in school at least four (4) periods of the day. If the student is not in school for the four (4) periods, the student may observe practice, but may not participate.

Any time a student knows he/she will be absent from school the student should contact the coach/sponsor. In some cases, the four (4) period attendance guideline may be waived by the administration. The only time this can be done is when they are notified in advance of the absence.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6015**  
**Summer School**

The school district may conduct a summer school program to provide additional educational opportunities for students who need remedial instruction and/or to enrich students' educational experiences. Students who successfully complete classes offered through the district's summer school program will earn credit toward high school graduation. Students will be allowed to substitute a summer-school grade for a failing grade earned during the regular school year. Students who take summer school courses to replace a passing grade may not use the summer school course to advance their class rank.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012  
Revised on: June 10, 2019  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6016**  
**Homebound and Off-Campus Instruction**

The school district may provide a student with instruction in his or her home or other off-campus location under the following circumstances:

- if the student's IEP or 504 team determines that homebound instruction is appropriate;
- if the student is physically or mentally ill or injured and unable to attend regular classes and the superintendent or his/her designee had determined that a program of off-campus instruction is appropriate, after conferring with the student's parents, teacher(s) and/or physician; or
- under other circumstances which the superintendent deems to be appropriate.

Homebound and off-campus instruction may include a variety of in-person and distance learning services, as determined appropriate by the superintendent or relevant educational team. The superintendent or relevant educational team shall periodically review individual off-campus instructional programs and shall only continue them as long as they are educationally appropriate.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **6017 Homework**

Homework consists of assignments made by teachers that students must complete during non-class time. Homework is intended to ensure student learning of certain concepts and/or skills found in the written and taught curriculum.

Teachers are encouraged to assign homework and must use their professional judgment in determining the length, difficulty, and student readiness to proceed with homework assignments. Homework assignments shall be kept minimal on Wednesday nights, which is traditionally considered "family night" in the community.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **6018 Grades**

The school will report student grades and/or academic progress to parents at least four times per year. The superintendent or his/her designee shall develop and implement student grading guidelines to be used by teachers. The objective of grading guidelines shall be to quantify and report the academic achievement of each student.

A student's academic grade shall not be reduced because of disciplinary reasons. This policy shall not apply when a student's grade is reduced because of the work the student missed because of an unexcused absence, during a suspension or dismissal period.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **6020 Multicultural Education**

In every curriculum area and at all grades, 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 human relations, sensitivity toward all races, and 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.

**Philosophy, Mission, and Program Goals.** The school district respects and appreciates cultural diversity and seeks to promote the understanding of unique cultural and ethnic heritage. The district will promote the development of a culturally responsible and responsive curriculum. The school district's program will explore the attitudes, skills, and knowledge necessary to function in various cultures.

**District Guides, Frameworks, or Standards.** Appropriate district staff and/or committee(s) will review the school district curriculum guides, frameworks, or standards to determine that they appropriately incorporate multicultural education.

**Selecting Appropriate Instructional Materials.** Appropriate school district staff and/or committee(s) will review instructional materials and make a recommendation regarding those that are appropriate for the school district's multicultural education program.

**Providing Staff Development.** Appropriate school district staff and/or committee(s) will review the staff development provided for administrators, teachers, and support staff to determine that it includes appropriate multicultural education that is consistent with school district and program goals.

**Periodic Assessment.** Appropriate school district staff and/or committee(s) will periodically review the school district's multicultural education program by reviewing the criteria in this policy to assess whether the school district is adequately and appropriately incorporating multicultural education in all curriculum areas in all grades.

**Annual Status Report.** The superintendent will provide the board with a

report on the status of the school district's multicultural education program annually.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



## 6021

### **District Criteria for Selecting Evaluators to be Used for Special Education Evaluation and Verification and Independent Educational Evaluations**

The following criteria shall be used for selecting evaluators according to 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 51-006.07B:

1. Those in-state service agencies that have approved rates for the current year established by the Nebraska Department of Education. A list of service agencies with approved rates, including state agencies, individual providers, and in-state providers may be found at <https://www.education.ne.gov/sped/service-agencies/>.
2. Those Nebraska providers located within 100 miles of the building of the district where the child attends when driving by ordinary public roadways, except based on feedback from ESU Special Education Directors statewide, these exceptions might include the following evaluations for severe autism spectrum disorder ( 276 miles); evaluations for severe psychiatric disorders (275 miles); evaluations for significant or atypical orthopedic disorders (275 miles); threat assessments (100 miles); profound hearing impairments (275 miles). You should specifically identify such assessments after consulting with your special education or educational service unit staff, and include those and their relevant mileage range.
3. Evaluations must consider the educational, health, or other student records of the student provided by the district. The parents, guardians, or age-appropriate student must provide any required consent to the disclosure of these records unless disclosure is already authorized by state and federal law.
4. Evaluations must be provided to the district, including all educational, health, student, or other records created as part of or relied upon to complete the evaluation. The parents, guardians, or age-appropriate student must provide any required consent to the disclosure of these records unless disclosure is already authorized by state and federal law.
5. Evaluations must be conducted by a provider that is authorized, available, and willing to discuss, confer, or otherwise cooperate with the district regarding the evaluation, its results, or any other information related to the evaluation. Such cooperation may include reasonable participation in, or the submission of additional reports or information

to, an IEP, MDT, or SAT team. The parents, guardians, or age-appropriate student must provide any required consent to the disclosure of these records or information unless disclosure is already authorized by state and federal law.

6. Evaluations must be sufficiently comprehensive for the evaluator to submit to the district a report that specifically details whether the student should be considered eligible for special education and related services, the nature of special education and related services recommended to accommodate the student's suspected disability, and the particular facts or findings underlying the evaluator's conclusions. This report must be submitted to the district within 45 days after the conclusion of the evaluation.
7. Evaluations must meet the then-current state standards for reliability, research-based processes, and educational or professional best practices.
8. Reimbursement to any evaluator chosen in conformance with this policy shall not exceed the cost that would be charged by the school district's contracted providers for the same or substantially similar evaluation.

All special education evaluations, including those independently obtained at the district's expense, must be obtained in a manner consistent with the criteria set forth above, unless state or federal law requires waiver of one or more criteria in order to accommodate unique circumstances.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012  
Revised on: June 10, 2019  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **6025**

### **Student Cell Phone and Other Electronic Devices**

#### **(ONLY BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL AND DURING PASSING AND LUNCH OPTION)**

Students are prohibited from using cellular phones or other electronic devices while at school, except as provided in this policy or as deemed appropriate by a student's education team.

Students may use cell phones or other electronic devices on school sidewalks and in the common areas of the school before and after school, during passing periods, and during lunch so long as they do not create a distraction or a disruption and comply with all other policies and handbook provisions.

By bringing their cell phones and other electronic communication devices to school, students consent to the search of said devices by school staff when the staff determines that such a search is reasonable or necessary.

Students may not have cell phones or electronic devices while they are in locker rooms, classrooms, or restrooms. During school hours student cell phones or electronic devices must remain in lockers, backpacks, or be locked in a personal vehicle. Students may use cell phones or other technology in classrooms only with the express permission of the classroom teacher.

Students are strictly prohibited from sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing pictures, text messages, emails or other material of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form on a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device while at school. Students who possess prohibited material on their cell phone or other electronic device while at school shall be subject to disciplinary consequences as articulated by the student handbook.

Students may not use cell phones or electronic communication devices while riding in school vehicles, including listening to music, unless they have permission to do so from the driver or other adult responsible for their supervision.

Students shall be personally and solely responsible for the security of their cell phones and pagers. The district is not responsible for theft, loss or damage of a cell phone or any calls made on a cell phone.

Students who violate this policy or other school rules will have their cell phones or electronic devices confiscated immediately. The administration will return confiscated devices to the parent or guardian of the offending student, after

**6026**  
**Emergency Dismissal**

The superintendent or his/her designee is responsible for determining when school and/or extracurricular activities should be cancelled or dismissed due to severe weather or other emergency conditions. Coaches and/or sponsors may not conduct practices on days that school is cancelled without first securing the superintendent's specific permission.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: July 9, 2018

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **6027 Field Trips**

The board encourages instructional staff to incorporate field trips into the curriculum. These trips should normally be conducted during the school day.

### **1. General Conditions**

All trips must be pre-approved by the teacher's building principal. Out-of-state and overnight trips require pre-approval by the board. The superintendent and principals will develop guidelines for approval of trips and communicate those guidelines to teaching staff.

### **2. Parental Permission**

Each student must submit a signed parental permission slip prior to being allowed to attend a field trip. A new permission slip must be submitted for each trip. Caregivers, as that term is defined in the Nebraska Strengthening Families Act, shall be permitted to sign parental permission slips.

### **3. Supervision**

Sponsoring teachers must ensure that students are adequately supervised and chaperoned by a responsible adult at all times during field trips. Whether paid staff or volunteers, chaperones are prohibited from drinking alcoholic beverages of any kind at any time during any field trip. All chaperones must be at least 21 years of age. Any chaperone who drives students must possess a valid driver's license. Chaperones who drive students in private vehicles must possess adequate insurance coverage. Chaperones do not have any property right in or to a chaperone assignment. The school district may deny or terminate a chaperone assignment for any reason that is not unconstitutional or unlawful. The superintendent's decision shall be final.

### **4. Student Conduct**

Students must comply with the student code of conduct, any applicable extracurricular conduct codes, and all directives by trip chaperones.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: July 9, 2018

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6028

### The Extracurricular Activities Program

#### 1. General Purpose

- a. The extracurricular program includes noncurricular activities which are sponsored by the school district. These activities include sports, speech, plays, Future Farmers of America, Future Business Leaders of America, music performance groups and other activities which are sponsored by the school.
- b. Extracurricular activities are an important part of the total school experience, but are secondary to the academic program and must be kept in that perspective.
- c. Extracurricular activities **do not** include:
  - i. co-curricular activities such as band and choir, in which students must participate as part of the requirements for enrollment in and receiving a grade for a particular course.
  - ii. student-initiated, non-curriculum related student groups which are permitted to hold meetings and events on school premises. These groups are not school-sponsored and are not governed by this policy or other policies and rules governing extracurricular groups.

#### 2. Governance

- a. All extracurricular activities shall be under the exclusive governance and control of the school district. This control includes, but is not limited to, the formation, naming, structure, operation, financing, and discontinuance of all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities shall not have any separate or individual existence, status, rights, or authority.
- b. Students and sponsors will be governed by all board's policies and administrative rules including the policy on field trips when traveling for extracurricular activities.

#### 3. Student Eligibility

- a. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular

activities. Participation shall be open to and limited to all students who are currently enrolled in the school district on a voluntary basis.

- b. Extracurricular activities may establish academic or course enrollment qualifications for participation if such qualifications are necessarily related to the purposes of the activity.
- c. Standards for scholastic eligibility for students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities shall be set by the administration and shall be consistent with at least the minimum standards provided by the NSAA.
- d. All students in grades 7-12 who participate in athletics must have a physical examination by a qualified health care provider at the student's expense.
- e. Students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities must abide by the student code of conduct, the extracurricular code of conduct and any additional rules set by the activity sponsor.
- f. Students are not eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity until they and their parents/guardians have signed the student handbook and extracurricular handbook receipt and acknowledgement.

#### 4. **Sponsors**

- a. Each extracurricular activity must have a sponsor who is a member of the district's certificated staff or a selected community member who is qualified by virtue of education, training, experience, or special interest to serve as the sponsor.
- b. The superintendent or his/her designee will assign activity sponsors. Payment to sponsors will be negotiated with the sponsor based on the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, the sponsor's training and experience and any other lawful criteria. Sponsors serve in their capacity as a sponsor at the will of the superintendent, who is specifically empowered to remove an activity sponsor in the superintendent's sole discretion.
- c. Sponsors shall be required to: develop materials, activities, and a budget; promote membership and participation; communicate

with the principal or designee, staff, students, and parents; schedule meeting dates and locations; plan meaningful experiences; supervise students during activities; evaluate and make recommendations; and submit a year-end report to the principal or designee.

**5. Fundraising Activities**

All fundraising activities shall require authorization by a member of the school district administration and shall be subject to all other school policies. All money raised by these activities shall be governed by Policy 3005.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**6029**  
**Activity Trips**

Students must travel to and from all activities in the transportation provided by the school. A student may travel home from an activity with his/her parent or guardian if the activity sponsor has personally released the student to the parents' custody. Students who misbehave while on an activity trip may be subject to disciplinary consequences set forth in the board's student discipline policy. In addition to any other disciplinary consequences imposed, students who misbehave while on school-sponsored trips may be prohibited from attending future trips.

Students must comply with the board's policies on field trips as well as the student code of conduct, the extracurricular code, and all directives of a sponsor or chaperone while on activity trip.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012  
Revised on: July 9, 2018  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6030

### Public Appearances of School Groups

The reputation of the school district is enhanced when student groups appear at public non-school functions. Therefore, the board encourages student groups to appear at public events, subject to the following requirements:

1. Activity sponsors must secure the permission of their building principal before booking a student group at a public event.
2. Sponsors are discouraged from booking student groups to perform on more than one school night (Sunday-Thursday) per week.
3. Student groups may not perform at a political rally without permission from the superintendent and prior notice to parents.
4. The policies and rules that apply to field trips also apply to student group appearances in public.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: July 9, 2018

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## **6031 Emergency Exclusion**

**Grounds for Emergency Exclusion.** Any student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances subject to the procedural provisions governing short term suspension found elsewhere in these policies or state law:

(a) If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or

(b) If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

Any emergency exclusion shall be based upon a clear factual situation warranting it and shall last no longer than is necessary to avoid the dangers that prompted the exclusion.

**Extension of Exclusion.** Pursuant to the Student Discipline Act, the principal has the authority to exclude a student from school for up to five school days on an emergency basis. If the superintendent or superintendent's designee determines that it is appropriate to consider the extension of an exclusion beyond five days, such consideration shall be made according to the procedures set forth below.

**Notification of Student's Parent(s) or Guardian(s).** The superintendent or the superintendent's designee shall notify the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) that the principal has proposed the extension of the exclusion. If the initial notice is oral, the superintendent shall confirm it in writing. The notice shall include notice of a recommended hearing examiner and an alternate hearing examiner for consideration by the parent(s) or guardian(s) if a hearing is requested.

**Opportunity to Request a Hearing.** The student's parent(s) or guardian(s) may submit a request for a hearing on the proposed extension of the exclusion within one school day of receiving the notice of the proposed extension.

the issues which the administration will propose in support of the extension, and the general nature of the testimony of any administrative or expert witnesses.

**Presence of Student and Witnesses at the Hearing.** The student and witnesses may be excluded at the discretion of the hearing examiner in accordance with state statutes. The student may speak in his/her own defense and may be questioned on such testimony, but may choose not to testify. The school district shall make available to testify at the hearing any employee who is a witness to the matter upon request from the parent(s) or guardian(s).

**Sworn or Affirmed Testimony.** The principal or his or her designee shall present evidence supporting the recommended extension. Witnesses will give testimony under oath of affirmation, and may be questioned.

**Hearing Examiner's Report and Recommendations.** The hearing examiner shall prepare a report of his or her findings and recommendations, and forward the report to the superintendent.

**Superintendent's Decision.** The superintendent will review the hearing examiner's report and determine whether to extend the exclusion. He or she shall have the decision delivered or sent by registered or certified mail to the student, student's parent(s), or guardian(s). If the superintendent decides to extend the exclusion, the extension will take effect immediately.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012  
Revised on: July 8, 2024  
Reviewed on: July 8, 2024

**6032**  
**Constitution Day Education**

Each year on September 17, designated as Constitution Day, the school district will conduct a program designed to highlight the historic and continuing importance of the United States Constitution. When September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, the district will provide this program during the preceding or following week.

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

Adopted on: April 9, 2012  
Revised on: July 9, 2018  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6033

### Restraint and Seclusion of Students

Restraint and seclusion, as defined below, are behavioral interventions. The use of such behavioral interventions must be in accordance with this policy. The following interventions do not constitute seclusion and restraint, and are not governed by this policy: voice control, limited to loud, firm commands; time-limited ignoring of specific behaviors; brief physical prompts to interrupt or prevent a specific behavior; physical interventions which a student's health care provider has indicated are medically necessary for the treatment or protection of the individual; or other similar interventions.

#### Definitions

*Physical restraint* refers to a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move his or her torso, arms, legs, or head freely. The term physical restraint does not include a physical escort. Physical escort means a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder or back for the purpose of inducing a student who is acting out to walk to a safe location. Physical restraint does not include incidental touching that comes along with movement inside a classroom, lunch line, or other areas of the school building where maintaining order is required.

*Mechanical restraint* refers to the use of any device or equipment to restrict a student's freedom of movement. The term does not include devices implemented by trained school personnel, or utilized by a student that have been prescribed by an appropriate medical or related services professional and are used for the specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed, such as:

- Adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to achieve proper body position, balance, or alignment to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without the use of such devices or mechanical supports;
- Vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle;
- Restraints for medical immobilization; or
- Orthopedically prescribed devices that permit a student to participate in activities without risk of harm.

*Chemical restraint* refers to the administration of medication for the purpose of restraint, but does not include the administration of medication in accordance with the directions and prescription of a physician with the consent of the student's parent or guardian.

*Seclusion* refers to the involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which the student is physically prevented from leaving. It does not include a timeout, which is a behavior management technique that is part of an approved program, involves the monitored separation of the student in a non-locked setting, and is implemented for the purpose of calming.

## **Use of Restraint and Seclusion**

The use of chemical restraint is strictly prohibited. The use of any seclusion or restraint intervention for punitive or disciplinary purposes is strictly prohibited. Similarly, the use of any technique that constitutes corporal punishment, which is the infliction of bodily pain as a penalty for disapproved behavior, is strictly prohibited. Seclusion and/or restraint shall not be used for the convenience of staff or as a substitute for an educational program. When restraint or seclusion is used to respond to the danger of harm posed by a student's behavior, the intervention shall be discontinued as soon as the danger of harm has dissipated.

The use of mechanical restraint is strictly prohibited. The use of physical restraint and seclusion is permitted in a manner consistent with this policy as reasonably necessary where the student's behavior risks causing physical harm to self or others.

## **Procedures**

No technique shall restrict a student's breathing, deprive a student of basic needs, or unnecessarily expose a student to physical pain or discomfort.

Seclusion shall not be used for students who are severely self-injurious or suicidal. When seclusion is utilized as permitted by this policy, the following procedures shall be followed:

- The student shall be monitored by an adult in close proximity who is able to regularly observe the student;
- The confining space shall be approved for such use, unless the use of such a space is impossible or impracticable under the circumstances;
- The confining space shall be appropriately lighted, ventilated, and heated or cooled; *and*
- The confining space shall be free from objects that unreasonably expose the student or others to harm.

If a pattern of behavior emerges that requires or is anticipated to require the use of restraint and/or seclusion for the student, the appropriate educators

and/or team members shall review what assessments, evaluations, supports, services, programs, or placements are appropriate in light of the student's needs and circumstances.

### **Recording and Reporting**

Each incident of restraint or seclusion must be recorded and reported as required by the building administrators.

### **Training**

All staff members shall be provided notice of this policy and will be trained on its contents. The Superintendent or his or her designee will identify school staff members likely to implement the restraint or seclusion interventions authorized by this policy and arrange for those individuals to receive appropriate training on the appropriate implementation of such interventions and the use of other behavioral supports and interventions.

Adopted on: April 9, 2012

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_



**6034**  
**Concussion Awareness**

The Nebraska Unicameral has found that concussions are one of the "most commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and recreational activities and that the risk of catastrophic injury or death is significant when a concussion or brain injury is not properly evaluated and managed."

The School District will:

- a. Require all coaches and trainers to complete one of the following on-line courses on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury:
  - Heads UP Concussions in Youth Sports
  - Concussion in Sports—What You Need to Know
  - Sports Safety International
  - ConcussionWise
  - ACTive™ Athletic Concussion Training for Coaches; and
- b. On an annual basis provide concussion and brain injury information to students and their parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition. This information will include:
  - 1 The signs and symptoms of a concussion;
  - 2 The risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and
  - 3 The actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of his or her coaches.

A student who participates on a school athletic team must be removed from a practice or game when he/she is reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in such practice or game after observation by a coach or a licensed health care professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the school. The student will not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including practices or games, until the student:

- a. has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional;
- b. has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional; and

- c. has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity, the parent or guardian of the student will be notified by the school of:

- a. the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student,
- b. the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and
- c. any actions taken to treat the student.

The school district will not provide for the presence of a licensed health care professional at any practice or game.

School officials shall deem the signature of an individual who represents that he/she is a licensed health care professional on a written clearance to resume participation that is provided to the school to be conclusive and reliable evidence that the individual who signed the clearance is a licensed health care professional. The school will not take any additional or independent steps to verify the individual's qualifications.

Students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered. The school's "return to learn protocol" shall be the guidance provided by the Nebraska Department of Education entitled "Bridging the Gap from Concussion to the Classroom," and accompanying materials and future supplements. Nothing in this policy or the referenced protocol shall entitle a student who has sustained a concussion to an individualized plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, although staff will refer students who have sustained a concussion for evaluation under Section 504 as appropriate.

Adopted on: December 12, 2016  
Revised on: July 9, 2018  
Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

**6035**

**Athletic Contest Participation by Sixth Graders**

If there are fewer than 12 boys or 12 girls in the combined enrollment of the seventh and eighth grades when those grades are part of the elementary school system, sixth grade students may participate in athletic contests between schools, within a school system, or between school systems if the school administration judges that it is appropriate after taking into consideration the competition's nature and value to the students, its physical requirements and dangers, and the sixth grade students' ages, physical and mental abilities, maturity, skills, and preparation for the competition. Otherwise, pupils in kindergarten through the sixth grade may not participate in any kinds of athletic contests between schools, within a school system, or between school systems except as provided in this policy or as otherwise allowed by law. This prohibition does not apply to annual field or play days.

Adopted on: July 10, 2017

Revised on: June 10, 2019

Reviewed on: \_\_\_\_\_

## 6036

### Reading Instruction and Intervention Services

The purpose of this policy is to facilitate reading instruction and intervention services to address student reading needs, including, but not limited to, dyslexia. It is the school district's goal that each student be able to read at or above grade level by third grade.

**Effective Reading Teachers.** It is the intent of the school district to employ teachers for kindergarten through third grade who are effective reading teachers as evidenced by (a) evaluations based on classroom observations and student improvement on reading assessments or (b) specialized training in reading improvement.

**Reading Assessment.** The school district will administer a reading assessment approved by the Nebraska Department of Education three times during the school year to all students in kindergarten through third grade. Exceptions to this requirement include:

- Any student receiving specialized instruction for limited English proficiency who has been receiving such instruction for less than two years;
- Any student receiving special education services for whom such assessment would conflict with the individualized education plan; and
- Any student receiving services under a plan pursuant to the requirements of section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 794, or Title II of the federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. 12131 to 12165, as such acts and sections existed on January 1, 2018, for whom such assessment would conflict with such section 504 or Title II plan.

The first assessment for kindergarten students must occur within the first 45 calendar days that school is in session of each school year. For all other grades, the first assessment must occur within the first 30 calendar days that school is in session of each school year.

Diagnostic assessments used within a supplemental reading intervention program do not require Nebraska Department of Education approval.

**Deficiency Identification.** Any student in kindergarten through third grade performing below the threshold level as determined by the Nebraska Department of Education shall be identified as having a reading deficiency for purposes of the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and this policy. A student who is identified as having a reading deficiency shall remain identified as having a reading deficiency until the student performs at or above the

- Strategies and resources to assist with reading skills at home, including parent-training workshops and suggestions for parent-guided home reading; or
- Access to before-school or after-school supplemental reading intervention with a teacher or tutor who has specialized training in reading intervention.

**Parent/Guardian Notification.** The school will give notice in writing or by electronic communication to the parent(s) or guardian(s) of any student identified as having a reading deficiency within 15 working days of such identification that the student has been identified as having a reading deficiency and that an individual reading improvement plan will be established and shared with the parents or guardians.

**Reading Improvement Plan.** Any student who is identified as having a reading deficiency will receive an individualized reading improvement plan, that shall include a supplemental reading intervention program, no later than 30 days after the identification of the reading deficiency. The reading improvement plan may be created by the teacher, the principal, other pertinent school personnel, and the parents or guardians of the student and shall describe the reading intervention services the student will receive through the supplemental reading intervention program to remedy the reading deficiency. The student must receive reading intervention services through the supplemental reading intervention program until the student is no longer identified as having a reading deficiency.

**Reading Progress.** Each student in kindergarten through third grade and his or her parent(s) or guardian(s) will be informed of the student's reading progress within a reasonable time after the school district receives the results from the student's approved reading assessment.

**NDE Professional Learning System.** The Nebraska Department of Education provides a professional learning system. The elementary school(s) and early childhood education programs approved by the State Board of Education will ensure that teachers who teach children from four years of age through third grade are aware of the professional learning system and are adequately trained regarding evidence-based reading instruction to effectively instruct students in reading.

**NDE Report.** On or before July 1 of each year, the school district will provide the required information relating to dyslexia to the Nebraska Department of Education.

## **6039**

### **Repeat of Grade at Parent-Guardian Request**

Parents and guardians may request that their student repeat a grade level under the following conditions:

#### **Students in Kindergarten through Fourth Grade**

Parents and guardians of students in kindergarten through fourth grade may request that their student repeat the grade level that the student has just completed under the following conditions:

- 1) If the student is at least one year below grade level and behind the child's typically developing peers in reading, English, and language arts such that the child does not possess the necessary academic skills required to succeed in reading, English, and language arts at grade level for the next grade to which the student would otherwise advance; or
- 2) If the student was absent fifty percent or more of the days in which school was in session for students during the school year which the student has just completed; or
- 3) If the student experienced a severe mental or physical illness resulting in hospitalization of two or more weeks during the school year.

#### **Students in Fifth through Twelfth Grade**

Parents and guardians of students in fifth through twelfth grade may request that their student repeat the grade level that the student has just completed if the student was absent fifty percent or more of the days in which school was in session for students during the school year which the student has just completed.

#### **Procedure for Parent Requests for Student Grade Repetition**

Parents and guardians who seek to have their student repeat the grade level just completed must submit a written request to the student's building principal no earlier than the day after the last scheduled student attendance day of the school year, and no later than two weeks after that date. This deadline may be waived by the superintendent for good cause shown. The request must include written documentation that provides evidence that the parents or guardians believe substantiate that the conditions outlined above have been met.

## 6040

### **Prekindergarten (Preschool or Early Childhood) Program**

The school board establishes a program to provide prekindergarten services to resident students, also referred to as an early childhood or preschool program. The school district will provide the program in compliance with state law and 92 NAC 11 (Nebraska Department of Education "Rule 11"). The availability of the program is subject to the district being able to employ and retain appropriate and qualified personnel.

**Purpose.** The purpose of the program is to promote the social, emotional, intellectual, language, physical, and aesthetic development and learning for the children served and to promote family development and support.

**Age Participation.** The program will be available to children of the following ages:

- Children who are 3 years of age before July 31 of the enrollment year;
- Children who are 4 years of age at the start of the enrollment year; and
- Children who are 5 years of age at the start of the enrollment year, so long as they do not turn 6 years of age prior to January 1 of that year (subject to the participation limitation below).

All enrollment is subject to capacity limitations and enrollment priorities established in this policy. Three-year-old children will only be offered half-day attendance.

**Capacity Limitation.** The maximum capacity for the program is 15 children. In the event where the total number of children registered for the program by July 15 rises above 15, the district will only offer the program to children with the following priority for enrollment:

- 4-year-olds;
- "At-risk" children (as defined by Rule 11);
- Qualified five-year-old students; and
- Three-year-olds.

If the program is at capacity after July 15, further enrollment applications will be denied. Exception: If an "at-risk child" (as defined by Rule 11) moves into the district and the program is at capacity, the child will be enrolled in the program. The youngest child in the class that is not "at risk" will be withdrawn from the program.

**Program Coordinator.** The program will be coordinated by a an individual qualified by law to be a Program Coordinator.

**Additional Rule 11 Requirements.** Rule 11 includes additional requirements that are not included in this policy, including but not limited to requirements addressing family development and support; developmentally and culturally appropriate curriculum, practices, and assessment; evaluation and quality assurance; program staff; child/staff ration and group size; facilities, equipment, health, and safety; meals and snacks, immunizations; supervision; toileting; infants and toddlers; Sixpence programs; and home-based programs. The district will comply with these additional requirements that are applicable to the program.

**Special Education Act Compliance.** Nothing in this policy allows the school district to fail to meet its responsibilities under the Special Education Act (section 79-1110 through 79-1167). To the extent there is any conflict between this policy or Rule 11 with the Special Education Act, the Act shall control.

Adopted on: July 8 2024

Revised on: July 8, 2024

Reviewed on: July 8, 2024



**6041**  
**Malcolm X Day Education**

Each year on May 19<sup>th</sup>, designated as El-Hajj Malik ElShabazz, Malcolm X Day, the school district will hold suitable exercises in recognition of the sacrifices of the late Nebraska Hall of Fame inductee El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, Malcolm X, and his contributions to the betterment of society. When May 19<sup>th</sup> falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the district will provide the suitable exercises during the preceding or following week. The program shall be implemented within any applicable laws and/or regulations.

Adopted on: July 8, 2024  
Revised on: July 8, 2024  
Reviewed on: July 8, 2024

## **6042 Projection Maps**

The school district will only use the Gall-Peters projection map or a similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or the AuthaGraph projection map for display or use in the classroom. Use of the Mercator projection map is prohibited unless:

1. The Mercator projection map is used in conjunction with other projection maps in a teaching exercise to demonstrate that all maps are flawed in some way and different map projections serve different functions and may affect how individuals view the world; or
2. The Mercator projection map is part of any:
  - a. book or material obtained prior to July 19, 2024; or geographic information system; or computer program that renders a three-dimensional representation of Earth based primarily on satellite imagery, such as Google Earth or similar software; and
  - b. a Gall-Peters projection map or similar cylindrical equal-area projection map or an AuthaGraph projection map is displayed in the classroom or shown to students during the lesson in which a Mercator projection map is used.

Adopted on: July 8, 2024

Revised on: July 8, 2024

Reviewed on: July 8, 2024

## 6043

### Sharing Mapping Data

This policy shall provide for the sharing of information to public safety agencies in order to implement effective emergency response protocols.

**Definition.** Mapping data means maps relating to the school buildings or school property with data for an efficient emergency response.

**Sharing of Mapping Data.** Mapping data shall be shared in an electronic or printable format with public safety agencies that provide emergency services to district property to assist those agencies in responding to an emergency on district property.

**Requirements Related to Mapping Data.** Mapping data shared with public safety agencies pursuant to this policy shall meet the following requirements:

- The mapping data shall be compatible with and able to be integrated into software platforms used by public safety that provide emergency services to the specific school for which the data is provided without requiring:
  - The purchase of additional software by such public safety agencies; or
  - The integration of third-party software to view the data;
- The mapping data shall be a finished map product in a file format easily accessible using a standard or open-source file reader, depending on the needs of the school and the public safety agency;
- The mapping data shall be provided in a printable format;
- The mapping data shall be verified for accuracy, during production and annually, through a walk-through of the school campus;
- The mapping data shall give an indication of what direction is true north;
- The mapping data shall include accurate floor plans overlaid on accurate, verified aerial imagery of the school campus;
- The mapping data shall contain site-specific labeling that matches the structure of school buildings, including room labels, hallway names, external door or stairwell numbers, locations of hazards, key utility locations, key boxes, automated external defibrillators, and trauma kits using standard labeling rules set by the State Department of Education;
- The mapping data shall contain site-specific labeling that matches the school grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding roads, and neighboring properties using standard labeling rules set by the State Department of Education; and
- The mapping data shall be overlaid with a grid and coordinates.

## **Special Education Procedures (Updated February 2019)**

The following procedures describe the steps that the school district will generally follow in implementing certain portions of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act and Rules 51 and 52 of the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE). If any procedure described herein conflicts with or is inconsistent with state or federal laws or regulations, the law or regulation will control. Nothing in the following procedures creates any enforceable right, educational entitlement or procedural protection that is separate from or in addition to the rights provided by state and federal law and regulation.

### **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)** (Rule 51 § 004.01; 34 § CFR 300.101)

Except as otherwise provided by law, the school district will ensure that all children with verified disabilities, from birth through the school year in which the child reaches age twenty-one, including children who have been suspended or expelled from school, have available to them a FAPE, which includes special education and related services to meet their unique needs and the availability of FAPE for resident children in detention facilities, correctional facilities, jails, and prisons.

The school district will ensure that FAPE is available to any individual child with a disability who needs special education and related services, even though the child has not failed or been retained in a course or grade and is advancing from grade to grade.

### **Full Education Opportunity Goal and Program Options** (Rule 51 § 004.11A; 34 CFR § 300.109)

The school district provides full educational opportunities to all children with disabilities aged birth to 21. The school district does this, in part, by:

- Offering and providing a free appropriate public education (FAPE), including special education and related services, and complying with all state and federal special education laws and regulations;
- Making available to children with disabilities a variety of educational programs and services that are available to nondisabled children including, but not necessarily limited to, art, music, industrial arts, consumer and homemaking education, and vocational education
- Working collaboratively with parents, teachers, guidance counselors, other school staff members, community agencies, educational service units, and other school districts to review

and/or offer appropriate course offerings and other educational opportunities;

- Providing supplementary aids, services, and other effective supports determined appropriate and necessary by the child's IEP Team, to ensure that students have an equal opportunity to participate in academic, nonacademic, and extracurricular services and activities;
- Collecting and examining data; and
- Staff development activities

The timetable for accomplishing this goal is immediate and ongoing. The school district accomplishes this goal by taking the above steps on a regular, scheduled, and ongoing basis as well as on an unplanned basis when the need arises for each individual student.

**Child Find Process** (Rule 51 § 006.01A and Rule 52 § 006.01; 34 CFR § 300.111)

To identify, locate and evaluate children residing within the geographic boundaries of the school district who may qualify for special education (including homeless children and wards of the State), the school district will take the following practical steps:

- a) announce in mailings sent to families with school-aged children at least annually that the school district will identify and verify children at no charge for possible disabilities;
- b) include information about the identification and verification of children for possible disabilities at no charge in mailings sent to patrons, homeless shelters, and Health and Human Service offices located in the school district at least annually; and
- c) accept referrals for evaluation directly from parents, school personnel, and other state and regional agencies.

*Student Assistance Teams* (Rule 51 § 006.01B). The school district will use student assistance teams to develop individualized programs of support for students who may be experiencing difficulties in school. The school district will generally work to assist a student through the SAT process prior to evaluating the student for possible verification under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or Rule 51 of the Nebraska Department of Education.

The SAT will be an ad hoc group created around a student, and will generally include building staff with expertise in the specific content area(s) identified as problematic for the student. The SAT may also

involve other interested or relevant staff and may, but is not required to, include the student's parent.

The team will review the strengths and interests that are unique to the student and determine the academic or social challenges the student is facing at school. The team will then develop ideas and strategies that may help the student be more successful in school.

If the SAT determines that appropriate general education interventions have been attempted without success, it will consider evaluating the student for eligibility under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or referring the student to the multidisciplinary team for evaluation pursuant to Rule 51.

*Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team* (Rule 51, § 006.03 and Rule 52 § 006.09). The school district will appoint a Multidisciplinary Evaluation Team (MDT) which will be responsible for making all verification decisions pursuant to the qualification criteria in Rule 51 of the Nebraska Department of Education. The MDT will analyze, assess, and document the needs of each student, and the MDT's compiled information will be used on the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) if the MDT determines that the student qualifies for special education.

The MDT will not base a student's verification upon 1) lack of appropriate instruction in reading as contemplated in Section 614(a)(5)(A) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004, 2) lack of instruction in math, or 3) limited English proficiency.

If a nonpublic school student qualifies for the school district's special education program, an administrator or other designated representative of the student's nonpublic school shall be appointed as a member of the student's MDT.

*Referral Procedures for Infants and Toddlers* (Rule 52 § 006.01-006.03). The school district will make a referral for a child under the age of three to the agency responsible for providing services coordination in the Planning Region as soon as possible but in no case later than seven (7) days after becoming aware of the infant's or toddler's potential eligibility for early intervention services. A child under the age of three who is the subject of a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect; or is identified as directly affected by illegal substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure must be referred to the Early

Intervention Program (the agency responsible for providing services coordination in the Planning Region).

Except as otherwise allowed by law or regulation (see Rule 52 § 006.02B), the school district must complete the screening; complete the initial evaluation and assessments; and participate in the initial individualized family service plan (IFSP) within 45 calendar days from the date of referral.

### **IEP Meetings** (Rule 51 § 007.09A–C, G-H)

Each student's IEP team will meet initially to develop the student's IEP within 30 calendar days of the determination that the student qualifies for special education. Thereafter, each IEP team will meet at least once annually to determine whether the annual goals of the student's IEP are being achieved. The student's IEP team will also ensure that the student's IEP is in effect at the beginning of each school year. The school district will encourage the consolidation of reevaluation meetings with other IEP Team meetings to the extent possible. The school district and parents may agree to meeting participation by video conference, conference call, or other electronic or alternative means.

*Pre-Meeting Procedures.* Staff members may engage in activities such as researching placements and service options, preparing draft IEP documents, writing reports, creating charts, and comparing student makeup of various program settings prior to and in preparation for IEP team meetings. Actual IEP and placement decisions, however, will not be made until concerns and input of parents and other members of the IEP team are received and considered at an IEP meeting. Although staff members may consider possible service and placement options and form opinions about them outside of an IEP meeting, no final decision will be made before full consideration of all data and input from all team members at an IEP team meeting. The school district has no policy of refusing to consider or use any particular service, program, or placement option.

### **Individualized Education Program** (Rule 51 § 007; 34 CFR § 324)

At the beginning of each school year, the school district will have in effect, for each child with a disability within its jurisdiction, an IEP, as defined in 34 CFR § 300.320 that meets the requirements of 34 CFR § 300.323. The IEP shall be developed, reviewed, and revised for each child with a disability as follows.

## Development of the IEP

*General.* In developing each child's IEP, the IEP Team will consider:

- (i) The strengths of the child;
- (ii) The concerns of the parents for enhancing the education of their child;
- (iii) The results of the initial or most recent evaluation of the child; and
- (iv) The academic, developmental, and functional needs of the child.

*Consideration of special factors.* The IEP Team will:

- (i) In the case of a child whose behavior impedes the child's learning or that of others, consider the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports, and other strategies, to address that behavior;
- (ii) In the case of a child with limited English proficiency, consider the language needs of the child as those needs relate to the child's IEP;
- (iii) In the case of a child who is blind or visually impaired, provide for instruction in Braille and the use of Braille unless the IEP Team determines, after an evaluation of the child's reading and writing skills, needs, and appropriate reading and writing media (including an evaluation of the child's future needs for instruction in Braille or the use of Braille), that instruction in Braille or the use of Braille is not appropriate for the child;
- (iv) Consider the communication needs of the child, and in the case of a child who is deaf or hard of hearing, consider the child's language and communication needs, opportunities for direct communications with peers and professional personnel in the child's language and communication mode, academic level, and full range of needs, including opportunities for direct instruction in the child's language and communication mode; and
- (v) Consider whether the child needs assistive technology devices and services.

*Requirement with respect to regular education teacher.* A regular education teacher of a child with a disability, as a member of the IEP Team, must, to the extent appropriate, participate in the development of the IEP of the child, including the determination of:

- (i) Appropriate positive behavioral interventions and supports and other strategies for the child; and



(ii) Supplementary aids and services, program modifications, and support for school personnel consistent with law.

*Agreement.*

(i) In making changes to a child's IEP after the annual IEP Team meeting for a school year, the parent of a child with a disability and the school may agree not to convene an IEP Team meeting for the purposes of making those changes, and instead may develop a written document to amend or modify the child's current IEP.

(ii) If such changes are made to the child's IEP, the school must ensure that the child's IEP Team is informed of those changes.

*Consolidation of IEP Team meetings.* To the extent possible, the school must encourage the consolidation of reevaluation meetings for the child and other IEP Team meetings for the child.

*Amendments.* Changes to the IEP may be made either by the entire IEP Team at an IEP Team meeting, or by *Agreement* as provided above, by amending the IEP rather than by redrafting the entire IEP. Review and revision of IEPs

*General.* The school will ensure that the IEP Team:

(i) Reviews the child's IEP periodically, but not less than annually, to determine whether the annual goals for the child are being achieved; and

(ii) Revises the IEP, as appropriate, to address -

(A) Any lack of expected progress toward the annual goals described in 34 CFR § 300.320(a)(2), and in the general education curriculum, if appropriate;

(B) The results of any reevaluation conducted under 34 CFR § 300.303;

(C) Information about the child provided to, or by, the parents, as described under 34 CFR § 300.305(a)(2);

(D) The child's anticipated needs; or

(E) Other matters.

*Consideration of special factors.* In conducting a review of the child's IEP, the IEP Team must consider the special factors described above.

*Requirement with respect to regular education teacher.* A regular education teacher of the child, as a member of the IEP Team, must, consistent with the requirement above, participate in the review and revision of the IEP of the child.

### Failure to meet transition objectives

*Participating agency failure.* If a participating agency, other than the school, fails to provide the transition services described in the IEP in accordance with 34 § 300.320(b), the school will reconvene the IEP Team to identify alternative strategies to meet the transition objectives for the child set out in the IEP.

### Children with disabilities in adult prisons

*Requirements that do not apply.* The following requirements do not apply to children with disabilities who are convicted as adults under State law and incarcerated in adult prisons:

(i) The requirements contained in section 612(a)(16) of the Act and 34 CFR § 300.320(a)(6) (relating to participation of children with disabilities in general assessments).

(ii) The requirements in 34 CFR § 300.320(b) (relating to transition planning and transition services) do not apply with respect to the children whose eligibility under Part B of the Act will end, because of their age, before they will be eligible to be released from prison based on consideration of their sentence and eligibility for early release.

### *Modifications of IEP or placement.*

(i) Subject to law, the IEP Team of a child with a disability who is convicted as an adult under State law and incarcerated in an adult prison may modify the child's IEP or placement if the State has demonstrated a bona fide security or compelling penological interest that cannot otherwise be accommodated.

(ii) The requirements of 34 CFR §§ 300.320 (relating to IEPs), and 300.114 (relating to LRE), do not apply with respect to the modifications described in paragraph (d)(2)(i) of this section.

### *Contracted Programs (Rule 51 § 013.02).*

The school district shall be responsible for the development and maintenance of the IEP and the participation in all IEP meetings and shall assure that IEP meetings are arranged with the contracted program and the parents. Such arrangements may include meetings with the contracted program, the school district, and the parent. Meetings may occur within the district, at the contracted program site, or another site if more appropriate.

### *IEP Distribution to Parents (Rule 51 § 007.09D, F).*

A copy of the IEP will be provided to the parent at no cost. If the IEP is amended, the parent will be provided with a revised copy of the IEP with the amendments incorporated upon request.

*Distribution of IEP information to staff* (Rule 51 § 007.02C, § 007.02D, and § 007.09E1).

The case manager for each student with an IEP will provide the staff assigned to work with that student with information about the student's disabling conditions, the modifications and accommodations called for in the student's IEP. The case manager will also inform relevant staff of any subsequent changes made to the student's IEP. This information may be provided by: giving staff members a copy of the student's IEP; giving staff members a copy of the accommodations page of the student's IEP; or using any other method reasonably calculated to communicate relevant information to the responsible staff member(s).

**Least Restrictive Environment** (Rule 51 § 008.01A; 34 CFR 314)

The school district will assure that, whenever possible, all students with disabilities are educated in the same manner and in the same environment as students without disabilities by using supplementary aids and services. A student with a disability or disabilities will be removed from the regular educational environment and given special services and classes *only* when the nature of the disability does not allow for the satisfactory education of the student in regular classes.

**Procedural Safeguard Notice** (Rule 51 § 009.06A-D; 34 CFR 504)

A copy of the procedural safeguards will be given by the school district one time per school year. A copy shall also be given to the parent upon: a) initial referral or parental request for evaluation, b) upon request by a parent, c) upon receipt by the school district of the first occurrence of the filing of a complaint under section 009.11 of Rule 51, d) the first occurrence of filing a special education due process case under Rule 55, and e) in accordance with the discipline procedures in section 016 of Rule 51. The notice shall include a full explanation of all procedural safeguards in compliance with section 009.06B of Rule 51. The notice shall be written in English and provided in the native language of the parent as required by sections 009.05C-D of Rule 51.

## **Evaluation Procedures (Rule 51 § 006.02; 34 CFR.304)**

*Notice.* The school will provide notice to the parents of a child with a disability that describes any evaluation procedures the school proposes to conduct.

*Conduct of evaluation.* In conducting the evaluation, the school will:

(1) Use a variety of assessment tools and strategies to gather relevant functional, developmental, and academic information about the child, including information provided by the parent, that may assist in determining:

(i) Whether the child is a child with a disability; and

(ii) The content of the child's IEP, including information related to enabling the child to be involved in and progress in the general education curriculum (or for a preschool child, to participate in appropriate activities);

(2) Not use any single measure or assessment as the sole criterion for determining whether a child is a child with a disability and for determining an appropriate educational program for the child; and

(3) Use technically sound instruments that may assess the relative contribution of cognitive and behavioral factors, in addition to physical or developmental factors.

*Other evaluation procedures.* The school will ensure that:

(1) Assessments and other evaluation materials used to assess a child:

(i) Are selected and administered so as not to be discriminatory on a racial or cultural basis;

(ii) Are provided and administered in the child's native language or other mode of communication and in the form most likely to yield accurate information on what the child knows and can do academically, developmentally, and functionally, unless it is clearly not feasible to so provide or administer;

(iii) Are used for the purposes for which the assessments or measures are valid and reliable;

(iv) Are administered by trained and knowledgeable personnel; and

(v) Are administered in accordance with any instructions provided by the producer of the assessments.

(2) Assessments and other evaluation materials include those tailored to assess specific areas of educational need and not merely those that are designed to provide a single general intelligence quotient.

(3) Assessments are selected and administered so as best to ensure that if an assessment is administered to a child with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the assessment results accurately reflect the child's aptitude or achievement level or whatever other factors the test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the child's impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills (unless those skills are the factors that the test purports to measure).

(4) The child is assessed in all areas related to the suspected disability, including, if appropriate, health, vision, hearing, social and emotional status, general intelligence, academic performance, communicative status, and motor abilities;

(5) Assessments of children with disabilities who transfer from one public school to another public school in the same school year are coordinated with those children's prior and subsequent schools, as necessary and as expeditiously as possible, consistent with law, to ensure prompt completion of full evaluations.

(6) In evaluating each child with a disability under 34 CFR §§ 300.304 through 300.306, the evaluation is sufficiently comprehensive to identify all of the child's special education and related services needs, whether or not commonly linked to the disability category in which the child has been classified.

(7) Assessment tools and strategies that provide relevant information that directly assists persons in determining the educational needs of the child are provided.

(8) Evaluations shall also comply with any additional requirements found in Rule 51, including but not limited to those found in section 006.02.

*Review of Existing Evaluation Data* (Rule 51, § 006.06). For initial evaluations and reevaluations, the IEP team and other qualified professionals will review all existing educational assessments as well as parental, classroom and other relevant observations in determining whether:

- a) the student is a student with a disability or continues to be a student with a disability qualifying for special education;
- b) a student with a disability needs or continues to need special education services; and
- c) a student with a disability needs additional or modified special education to meet the goals of the student's IEP or the general goals of the school district's curriculum.

*Independent Education Evaluation* (Rule 51 § 006.07). When a student's parent requests an independent education evaluation, the student's case manager or the district's special education director will respond in writing without unnecessary delay that (1) the school district will initiate a hearing under 92 NAC 55 to show that its evaluation is appropriate OR (2) an independent educational evaluation will be provided at public expense. The written response will (1) include a copy of the board's policy on IEEs and (2) if appropriate, identify at least one qualified individual who meets the policy's criteria within the geographic area.

**Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information** (Rule 51 § 009.03; 34 CFR § 300.123, 34 CFR § 300.610-.626)

*Notice to parents.* The school must give notice that is adequate to fully inform parents about the requirements of protecting the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information collected, used, or maintained under Part B of the Act, including:

- (1) A description of the extent that the notice is given in the native languages of the various population groups in the district;
- (2) A description of the children on whom personally identifiable information is maintained, the types of information sought, the methods the district intends to use in gathering the information (including the sources from whom information is gathered), and the uses to be made of the information;
- (3) A summary of the policies and procedures that the school will follow regarding storage, disclosure to third parties, retention, and destruction of personally identifiable information; and
- (4) A description of all of the rights of parents and children regarding this information, including the rights under FERPA and implementing regulations in 34 CFR part 99.

Before any major identification, location, or evaluation activity, the notice must be published or announced in newspapers or other media, or both, with circulation adequate to notify parents throughout the district of the activity.

*Access rights.* The school will permit parents to inspect and review any education records relating to their children that are collected, maintained, or used by the school. The school will comply with a request without unnecessary delay and before any meeting regarding an IEP, or any hearing pursuant to law, or resolution session pursuant

to law, and in no case more than 45 days after the request has been made.

The right to inspect and review education records under this section includes:

- (1) The right to a response from the school to reasonable requests for explanations and interpretations of the records;
- (2) The right to request that the school provide copies of the records containing the information if failure to provide those copies would effectively prevent the parent from exercising the right to inspect and review the records; and
- (3) The right to have a representative of the parent inspect and review the records.

The school may presume that the parent has authority to inspect and review records relating to his or her child unless the school has been advised that the parent does not have the authority under applicable State law governing such matters as guardianship, separation, and divorce.

*Record of access.* The school must keep a record of parties obtaining access to education records collected, maintained, or used under Part B of the Act (except access by parents and authorized employees of the school), including the name of the party, the date access was given, and the purpose for which the party is authorized to use the records.

*Records on more than one child.* If any education record includes information on more than one child, the parents of those children have the right to inspect and review only the information relating to their child or to be informed of that specific information.

*List of types and locations of information.* Each participating school must provide parents on request a list of the types and locations of education records collected, maintained, or used by the school.

*Fees.* The school may charge a fee for copies of records that are made for parents under this part if the fee does not effectively prevent the parents from exercising their right to inspect and review those records. The school may not charge a fee to search for or to retrieve records.

*Amendment of records at parent's request.* A parent who believes that information in the education records collected, maintained, or used under

this part is inaccurate or misleading or violates the privacy or other rights of the child may request the school to amend the information.

The school must decide whether to amend the information in accordance with the request within a reasonable period of time of receipt of the request.

If the school decides to refuse to amend the information in accordance with the request, it must inform the parent of the refusal and advise the parent of the right to a hearing as provided below.

*Opportunity for a hearing.* The school must, on request, provide an opportunity for a hearing to challenge information in education records to ensure that it is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the child.

*Result of hearing.* If, as a result of the hearing, the school decides that the information is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the child, it must amend the information accordingly and so inform the parent in writing.

If, as a result of the hearing, the school decides that the information is not inaccurate, misleading, or otherwise in violation of the privacy or other rights of the child, it must inform the parent of the parent's right to place in the records the school maintains on the child a statement commenting on the information or setting forth any reasons for disagreeing with the decision of the school.

Any explanation placed in the records of the child under this section must:

- (1) Be maintained by the school as part of the records of the child as long as the record or contested portion is maintained by the school; and
- (2) If the records of the child or the contested portion is disclosed by the school to any party, the explanation must also be disclosed to the party.

*Hearing procedures.* A hearing held under this section must be conducted according to the procedures in 34 CFR § 99.22.

*Consent.* Parental consent must be obtained before personally identifiable information is disclosed to parties, other than officials of



participating agencies described below, unless the information is contained in education records, and the disclosure is authorized without parental consent under 34 CFR part 99.

(1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3) of this section, parental consent is not required before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies for purposes of meeting a requirement of this part.

(2) Parental consent, or the consent of an eligible child who has reached the age of majority under State law, must be obtained before personally identifiable information is released to officials of participating agencies providing or paying for transition services in accordance with § 300.321(b)(3).

(3) If a child is enrolled, or is going to enroll in a private school that is not located in the school district of the parent's residence, parental consent must be obtained before any personally identifiable information about the child is released between officials in the school district where the private school is located and officials in the school district of the parent's residence.

*Safeguards.* The school will protect the confidentiality of personally identifiable information at collection, storage, disclosure, and destruction stages. One official at the school district must assume responsibility for ensuring the confidentiality of any personally identifiable information. All persons collecting or using personally identifiable information must receive training or instruction regarding the school's policies and procedures under 34 § 300.123 and 34 CFR part 99. Each school must maintain, for public inspection, a current listing of the names and positions of those employees within the school who may have access to personally identifiable information.

*Destruction of information.* The school must inform parents when personally identifiable information collected, maintained, or used under this policy is no longer needed to provide educational services to the child. The information must be destroyed at the request of the parents. However, a permanent record of a student's name, address, and phone number, his or her grades, attendance record, classes attended, grade

level completed, and year completed may be maintained without time limitation.

*Children's rights.* The school has policies and procedures regarding the extent to which children are afforded rights of privacy similar to those afforded to parents, taking into consideration the age of the child and type or severity of disability. Under the regulations for FERPA in 34 CFR 99.5(a), the rights of parents regarding education records are transferred to the student at age 18. If the rights accorded to parents under Part B of the Act are transferred to a student who reaches the age of majority, consistent with § 300.520, the rights regarding educational records in §§ 300.613 through 300.624 must also be transferred to the student. However, the public school must provide any notice required under section 615 of the Act to the student and the parents.

*Enforcement.* The school district will follow any policies and procedures the State has in effect, including sanctions that the State uses, to ensure that its policies and procedures consistent with §§ 300.611 through 300.625 are followed and that the requirements of the Act and the stated procedures are met.

**Early Intervention Transition** (Rule 51 § 005.03, Rule 52 § 008; 34 CFR § 300.124)

The school district shall ensure that students participating in early intervention services experience a smooth and effective transition to preschool programs and/or services provided under Part B of IDEA by following the procedures described in 92 NAC 52-008.

**Children Placed In or Referred To a Nonpublic School or Facility by the School District or Approved Cooperative As a Means of Providing Special Education and Related Services** (Rule 51 § 015.01; 34 CFR § 300.129)

A special education student may be placed in a nonpublic school or facility, if the student's IEP team develops an IEP for the child in accordance with Section 007 that places the student in the nonpublic school or facility. If a student's IEP team determines that the student will be placed in a nonpublic school or facility, the school district will ensure that the student is provided special education and related services in

conformance with the provisions of Rule 51 at no cost to the student or parents. The school district will be responsible for initiating and conducting IEP meetings after the student has been placed in the nonpublic school or facility and will insure that both the parents and representatives from the nonpublic school or facility are involved in any decision about the child's IEP and agree to any proposed changes in the IEP before those changes are implemented.

**Children Placed In a Nonpublic School by Parents As a Means of Obtaining Special Education and Related Services; FAPE is At Issue**  
(Rule 51 § 015.02; 34 CFR § 300.129)

The school district will not pay for the cost of education, including special education and related services, of a child with a disability at a nonpublic school or facility if the school made FAPE available to the child and the parents elected to place the child in a nonpublic school or facility as a means of obtaining special education and related services. However, the school district will include that child in the population whose needs are addressed consistent with Rule 51. Disagreements between a parent and the school district regarding the availability of a program appropriate for the child, and the question of financial reimbursement, are subject to the due process procedures of Rule 55 of the Nebraska Department of Education.

**Working with Nonpublic Schools within the Boundaries of the District**  
(Rule 51 § 015.03B and § 015.03D1a; 34 CFR § 300.129)

The school district will provide written information to each non-public school within its geographic boundaries that the public school will identify and verify children for possible disabilities at no charge. This communication will also inform the non-public school officials, staff and parents about the availability of equitable services for students with disabilities who attend non-public schools that are not within the geographic boundaries of the district.

A student who attends a nonpublic school may participate in the school district's special education program to receive FAPE provided that (1) the student has been verified pursuant to Rule 51 and (2) the student is a resident of the school district as defined by NEB REV. STAT. § 79-215. The student's IEP team will determine the physical location where the student will receive services and will consider whether it is necessary for the student to be transported to the service location. A non-resident student who attends a nonpublic school within the geographic boundaries of the

district may receive equitable services if the student has been verified pursuant to Rule 51.

Disagreement between parents and the school district over whether or not the school district has a program available to serve the needs of a special education student, including claims for tuition reimbursement by parents, are subject to the appeal procedures established in Rule 55.

**Personnel Standards** (Rule 51 § 010; 34 CFR § 300.156)

The school district shall ensure that all personnel are appropriately and adequately trained and prepared to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities as required by law including but not limited to Section 2122 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Rule 51, and IDEA. The school district shall ensure that its recruits, hires, trains, and retains such personnel by doing the following:

- 1) Advertising for only qualified candidates.
- 2) Verifying that all personnel hold the required certificate, license, registration, or other credentials and training during the interview process or prior to employment.
- 3) Verifying that all personnel maintain the required certificate, license, registration, or other credentials and training during employment.
- 4) Providing continuing education opportunities and training programs.
- 5) Evaluating personnel performance for compliance with federal and state law and regulations and school district standards and policies.

**District-Wide Assessments** (Rule 51 § 004.05B, § 004.05C, and § 004.05D; 34 CFR § 300.160)

Each student who has been verified under Rule 51 will participate in district-wide assessments in a manner that is appropriate for the student. Each student's IEP team will determine how the student will participate in district-wide assessments. The method of assessment will be recorded on the student's IEP. Alternate assessments will be administered at the same time that state and district-wide assessments are administered to the student's grade level peers. The school district shall report assessment results to parents, the public, and the Department with the same frequency and in the same detail as they report on the assessment of nondisabled children and/or as required by Rule 51.

**Suspension and Expulsion Reporting** (Rule 51 § 004.06E; 34 CFR § 300.170)

The school district shall report the incidences, duration, and count of removals, suspensions, and expulsions, and other disciplinary information of children receiving special education services required by 92 NAC 004.06E to the State electronically through the NDE website by June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year. The report will be disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, LEP status, and disability category. If disciplinary discrepancies are occurring in the rate of long-term suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities, the school district shall review its policies, procedures, and practices related to the development and implementation of IEPs, the use of positive behavioral interventions and supports, and procedural safeguards to ensure that they comply with IDEA.

**Access to Instructional Materials** (Rule 51 § 004.15; 34 CFR § 300.172)

The school district may contract with the National Instructional Materials Access Center (NIMAC) when purchasing print instructional materials and/or assures the Nebraska Department of Education that it will provide such materials to children with blindness or other children with print disabilities at the same time as other children.

**Overidentification and Disproportionality** (34 CFR § 300.173 )

The school district shall take affirmative steps to prevent the inappropriate overidentification or disproportionate representation by race and ethnicity of children as children with disabilities, including children with disabilities with a particular impairment described in 34 C.F.R. §300.8. These steps shall include, but not necessarily be limited to:

- Providing staff with technical assistance, professional development, and other educational opportunities;
- Collecting, examining, and reporting data;
- Monitoring, assessing, and providing continuous improvement activities;
- Reviewing school district policies, procedures, and practices.

The school district shall collect and examine data to determine if significant disproportionality based on race and ethnicity is occurring with respect to:

- The identification of children with disabilities, including the identification of children as children with disabilities in accordance with a particular impairment described in 34 C.F.R. §300.8;
- The placement in particular educational settings of these children; and
- The incidence, duration, and type of disciplinary actions, including suspensions and expulsions.

The school district will review and analyze the data and any other applicable indicators or information that is needed to adequately measure overidentification and disproportionate representation. In the event that the available information demonstrates inappropriate overidentification or disproportionate representation by race and ethnicity of children as children with disabilities, the school district shall correct the matter as soon as practicable, but in no case later than any time period required by law.

**Prohibition on Mandatory Medication (34 CFR § 300.174 )**

State and school district personnel shall not require parents to obtain a prescription for substances identified under schedules I, II, III, IV, or V in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)) for a child as a condition of attending school, receiving an evaluation under sections 300.300 through 300.311, or receiving services authorized under IDEA.

**Transportation (Rule 51 § 014; 34 CFR § 300.34(c)(16))**

The school district shall provide transportation or transportation services to special education students who qualify for it under law as provided in NEB. REV. STAT. 79-1129, Rule 51, and IDEA. This may include paying mileage reimbursement to parents, transporting children with school district vehicles, contracting with a transportation company, or using any other method that is proper and necessary to transport students. Transportation eligibility will be determined by the student's IEP Team. The plan for transportation for the student shall be part of the IEP if required by law.

**Written Notice of Change (Rule 51 § 009.05A-D)**

The school district will provide the parents of a student with a disability with prior written notice within a reasonable time before the school district either proposes or refuses to make a change to the student's identification, evaluation, or educational placement, or the provision of a

free appropriate public education. The written notice will comply with sections 009.05B-D of Rule 51 of the Nebraska Department of Education.

### **Informed Parental Consent** (Rule 51 § 009.08)

The school district will obtain informed parental consent before: a) conducting an initial evaluation to determine if a child qualifies as a child with a disability, b) conducting a reevaluation, c) initial placement of a child with disabilities in a program providing special education and related services or early intervention services, d) accessing a child's or parent's public benefits or insurance for the first time (and after providing notification to the child's parents consistent with 92 NAC 51-009.90A2); and e) accessing a child's or parent's private insurance proceeds (each time).

### **Parent Refusal to Consent Under Rule 52** (Rule 52 § 009.02K3)

If a parent refuses to provide consent under Rule 52, the school district may:

- Hold a meeting with the parent(s) to explain how the parent's failure to consent affects the ability of their child to receive early intervention services;
- Provide the parents with written information regarding early intervention services;
- Provide referrals to other agencies, if appropriate; and
- Take other actions or make such other efforts as the school district deems appropriate.

Nothing in these procedures shall override a parent's right to refuse to consent under section 009.03A of Rule 52.

### **Appointment of Surrogate For Student** (Rule 51 § 009.10B)

The school district shall ensure that the rights of students with disabilities are protected by informing the members of the student's IEP team whenever (1) a parent cannot be identified, (2) a parent(s), legal guardian or individual acting *in loco parentis* for the student cannot be located, (3) the child is an unaccompanied homeless youth, or (4) the child is a ward of the State or court. The team will then hold a meeting to discuss and consider whether the school district must appoint a surrogate to participate on the IEP team and fulfill the role of the student's parent. Surrogate parents shall only be appointed when required or allowed by Rule 51 or IDEA. If the district identifies students who may be in need of a surrogate parent, the district will:

1. Attempt to identify and locate the parent;
2. Investigate the legal status of those student(s); and
3. If after a reasonable effort, the parents cannot be located, the school district shall ensure that the rights of students with disabilities are protected by appointing a surrogate.
4. Surrogates will be provided sufficient training to assure they are knowledgeable as to the legal rights and educational needs of the student they are to represent. Training will be conducted as needed.
5. Surrogates will be appointed by the director of special education following documentation that no conflict of interest exists and completion of appropriate training or assurance that the surrogate is knowledgeable in order to represent the student.
6. Surrogates will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure effective performance. Should a surrogate be unable or unwilling to discharge his or her duties, a new surrogate will be appointed by the director.
7. The surrogate parent shall continue to represent the student until one of the following occurs:
  - a. The student is determined to no longer be eligible for, or in need of, special education or related services except when termination from such programs is being contested;
  - b. The parent, who was previously unknown, or whose whereabouts were previously unknown or a guardian or person acting as the student's parents becomes known; and/or,
  - c. It is determined that the appointed surrogate parent no longer adequately represents the student.
  - d. The surrogate parent's term has expired.



## **Section 504 and Title II Procedures**

The following procedures describe the steps that the school district will generally follow in implementing Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. If any procedure described herein conflicts with or is inconsistent with state or federal laws or regulations, the law or regulation will control. Nothing in the following procedures creates any enforceable right, educational entitlement or procedural protection that is separate from or in addition to the rights provided by state and federal law and regulation.

### **Definition of Child with a Physical or Mental Impairment.**

Students with disabilities shall be entitled to protections provided by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. A student with a disability is defined a student with a physical or mental impairments that substantially limits the student in a major life activity.

The determination of whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity shall be made without regard to the ameliorative effects of mitigating measures such as: (1) medication, medical supplies, equipment, or appliances, low-vision devices (which do not include ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses), prosthetics including limbs and devices, hearing aids and cochlear implants or other implantable hearing devices, mobility devices, or oxygen therapy equipment and supplies; (2) use of assistive technology; (3) reasonable accommodations or auxiliary aids or services; or (4) learned behavioral or adaptive neurological modifications. The ameliorative effects of the mitigating measures of ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses shall be considered in determining whether an impairment substantially limits a major life activity.

An impairment that substantially limits one major life activity need not limit other major life activities in order to be considered a disability.

An impairment that is episodic or in remission is a disability if it would substantially limit a major life activity when active.

The definition of disability shall be construed in favor of broad coverage of individuals under Section 504 and Title II, to the maximum extent permitted by the terms of those laws.

## **Child Find Process**

To identify, locate and evaluate children residing within the geographic boundaries of the school district who may qualify for special education (including homeless children and wards of the State), the school district will take the following practical steps:

- a) announce in mailings sent to families with school-aged children at least annually that the school district will identify and verify children at no charge for possible disabilities;
- b) include information about the identification and verification of children for possible disabilities at no charge in mailings sent to patrons, homeless shelters, and Health and Human Service offices located in the school district at least annually; and
- c) accept referrals for evaluation directly from parents, school personnel, and other state and regional agencies.

## **Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)**

The District shall provide a FAPE to each qualified student with a disability in the District's jurisdiction. An appropriate education is the provision of regular or special education and related aids and services that are designed to meet individual educational needs of students with disabilities as adequately as the needs of students without disabilities are met, and complies with applicable federal regulations.

## **Educational Services for Children with Disabilities**

The District shall educate, or shall provide for the education of, each qualified student with a disability in its jurisdiction with students without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student with a disability. The District shall place a student with a disability in the regular educational environment unless it is demonstrated by the District that the education of the student in the regular environment with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

The District shall ensure that students with disabilities participate with students without disabilities in nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities to the maximum extent appropriate to the needs of the student with a disability. Nonacademic and extracurricular services and activities include, but are not limited to, meals, recess periods, counseling

services, physical recreational athletics, transportation, health services, recreational activities, special interest groups or clubs sponsored by the District, referrals to agencies which provide assistance to students with disabilities, and employment of students.

## **Evaluation and Placement**

The District shall conduct an evaluation of any student who, because of a disability, needs or is believed to need special education or related services before taking any action with respect to the initial placement of the student in regular or special education and any subsequent significant change in placement. The District shall ensure that:

- Tests and other evaluation materials have been validated for the specific purpose for which they are used and are administered by trained personnel in conformance with the instructions provided by their producer.
- Tests and other evaluation materials include those tailored to assess specific areas of educational need and not merely those which are designed to provide a single general intelligence quotient.
- Tests are selected and administered so as best to ensure that, when a test is administered to a student with impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills, the test results accurately reflect the student's aptitude or achievement level or whatever other factor the test purports to measure, rather than reflecting the student's impaired sensory, manual, or speaking skills (except where those skills are the factors that the test purports to measure).

The District shall ensure the following actions are taken when interpreting evaluation data and making placement decisions:

- Draw upon information from a variety of sources, including aptitude and achievement tests, teacher recommendations, physical condition, social or cultural background, and adaptive behavior.
- Establish procedures to ensure that information obtained from all such sources is documented and carefully considered.
- Ensure that the placement decision is made by a group of persons, including persons knowledgeable about the student, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options. A parent(s) or

guardian is a required participant if he or she is a person knowledgeable about the student.

## **Reevaluation**

The District shall ensure that students with disabilities who have been provided special education or related services are periodically reevaluated.

## **Functional Behavioral Analyses and Behavior Intervention Plans**

Before the school district will change the educational placement of a student with a disability for disciplinary reasons, the school district will conduct a functional behavioral assessment (FBA) and, when appropriate, will develop a behavior intervention plan (BIP) based on information in the FBA. The FBA will be conducted by qualified professionals and team members, including parents, who are knowledgeable about the student and the student's behaviors.

Once a BIP is implemented all staff will continue to apply it with fidelity until and unless the BIP is modified or discontinued by the student's educational team. The team will review the student's behavior progress at meetings scheduled by the 504 coordinator at appropriate and periodic intervals, depending on the needs and behaviors of the student.