

## STUDENTS

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## OBJECTIVES FOR EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

This series of the board policy manual is devoted to the board's goals and objectives for assisting the students of the school district in obtaining an education. Each student will have an opportunity to obtain an education in compliance with the policies in this series.

It is the goal of the board to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept in the students enrolled in the school district. Each student attending school will have the opportunity to use it and its education program and services as a means for self-improvement and individual growth. In so doing, the students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that assures each student the same opportunity.

The board supports the delivery of the education program and services to students free of discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, marital status, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability. This concept of equal educational opportunity serves as a guide for the board and employees in making decisions relating to school district facilities, employment, and selection of educational materials, equipment, curriculum, and regulations affecting students.

In the delivery of the education program, students will treat the employees with respect and students will receive the same in return. Employees have the best interests of the students in mind and will assist them in school-related or personal matters if they are able to do so. Students should feel free to discuss problems, whether school-related or personal, with the guidance counselor or other employees.

Board policies, rules and regulations affect students while they are on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered vehicles; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

Board policy refers to the term "parents" in many of the policies. The term parents for purposes of this policy manual means the legal parents, the legal guardian or custodian of a student, and students who have reached the age of majority or are otherwise considered an adult by law.

Inquiries by students regarding compliance with equal educational opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, are directed to the Affirmative Action Coordinator by writing to the Affirmative Action Coordinator Glidden-Ralston Community School District, Box 488, Glidden, Iowa 51443; or by telephoning 712-659-3411.

Inquiries by students regarding compliance with equal educational opportunity and affirmative action laws and policies, including but not limited to complaints of discrimination, may also be directed in writing to the Director of the Region VII office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education 8930 Ward Parkway, Suite 2037, Kansas City, MO. 64114 (816) 268-0550, <http://www.state.ia.us/government/crc/index.html> or Iowa Dept. of Education, Grimes State Office Bldg., Des Moines, IA. (515) 281-5294. This inquiry or complaint to the federal or state office may be done instead of, or in addition to, an inquiry or complaint at the local level.

Approved April, 1998 Reviewed November 2021 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## OBJECTIVES FOR EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Further information and copies of the procedures for filing a complaint are available in the school district's central administrative office and the administrative office in each attendance center.

## RESIDENT STUDENTS

Children who are residents of the school district community will attend the school district without paying tuition.

The residence of a student means the place, abode, or dwelling of the student. Generally, the legal dwelling of minors is the same as their parents. However, a student may establish a dwelling with someone other than the parents and attend public school in the school district without paying tuition if the primary purpose for residing in the school district is not for the purpose of obtaining a free public education. Further, students who have reached the age of majority and who are still eligible to attend an Iowa secondary school may declare their residence independent of the residence of the parents.

Each case involving the bona fide residence of a student will be decided upon its individual merits by the superintendent.

Cross Reference:      100      Legal Status of the School Board  
                                 501      Student Attendance

Approved April 1995 Reviewed November 2021 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## NONRESIDENT STUDENTS

Students who are eligible to attend an Iowa public school but who are not legal residents of the school district may be admitted into the school district at the discretion of the superintendent upon application and payment of tuition. The tuition rate shall be the current per-pupil cost of the school district as computed by the board secretary and as authorized by the Iowa Department of Education.

Resident students whose families move from the school district after the start of a semester and who wish to complete the semester in the school district may be permitted to attend without the payment of tuition at the discretion of the superintendent. Students who plan to open enroll to the nonresident district may complete the school year without approval of the superintendent or board.

Students in grades eleven or twelve who are no longer residents of the school district, but were residents in the preceding school year, may continue to attend school until they graduate without the payment of tuition.

Nonresident students who are eligible to attend an Iowa public school and who have evidence they will become legal residents of the school district prior to the third Friday in September may be allowed to attend without the payment of tuition.

Cross Reference:        501 Student Attendance

Approved April 1995 Reviewed November 2021 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE

Parents within the school district who have children over age six and under age sixteen by September 15, in proper physical and mental condition to attend school, shall have the children attend school. Students shall attend school the number of days school is in session in accordance with the school calendar. Exceptions to this policy include children who: Students of compulsory attendance age will attend school a minimum of \_\_\_\_\_ days or hours. Students not attending the minimum days or hours must be exempted by this policy as listed below or, referred to the county attorney. Exceptions to this policy include children who:

- have completed the requirements for graduation in an accredited school or have obtained a high school equivalency diploma;
- are attending religious services or receiving religious instruction;
- are attending an approved or probationally approved private college preparatory school;
- are attending an accredited nonpublic school;
- are receiving independent private instruction; or,
- are receiving competent private instruction.

It is the responsibility of the parent of a child to provide evidence of the child's mental and physical inability to attend school or of the child's qualifications for one of the exceptions listed above.

The principal will investigate the cause for a student's truancy. If the principal is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, the principal should discuss the next step with the school board. If after school board action, the student is still truant, principal will refer the matter over to the county attorney.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The superintendent will represent the school district in mediation. The school district will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

*Note: The compulsory attendance law does not require school districts to have a truancy officer.*

Cross Reference:       501     Student Attendance  
                              601.1   School Calendar  
                              604.1   Competent Private Instruction

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised November 2021

## ENTRANCE - ADMISSIONS

Children in the school district community will be allowed to enroll in the school district's regular education program beginning at age five. The child must be age five on or prior to September 15 to participate in the school district's kindergarten program. The child must be age six on or prior to September 15 to begin the first grade of the education program.

Before the student may enroll in the district's education program, the board will require evidence of age and residency in the form of a birth certificate or other evidence of age. It is within the discretion of the superintendent to determine what is satisfactory evidence for proof of age.

Prior to enrollment, the child must provide the administration with their health and immunization certificate. Failure to provide this information within the time period set by the superintendent is reason for suspension, expulsion or denying admission to the student.

***NOTE: This policy reflects current Iowa law. Only the state registrar has authority to make a copy of a birth certificate. Districts who utilize online registration platforms should be aware that birth certificates should not be uploaded on the online platform as proof of age, as that creates a copy of the birth certificate. Districts can either view a birth certificate in person then return it to the child's guardian; or utilize a variety of documents including but not limited to a certified statement from a treating medical provider, or an immunization record from the child's treating provider that lists the child's date of birth as sufficient proof of age.***

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 139A.8; 144.45(5); 282.1, .3, .6.

Cross Reference: 501 Student Attendance  
507.1 Student Health and Immunization Certificates

Approved April 1995 Reviewed November 2021 Revised November 2021



ATTENDANCE CENTER ASSIGNMENT

The board will have complete discretion to determine the boundaries for each attendance center, to assign students to the attendance centers.

Parents or guardians of siblings in the same grade level academically in grades kindergarten through grade five may request the siblings be placed in the same or different classrooms. In order to be valid, the request must be made in writing and submitted to the school principal at the time of registration for classes, or within fourteen days after the children’s first day of attendance during the school year. If a valid request is received by the school principal, the request must be honored. While a parent or guardian may make a placement request that siblings be placed together or apart, the district administration retains complete discretion to select the classroom teacher(s) to which siblings are assigned. If after the initial grading period following the placement of siblings in the same or different classrooms the school principal determines the placement is disruptive to the class; the principal may assign one or more of the siblings to different classrooms.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board annually regarding the assigned attendance center for each student. In making the recommendation, the superintendent will consider the geographical layout of the school district, the condition and location of the school district facilities, the location of student population, possible transportation challenges, financial condition of the school district and other factors deemed relevant by the superintendent or the board.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT TRANSFERS IN

Students who transfer into the school district must meet the immunization and age requirements set out for students who initially enroll in the school district.

The school district shall request the student's cumulative records from the previous school district. If the student cannot offer proof of grade level, the superintendent will make the grade level determination. The superintendent may require testing or other information to determine the grade level. Students expelled or suspended from their previous school district will only be enrolled after approval of the board.

The superintendent shall determine the amount of credits to be transferred. If the student has not previously attended an accredited school, it is within the superintendent's discretion to accept or reject credits or grades.

The board may deny admission if the student is not willing to provide the board with the necessary information.

Cross Reference:     501     Student Attendance  
                          505.3   Student Honors and Awards  
                          507     Student Health and Well-Being  
                          604.1   Competent Private Instruction

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995     Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021     Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT TRANSFERS OUT OR WITHDRAWALS

If the student's parents wish to withdraw or transfer the student from school prior to completing and graduating from the education program, they shall notify the superintendent in writing as soon as possible of the decision to withdraw or transfer the student from the education program. The student or parent should present this written notice at the office and receive instructions regarding the return of textbooks, library books, locker equipment, etc.

The notice shall state the student's final day of attendance. If the student is not enrolling in another school district, the school district shall maintain the student's records in the same manner as the records of students who have graduated from the school district.

If the parents wish to have the student's cumulative record sent to the new school district, the parents shall notify the superintendent in writing. This notice shall include the name of the school district and the person at the new school district to whom the student's cumulative records should be sent. If the new school district requests the student's cumulative records, the school district will forward the cumulative records and notify the parents the records have been sent. The notice shall inform the parents of their right to review the records sent.

If the student is of compulsory education age and not transferring to another public school district or an accredited nonpublic school, the parents shall notify the superintendent that the student is receiving competent private instruction and file the necessary competent private instruction reports.

Cross Reference:      501      Student Attendance  
                             506      Student Records  
                             604.1      Competent Private Instruction

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT ATTENDANCE RECORDS

As part of the school district's records, the daily attendance of each student shall be recorded and maintained on file with the permanent records of the board secretary.

It shall be the responsibility of the principals to ensure that such reports are filed with the board secretary, the custodian of school records.

Cross Reference:      501      Student Attendance  
                             506      Student Records

Approved April 1995      Reviewed November 2021      Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT ABSENCES - EXCUSED

Regular attendance by students is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the education program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students will attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Student absences approved by the principal are excused absences. Excused absences will count as days in attendance for purposes of the truancy law. These absences include, but are not limited to, [illness, family emergencies, recognized religious observances, appointments that cannot be scheduled outside the school day and school-sponsored or approved activities].

The district believes that traditional, in-person school attendance leads to the greatest learning opportunities for students. However, there may be rare and unusual circumstances created by public emergencies declared by state or local officials which temporarily prevent students from attending traditional, in-person school. In these circumstances, the superintendent will have discretion to make reasonable accommodations for students, on a case-by-case basis, to attend school through remote learning opportunities within the available resources of the district and as permitted by law. During approved remote learning, attendance will be taken, assessments may be administered, and grades will count towards students' cumulative grade point average as if they were attending in person. The provision of special education and accommodations for students who have individualized education programs (IEPs) or Section 504 plans will be determined by each respective IEP or Section 504 team.

Students whose absences are approved will make up the work missed and receive full credit for the missed school work. It is the responsibility of the student to initiate a procedure with the student's teacher to complete the work missed.

Students who wish to participate in school-sponsored activities must attend school [the full day or one-half day] the day of the activity unless permission has been given by the principal for the student to be absent.

It is the responsibility of the parent to notify the student's attendance center as soon as the parent knows the student will not be attending school on that day. The principal may request evidence or written verification of the student's reason for absence.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference:

[34 C.F.R. sec. 300](#)

[28 C.F.R. Pt. 35](#)

[Iowa Code §§ 294.4; 299.](#)

[281 I.A.C. 12.3\(4\).](#)

Cross Reference:

501 Student Attendance

503 Student Discipline

504 Student Activities

506 Student Records

Approved April 1995 Reviewed November 2021 Revised November 2021

## TRUANCY - UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

Regular attendance by the students at school is essential for students to obtain the maximum opportunities from the education program. Parents and students alike are encouraged to ensure an absence from school is a necessary absence. Students shall attend school unless excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Truancy is the failure to attend school for the minimum number of days established in the school calendar by the board. Truancy is the act of being absent without a reasonable excuse. These absences shall include, but not be limited to, tardiness, shopping, hunting, concerts, preparation or participation in parties and other celebrations and employment. Truancy will not be tolerated by the board.

Students are subject to disciplinary action for truancy including suspension and expulsion. It shall be within the discretion of the principal to determine, in light of the circumstances, whether a student may make up work missed because of truancy. Students receiving special education services will not be assigned to [supervised study hall, in-school suspension] unless the goals and objectives of the student's Individualized Education Program are capable of being met.

The truancy officer shall investigate the cause for a student's truancy. If the truancy officer is unable to secure the truant student's attendance, the truancy officer should discuss the next step with the superintendent. If after discussion with superintendent, the student is still truant, the truancy officer shall refer the matter over to the county attorney.

The school will participate in mediation if requested by the county attorney. The superintendent shall represent the school district in mediation. The school district will monitor the student's compliance with the mediation agreement and will report violations of the mediation agreement to the county attorney.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations shall indicate the disciplinary action to be taken for truancy.

Cross Reference:      206.3    Secretary  
                              410.3    Truancy Officer  
                              501      Student Attendance  
                              503      Student Discipline  
                              504      Student Activities  
                              506      Student Records

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT RELEASE DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Students will be allowed to leave the school district facilities during school hours only with prior authorization from their parents, unless the parent appears personally at the student's attendance center to arrange for the release of the student during school hours, or with the permission of the principal.

Approved reasons for release of a student during the school day shall include, but not be limited to, illness, family emergencies, medical appointments, religious instruction, classes outside the student's attendance center, employment for which the student has been issued a work permit and other reasons determined appropriate by the principal.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

|                  |     |                    |
|------------------|-----|--------------------|
| Cross Reference: | 501 | Student Attendance |
|                  | 503 | Student Discipline |
|                  | 504 | Student Activities |
|                  | 506 | Student Records    |

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_



## PREGNANT STUDENTS

The board encourages pregnant students to continue to attend the education program as long as they are physically able to do so. The pregnant student may notify the principal or the guidance counselor as soon as she is aware of the pregnancy. The school may require that a pregnant student provide the principal with a written note from her doctor relative to special conditions that might exist and specific suggestions as to how long the student may continue to attend classes. If the student is unable to attend school because of her physical condition, the student may be excused and arrangements made to continue her studies during her absence. The student shall resume classes upon the recommendation of her physician.

Cross Reference:      501      Student Attendance  
                             604.2      Individualized Instruction

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995      Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021      Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENTS OF LEGAL AGE

Students who have attained legal age may continue the education program without payment of tuition as long as they are eligible to attend an Iowa public school and are residents of the school district.

Parents will be allowed to access and view the student's records without written permission from the student if the student is still a dependent for tax purposes. In most cases, with the discretion of the principal or the superintendent, the student will be able to make decisions and sign documents rather than requiring parental permission or signature.

Cross Reference:     501 Student Attendance  
                          506 Student Records

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995     Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021     Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## OPEN ENROLLMENT TRANSFERS - PROCEDURES AS A SENDING DISTRICT

The school district will participate in open enrollment as a sending district. As a sending district, the board will allow resident students who meet the requirements to open enroll to another public school district.

Parents requesting open enrollment out of the school district for their student will notify the sending and receiving school district no later than March 1 in the school year proceeding the first year desired for open enrollment. The notice is made on forms provided by the Department of Education. The forms are available at the central administration office.

Parents of children who will begin kindergarten in the school district are exempt from the open enrollment March 1 deadline. Parents of children who will begin kindergarten will file in the same manner set forth above by September 1. Parents who have good cause as defined by law for failing to meet the March 1 deadline may make an open enrollment request by September 1 unless another deadline applies.

The receiving district will approve open enrollment requests according to the timelines established by law. The parents may withdraw the open enrollment request prior to the start of the school year. The receiving district's superintendent will notify the parents and sending school district by mail within five days of the school district's action to approve or deny the open enrollment request.

The board will not approve a student's request to allow the receiving district to enter the school district for the purposes of transportation.

An open enrollment request out of the school district from parents of a special education student is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The determining factor for approval of such an open enrollment request will be whether the special education program available in the receiving school district is appropriate for the student's needs. The area education agency director of special education serving the receiving district will determine whether the program is appropriate. The special education student will remain in the school district until the final determination is made.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to maintain open enrollment request applications and notice forms. It will also be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop appropriate office procedures and administrative regulations necessary for open enrollment requests.

***NOTE: This policy reflects Iowa's open enrollment law. The option addresses the issue of transportation of open enrolled students. The board needs to establish by policy whether it will or will not allow a receiving district to enter the district to pick up open enrolled students. This option is on the bottom of the first page of this policy. For more detailed discussion of this issue, see IASB's Policy Primer, Vol. 18 #3 – June 24, 2005.***

Cross Reference:      501      Student Attendance  
                             506      Student Records

Approved April, 1995                      Reviewed November 2021                      Revised November, 2021

## OPEN ENROLLMENT TRANSFERS - PROCEDURES AS A RECEIVING DISTRICT

The school district will participate in open enrollment as a receiving district. As a receiving district, the board will allow nonresident students, who meet the legal requirements, to open enroll into the school district. The board will have complete discretion to determine the attendance center of the students attending the school district under open enrollment.

The superintendent will approve all timely filed applications by June 1; incoming kindergarten applications; good cause application; or continuation of an educational program application filed by September 1.

The superintendent will notify the sending school district and parents within five days of the school district's action to approve or deny the open enrollment request.

Open enrollment requests into the school district will not be approved if insufficient classroom space exists. Open enrollment requests into the school district will also not be approved for students who have been suspended or expelled by the administration or the board of the school district the student is or was attending until the student has been reinstated into the school district from which the student was suspended or expelled. Once the student is reinstated, the student's open enrollment request will be considered in the same manner as other open enrollment requests provided the required timelines are met.

Open enrollment requests into the school district that, if denied, would result in students from the same nuclear family being enrolled in different school districts, will be given highest priority. The board, in its discretion, may waive the insufficient classroom space reason for denial for students of the same nuclear family to prevent the division of a nuclear family between two school districts. Other open enrollment requests into the school district are considered in the order received by the school district with the first open enrollment request given a higher priority than the second open enrollment request and so forth.

Students in grades nine through twelve open enrolling into the school district will be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics, at the varsity level, in accordance with applicable law.

Parents are responsible for providing transportation to and from the receiving school district without reimbursement unless the parents qualify for transportation assistance. Upon a parent's request, the board may approve transportation into the sending district. (The transportation is limited to within two (2) miles of the district boundary. The board's approval is subject to the sending district's approval.

Parents of students whose open enrollment requests are approved by the (board or superintendent) are responsible for providing transportation to and from the receiving school district without reimbursement. The board will not approve transportation into the sending district.]

## OPEN ENROLLMENT TRANSFERS - PROCEDURES AS A RECEIVING DISTRICT

An open enrollment request into the school district from parents of a special education student is reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The determining factors for approval of such an open enrollment request will be whether the special education program available in the school district is appropriate for the student's needs and whether the enrollment of the special education student will cause the class size to exceed the maximum allowed. The area education agency director of special education serving the school district will determine whether the program is appropriate. The special education student will remain in the sending district until the final determination is made.

The policies of the school district will apply to students attending the school district under open enrollment.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop appropriate office procedures and administrative regulations necessary for open enrollment requests.

***NOTE: This policy reflects Iowa's open enrollment law. The board needs to determine whether it will delegate***

|                  |        |  |
|------------------|--------|--|
| Cross Reference: | 501.6  | Student Transfers In   |
|                  | 501.7  | Student Transfers Out or Withdrawals                         |
|                  | 501.14 | Open Enrollment Transfers - Procedures as a Sending District |
|                  | 506    | Student Records  |
|                  | 507    | Student Health and Well-Being                                |
|                  | 606.6  | Insufficient Classroom Space                                 |

## HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH

The board will make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children and youth of school age within the district, encourage their enrollment and eliminate existing barriers to their receiving an education which may exist in district policies or practices. The designated coordinator for identification of homeless children and for tracking and monitoring programs and activities for these children is the homeless liaison.

|                  |       |  |
|------------------|-------|--|
| Cross Reference: | 501   | Student Attendance                           |
|                  | 503.3 | Fines - Fees - Charges                       |
|                  | 506   | Student Records                              |
|                  | 507.1 | Student Health and Immunization Certificates |
|                  | 603.3 | Special Education                            |
|                  | 711.1 | Student School Transportation Eligibility    |

Approved April, 1995 Reviewed November 2021 Revised October, 2005

## STUDENT APPEARANCE

The board believes inappropriate student appearance causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors.

Students are expected to adhere to standards of cleanliness and dress that are compatible with the requirements of a good learning environment. The standards will be those generally acceptable to the community as appropriate in a school setting.

The board expects students to be clean and well-groomed and wear clothes in good repair and appropriate for the time, place and occasion. Clothing or other apparel promoting products illegal for use by minors and clothing displaying obscene material, profanity, or reference to prohibited conduct are disallowed. While the primary responsibility for appearance lies with the students and their parents, appearance disruptive to the education program will not be tolerated. When, in the judgment of a principal, a student's appearance or mode of dress disrupts the educational process or constitutes a threat to health or safety, the student may be required to make modifications.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principals, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:       500 Objectives for Equal Educational Opportunities for Students  
                              502 Student Rights and Responsibilities

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

### CARE OF SCHOOL PROPERTY/VANDALISM

Students shall treat school district property with the care and the respect they would treat their own property. Students found to have destroyed or otherwise harmed school district property may be required to reimburse the school district. They may be subject to discipline under board policy and the school district rules and regulations. They may also be referred to local law enforcement authorities.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative rules regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:       502     Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                              802.1   Maintenance Schedule

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_



## STUDENT EXPRESSION AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

### Student Expression

It is the goal of the district to protect the educational environment for all students to help ensure it is free from substantial disruption or infringement upon their rights. Student expression should be appropriate to help ensure that the students learn and meet the goals of the school activity and that the potential audience is not exposed to material that may be harmful or inappropriate for their level of maturity.

While students will generally be allowed to express their viewpoints and opinions, in certain qualifying circumstances, student speech may require administrative regulation to help ensure the safety and welfare of the school community. The district may regulate speech that: causes or is reasonably anticipated to cause a material and substantial disruption to the education environment; infringes upon the rights of others; is obscene or lewd; is school sponsored; and/or promotes illegal activity. The administration, when making this judgment, will consider whether the activity in which the expression was made is school-sponsored and whether review or prohibition of the students' speech furthers an educational purpose. The expression must be done in a reasonable time, place, and manner that is not disruptive to the orderly and efficient operation of the school district.

The superintendent may develop procedures for safely addressing qualifying types of mass protests by students, including walk-ins and walk-outs. Walk-ins occur when students leave their learning environments during school hours and gather in a group or groups with the purpose of promoting a belief or beliefs. Walk-outs occur when students leave their learning environments during school hours and gather in a group or groups off district property with the purpose of promoting a belief or beliefs.

The superintendent is encouraged to obtain feedback from community stakeholders in the development of these procedures. The goal of the procedures shall be to address student safety, maintain the education environment and promote communication during demonstrations while remaining viewpoint neutral.

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary measures. Employees are responsible for helping to ensure students' expression is in keeping with this policy. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

### Student Publications

Students may produce official school publications as part of the curriculum under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the principal. Official school publications include material produced in journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee.

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## STUDENT EXPRESSION AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Any expression made by students, including student expression in official school publications, is not an expression of official school policy. The school district, the board, and the employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students unless the employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student speech or expression. The liability, if any, is only to the extent of the interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

Official school publications are free from prior restraint by employees or officials except as provided by law. A faculty advisor will supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech. The production of official school publications is guided by the law and by the ethical standards adopted by professional associations or societies of journalism.

Persons, other than students, who believe they have been aggrieved by student expression in a student-produced official school publication will follow the grievance procedure outlined in board policy 213.1. Students who believe their freedom of expression in a student-produced official school publication has been restricted will follow the grievance procedure outlined in board policy 502.4.

The superintendent is responsible for developing a student publications code. This code will include, but not be limited to, reasonable rules including time, place, and manner of restrictions. The superintendent will also be responsible for distributing this policy and the student publications code to the students and their parents.

***NOTE: This policy represents the current status of students' first amendment rights. This is a mandatory policy and accompanying regulation required by Iowa Code ch. 279.73. Schools are urged to handle all protests through a strictly viewpoint neutral lens. Districts should consider the need to balance opposing views. If one social issue is permitted, other opposing viewpoints should also be permitted.***

Legal Reference: U.S. Const. amend. I.  
Iowa Const. art. I (sec. 7)

*Morse v. Frederick*, 551 U.S. 393 (2007)

*Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier*, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).  
*Bethel School District v. Fraser*, 478 U.S. 675 (1986).  
*New Jersey v. T.L.O.*, 469 U.S. 325 (1985).  
*Tinker v. Des Moines Ind. Comm. Sch. Dist.*, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).  
*Bystrom v. Fridley High School*, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987).  
Iowa Code §§ 279.8, .73; 280.22

Cross Reference: 102 Equal Educational Opportunity  
502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
504 Student Activities  
603.9 Academic Freedom  
903.5 Distribution of Materials

## STUDENT EXPRESSION AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS CODE

- A. Student Expression defined:** Student Expression is speech, action or other forms of expression which convey a student's beliefs, views or opinions.
- B. Official school publications defined:** An "official school publication" is material produced by students in journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to students either free or for a fee.
- C. Limitations to Student Expression**
1. No student will express, publish or distribute publication material which is:
    - a. obscene;
    - b. libelous;
    - c. slanderous; or
    - d. encourages students to:
      - 1) commit unlawful acts;
      - 2) violate lawful school regulations;
      - 3) cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity;
      - 4) disrupt or interfere with the education program;
      - 5) interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
      - 6) infringe on the rights of others.
- D. Responsibilities of students for official school publications.**
1. Students writing or editing official school publications will assign and edit the news, editorial and feature contents of the official school publications subject to the limitations of the student publications code and the law.
  2. Students will strive to achieve professional standards of accuracy, fairness, objectivity and thoroughness in each and every aspect of official school publications.
  3. Students will strive to achieve professional standards of grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling for clarity and accuracy of official school publications.
- E. Responsibilities of faculty advisors for official school publications.**
- Faculty advisors will supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech. Official school publications are produced under the supervision of a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors to students producing official school publications shall supervise the production of the student staff in order to maintain professional standards of English journalism. District employees acting within the scope of their professional ethics will not suffer adverse employment action or retaliated against for acting to protect a student for engaging in authorized student expression or for refusing to infringe on protected student expression.
- F. District employee rights**
- Any District employee or official, acting within the scope of that person's professional ethics, if any, shall not be dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, subject to termination

## STUDENT EXPRESSION AND STUDENT PUBLICATIONS CODE

or nonrenewal of a teaching contract or extracurricular contract, or otherwise retaliated against for acting to protect a student for engaging in expression protected by law, or refusing to infringe upon student expression that is protected by law.

### G. **Liability**

Student expression, including student expression in an official school publication will not be deemed to be an expression of the school district. The school district, the board, and the employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students unless the employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student expression. The liability, if any, is only to the extent of interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

### H. **Appeal procedure**

1. Students who believe they have been unreasonably restricted in their exercise of expression in an official student publication will seek review of the decision through the student grievance procedure, under board policy 502.4.
2. Persons who believe they have been aggrieved by a student-produced official student publication will file their complaint through the citizen grievance procedure, under board policy 213.1.

### I. **Time, place and manner of restrictions on student expression.**

1. Student expression may be conveyed and official student publications may be distributed in a reasonable manner on or off school premises.
2. Student expression and distribution of official school publications in a reasonable manner will not encourage students to:
  - a. commit unlawful acts;
  - b. violate school rules;
  - c. cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school district or school activity;
  - d. disrupt or interfere with the education program;
  - e. interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
  - f. infringe on the rights of others.

## STUDENT COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

Student complaints and grievances regarding board policy or administrative regulations and other matters should be addressed to the student's teacher or another licensed employee, other than the administration, for resolution of the complaint. It is the goal of the board to resolve student complaints at the lowest organizational level.

If the complaint cannot be resolved by a licensed employee, the student may discuss the matter with the principal within 5 days of the employee's decision. If the matter cannot be resolved by the principal, the student may discuss it with the superintendent within 5 days after speaking with the principal.

If the matter is not satisfactorily resolved by the superintendent, the student may ask to have the matter placed on the board agenda of a regularly scheduled board meeting in compliance with board policy.

Cross Reference:      210.8 Board Meeting Agenda  
                             213 Public Participation in Board Meetings  
                             307 Communication Channels  
                             502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                             504.3 Student Publications

Approved April 1995 Reviewed November 2021 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT LOCKERS

Student lockers are the property of the school district. Students shall use the lockers assigned to them by the school district for storing their school materials and personal belongings necessary for attendance at school. It shall be the responsibility of each student to keep their assigned lockers clean and undamaged.

To ensure students are properly maintaining their assigned locker, the principal of the building may periodically inspect the lockers. Students will be given twenty-four hours notice of a maintenance inspection. Student lockers may be searched in compliance with board policy regulating search and seizure.

Cross Reference:        502 Student Rights and Responsibilities

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## WEAPONS

The board believes weapons and other dangerous objects in school district facilities cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees and visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

School district facilities are not an appropriate place for weapons or dangerous objects. Weapons and other dangerous objects shall be taken from students and others who bring them onto the school district property or onto property within the jurisdiction of the school district or from students who are within the control of the school district.

Parents of students found to possess a weapon or dangerous objects on school property shall be notified of the incident. Confiscation of weapons or dangerous objects shall be reported to the law enforcement officials, and the student will be subject to disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion.

Students bringing a firearm to school shall be expelled for not less than twelve months and will be referred to law enforcement authorities. The superintendent shall have the authority to recommend this expulsion requirement be modified for a student on a case-by-case basis. For purposes of this portion of this policy, the term "firearm" includes any weapon which is designed to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, the frame or receiver of any such weapon, a muffler or silencer for such a weapon, or any explosive, incendiary or poison gas.

Weapons under the control of law enforcement officials shall be exempt from this policy. The principal may allow authorized persons to display weapons or other dangerous objects for educational purposes. Such a display shall also be exempt from this policy. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:     502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                          503 Student Discipline  
                          507 Student Health and Well-Being

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## SMOKING - DRINKING - DRUGS

The board prohibits the distribution, dispensing, manufacture, possession, use, or being under the influence of beer, wine, alcohol, tobacco, other controlled substances, or "look alike" substances that appear to be tobacco, beer, wine, alcohol or controlled substances by students while on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered buses; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

The board believes such illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials generally cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or present a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, or visitors.

Violation of this policy by students will result in disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion. Use, purchase or being in possession of cigarettes, tobacco or tobacco products for those under the age of eighteen, may be reported to the local law enforcement authorities. Possession, use or being under the influence of beer, wine, alcohol and/or of a controlled substance may also be reported to the local law enforcement authorities.

Students who violate the terms of this policy may be required to satisfactorily complete a substance abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved by the school board. If such student fails to satisfactorily complete such a program, the student may be subject to discipline including suspension or expulsion.

The board believes the substance abuse prevention program will include:

- Age-appropriate, developmentally-based drug and alcohol curriculum for students in grades kindergarten through twelve, which address the legal, social, and health consequences of tobacco, drug and alcohol use and which provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use tobacco, drugs or alcohol;
- A statement to students that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful;
- Standards of conduct for students that clearly prohibit, at a minimum, the unlawful possession, use, being under the influence of or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by students on school premises or as part of any of its activities;
- A clear statement that disciplinary sanctions, up to and including suspension or expulsion and referral for prosecution, will be imposed on students who violate the policy and a description of those sanctions;
- A statement that students may be required to successfully complete an appropriate rehabilitation program;
- Information about drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs available to students;



- A requirement that parents and students be given a copy of the standards of conduct and the statement of disciplinary sanctions required; and
- Notification to parents and students that compliance with the standards of conduct is mandatory.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:       502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                              503 Student Discipline  
                              507 Student Health and Well-Being

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## SEARCH AND SEIZURE

School district property is held in public trust by the board. School district authorities may, without a search warrant, search a student, student lockers, personal effects, desks, work areas or student vehicles based on a reasonable suspicion that a board policy, school rule or law has been broken. The search shall be in a manner reasonable in scope to maintain order and discipline in the schools, promote the educational environment, and protect the safety and welfare of students, employees and visitors to the school district facilities. The furnishing of a locker, desk or other facility or space owned by the school and provided as a courtesy to a student, even if the student provides the lock for it, will not create a protected student area and will not give rise to an expectation of privacy with respect to the locker, desk, or other facility.

School authorities may seize any illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials discovered in the search. Items of contraband may include, but are not limited to, nonprescription controlled substances, marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, barbituates, apparatus used for controlled substances, alcoholic beverages, tobacco, weapons, explosives, poisons and stolen property. Such items are not to be possessed by a student while they are on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered buses; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Possession of such items will be grounds for disciplinary action including suspension or expulsion and may be reported to local law enforcement authorities. The board believes that such illegal, unauthorized or contraband materials cause material and substantial disruption to the school environment or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, or visitors on the school district premises or property within the jurisdiction of the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:       502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                              503 Student Discipline

Approved           April 1995           Reviewed           November 2021           Revised           November 2021

SEARCH AND SEIZURE CHECKLIST

I. What factors caused you to have a reasonable and articulable suspicion that the search of this student or the student's effects or automobile would turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law, school policy, rules or regulations affecting school order?

- A. Eyewitness account.
  - 1. By whom: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Date/Time: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. Place: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. What was seen: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- B. Information from a reliable source.
  - 1. From whom: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Time received: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3. How information was received: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4. Who received the information: \_\_\_\_\_
  - 5. Describe information: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- C. Suspicious behavior. Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- D. Student's past history. Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
- E. Time of search: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- F. Location of search: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- G. Student told purpose of search: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- H. Consent of student requested: \_\_\_\_\_

II. Was the search you conducted reasonable in terms of scope and intrusiveness?

- A. What were you searching for: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- B. Where did you search?
  
- C. Sex of the student: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- D. Age of the student: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- E. Exigency of the situation: \_\_\_\_\_

SEARCH AND SEIZURE CHECKLIST

- F. What type of search was being conducted: \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Who conducted the search: \_\_\_\_\_  
Position \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_

Witness(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

III. Explanation of Search.

- A. Describe the time and location of the search: \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Describe exactly what was searched: \_\_\_\_\_
- C. What did the search yield: \_\_\_\_\_
- D. What was seized: \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Were any materials turned over to law enforcement authorities: \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Were parents notified of the search including the reason for it and the scope: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## SEARCH AND SEIZURE REGULATION

### I. Searches, in general.

- A. Reasonable and Articulate Suspicion: A search of a student will be justified when there are reasonable grounds for the suspicion that the search will turn up evidence that the student has violated or is violating the law or school district policy, rules, or regulations affecting school order.

Reasonable suspicion may be formed by considering factors such as the following:

- (1) eyewitness observations by employees;
- (2) information received from reliable sources;
- (3) suspicious behavior by the student; or,
- (4) the student's past history and school record although this factor alone is not sufficient to provide the basis for reasonable suspicion.

- B. Reasonable Scope: A search will be permissible in its scope or intrusiveness when the measures adopted are reasonably related to the objectives of the search. Reasonableness of scope or intrusiveness may be determined based on factors such as the following:

- (1) the age of the student;
- (2) the sex of the student;
- (3) the nature of the infraction; and
- (4) the emergency requiring the search without delay.

### II. Types of Searches

#### A. Personal Searches

1. A student's person and/or personal effects (e.g., purse, backpack, etc.) may be searched when a school official has reasonable suspicion to believe the student is in possession of illegal or contraband items or has violated school district policies, rules, regulations or the law affecting school order.
2. Personally intrusive searches will require more compelling circumstances to be considered reasonable.
  - (a) Pat-Down Search: If a pat-down search or a search of a student's garments (such as jackets, socks, pockets, etc.) is conducted, it will be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex as the student and with another adult witness of the same sex present, when feasible.
  - (b) A more intrusive search, short of a strip search, of the student's person, handbags, book bags, etc., is permissible in emergency situations when the health and safety of students, employees, or visitors are threatened. Such a search may only be conducted in private by a school official of the same sex as the student, with an adult of the same sex present unless the health or safety of students will be endangered by the delay which may be caused by following these procedures.

## SEARCH AND SEIZURE REGULATION

### B. Locker and Desk Inspections

Although school lockers and desks are temporarily assigned to individual students, they remain the property of the school district at all times. The school district has a reasonable and valid interest in insuring the lockers and desks are properly maintained. For this reason, lockers and desks are subject to unannounced inspections and students have no legitimate expectations of privacy in the locker or desk. Periodic inspections of all or a random selection of lockers or desks may be conducted by school officials in the presence of the student or another individual. Any contraband discovered during such searches will be confiscated by school officials and may be turned over to law enforcement officials.

The contents of a student's locker or desk (coat, backpack, purse, etc.) may be searched when a school official has reasonable and articulable suspicion that the contents contains illegal or contraband items or evidence of a violation of law or school policy or rule. Such searches should be conducted in the presence of another adult witness when feasible.

### C. Automobile Searches

Students are permitted to park on school premises as a matter of privilege, not of right. The school retains authority to conduct routine patrols of the student parking lots. The interior of a student's automobile on the school premises may be searched if the school official has reasonable and articulable suspicion to believe that illegal, unauthorized or contraband items are contained inside.

## INTERVIEWS OF STUDENTS BY OUTSIDE AGENCIES

Generally, students may not be interviewed during the school day by persons other than parents and school district officials and employees.

Requests from law enforcement officers and from persons other than parents, school district officials, and employees to interview students shall be made through the principal's office. Upon receiving a request, it shall be the responsibility of the principal to determine whether the request will be granted. Generally, prior to granting a request, the principal shall attempt to contact the parents to inform them of the request and to ask them to be present.

If a child abuse investigator wishes to interview a student, the principal will defer to the investigator's judgment as to whether the student should be interviewed independently from the student's parents, whether the school is the most appropriate setting for the interview, and who will be present during the interview.

Students will not be taken from school without the consent of the principal and without proper warrant.

Cross Reference:      402.2 Child Abuse Reporting  
                             502.8 Search and Seizure  
                             503 Student Discipline  
                             902.4 Students and the News Media

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENTS USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES

The board recognizes the convenience to families and students of having students drive to and park at their school attendance center. Driving a motor vehicle to and parking it at the student's attendance center is a privilege.

Students may not loiter around or be in their vehicle during the school day without permission from the principal. Students shall leave school when there is no longer a legitimate reason for them to be at school. Students who drive shall enter and leave the parking lot by the routes designated by the principal.

Students who live within one mile of school, and would not otherwise be eligible for a student driving permit, may be eligible for a student driving permit, for driving to and from school and school activities and practices, if the student meets the following criteria: a) must be in an activity that meets daily after school hours; b) must be in an activity through out the school year.

Example 1: Student is going to be in a fall activity, a winter activity and a spring activity... they can receive the permit in the fall.

Example 2: Student is not going to be in a fall activity, but will be in a winter activity and a spring activity... they must wait until the winter activity begins to obtain the permit.

Example 3: They will participate in a fall activity, but not a winter activity, but will participate in a spring activity... the student will not be eligible to receive the permit.

Students must realize that it is up to the discretion of school officials as to whether a student is violating the proper use of a school permit and the school can evoked that permit at any time.

Students who wish to drive to and park at their school attendance center shall comply with the rules and regulations established by the building principal. Failure to comply with this policy or the school district rules shall be reason for revocation of school driving and parking privileges as well as other disciplinary action including suspension and expulsion.

1. There shall be no driving of motor vehicles by students during school hours unless specific permission by the superintendent or principal has been given.
2. Motor vehicles driven to school by students will remain parked from the time the student arrives in the morning until school is dismissed in the evening.
3. No student will be allowed to ride in any vehicle during the school noon hour. Exceptions will be made for students riding home with parents or adult neighbors during the lunch hour.
4. Students who continually drive improperly on the school grounds may lose the privilege of driving on school grounds.
5. Any student who violates the student driving policy may be suspended from school.

Cross Reference:           502 Student Rights and Responsibilities

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## STUDENT CONDUCT

The board believes inappropriate student conduct causes material and substantial disruption to the school environment, interferes with the rights of others, or presents a threat to the health and safety of students, employees, and visitors on school premises. Appropriate classroom behavior allows teachers to communicate more effectively with students.

Students will conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age level and maturity and with respect and consideration for the rights of others while on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school owned and/or operated school or chartered vehicles; while attending or engaged in school activities; and while away from school grounds if misconduct will directly affect the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district. Consequences for the misconduct will be fair and developmentally appropriate in light of the circumstances.

Students who fail to abide by this policy, and the administrative regulations supporting it, may be disciplined for conduct which disrupts or interferes with the education program; conduct which disrupts the orderly and efficient operation of the school district or school activity; conduct which disrupts the rights of other students to participate in or obtain their education; conduct that is violent or destructive; or conduct which interrupts the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to, removal from the classroom, detention, suspension, probation, and expulsion.

A student who commits an assault against an employee on school district property or on property within the jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-owned or school-operated chartered vehicles; while attending or engaged in school district activities will be suspended by the principal. Notice of the suspension is sent to the board president. The board will review the suspension to determine whether to impose further sanctions against the student which may include expulsion. Assault for purposes of this section of this policy is defined as:

an act which is intended to cause pain or injury to, or which is intended to result in physical contact which will be insulting or offensive to another, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act; or any act which is intended to place another in fear of immediate physical contact which will be painful, injurious, insulting or offensive, coupled with the apparent ability to execute the act; or, intentionally points any firearm toward another or displays in a threatening manner any dangerous weapon toward another.

The act is not an assault when the person doing any of the above and the other person are voluntary participants in a sport, social or other activity, not in itself criminal, when the act is a reasonably foreseeable incident of such sport or activity, and does not create an unreasonable risk of serious injury or breach of the peace.

Removal from the classroom means a student is sent to the building principal's office. It is within the discretion of the person in charge of the classroom to remove the student.

Detention means the student's presence is required during non-school hours for disciplinary purposes. The student can be required to appear prior to the beginning of the school day, after school has been dismissed for the day, or on a non-school day. Whether a student will serve detention, and the length of the detention, is within the discretion of the licensed employee or the building principal, disciplining the student.

## STUDENT CONDUCT

Suspension means; either an in-school suspension, an out-of-school suspension, a restriction from activities or loss of eligibility. An in-school suspension means the student will attend school but will be temporarily isolated from one or more classes while under supervision. An in-school suspension will not exceed ten consecutive school days. An out-of-school suspension means the student is removed from the school environment, which includes school classes and activities. An out-of-school suspension will not exceed ten days. A restriction from school activities means a student will attend school and classes and practice but will not participate in school activities.

Probation means a student is given a conditional suspension of a penalty for a definite period of time in addition to being reprimanded. The conditional suspension will mean the student must meet the conditions and terms for the suspension of the penalty. Failure of the student to meet these conditions and terms will result in immediate reinstatement of the penalty.

Expulsion means an action by the board to remove a student from the school environment, which includes, but is not limited to, classes and activities, for a period of time set by the board.

Following the suspension of a special education student, an informal evaluation of the student's placement will take place. The Individual Education Program (IEP) is evaluated to determine whether it needs to be changed or modified in response to the behavior that led to the suspension.

Discipline of special education students, including suspensions and expulsions, will comply with the provisions of applicable federal and state laws.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:      501      Student Attendance  
                                 502      Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                                 504      Student Activities  
                                 603.3      Special Education  
                                 903.5      Distribution of Materials

Approved           April 1995           Reviewed           November 2021           Revised           November 2021

## STUDENT SUSPENSION

### Administration Action

#### A. Probation

1. Probation is conditional suspension of a penalty for a set period of time. Probation may be imposed by the principal for infractions of school rules which do not warrant the necessity of removal from school.
2. The principal will conduct an investigation of the allegations against the student prior to imposition of probation. The investigation will include, but not be limited to, written or oral notice to the student of the allegations against the student and an opportunity to respond. Written notice and reasons for the probation will be sent to the parents.

#### B. In-School Suspension

1. In-school suspension is the temporary isolation of a student from one or more classes while under administrative supervision. In-school suspensions may be imposed by the principal for infractions of school rules which are serious but which do not warrant the necessity of removal from school.
2. The principal shall conduct an investigation of the allegations against the student prior to imposition of an in-school suspension. The investigation will include, but not be limited to, written or oral notice to the student of the allegations against the student and an opportunity to respond. In-school suspension will not be imposed for more than ten school days. Written notice and reasons for the in-school suspension will be sent to the student's parents.

#### C. Out-of-School Suspension

1. Out-of-school suspension is the removal of a student from the school environment for periods of short duration. Out-of-school suspension is to be used when other available school resources are unable to constructively remedy student misconduct.

Approved April 1995 Reviewed November 2021 Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT SUSPENSION

2. A student may be suspended out of school for up to ten school days by a principal for a commission of gross or repeated infractions of school rules, regulations, policy or the law, or when the presence of the student will cause interference with the maintenance of the educational environment or the operation of the school. The principal may suspend students after conducting an investigation of the charges against the student, giving the student:
  - a. Oral or written notice of the allegations against the student and
  - b. The opportunity to respond to those charges.

At the principal's discretion, the student may be allowed to confront witnesses against the student or present witnesses on behalf of the student.

3. Notice of the out-of-school suspension will be mailed no later than the end of the school day following the suspension to the student's parents, board president and the superintendent. A reasonable effort shall be made to personally notify the student's parents and such effort shall be documented by the person making or attempting to make the contact. Written notice to the parents shall include the circumstances which led to the suspension and a copy of the board policy and rules pertaining to the suspension.

### D. Suspensions and Special Education Students

1. Students who have been identified as special education students may be referred for a review of the student's Individual Education Program (IEP). The IEP may be revised to include a continuum of intervention strategies and programming to change the behavior.
2. Students who have not been identified as special education students may be referred for evaluation after the student's suspension to determine whether the student has a disability and is in need of special education.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_



### FINES - FEES - CHARGES

The board believes students should respect school district property and assist in its preservation for future use by others. Students may be assessed fines, charges, or fees for the materials needed in a course, for overdue school materials, for participating in activities, or for misuse of school property.

The superintendent shall inform the board of the dollar amount to be charged to students or others for fines, charges, or fees annually. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:      501.16 Homeless Children & Youth  
                                 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                                 503 Student Discipline

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

STANDARD FEE WAIVER APPLICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_ School Year \_\_\_\_\_

All information provided in connection with this application will be kept confidential.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade in School: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of parent, guardian, legal or actual custodian: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check type of waiver desired:

Full waiver \_\_\_\_\_ Partial waiver \_\_\_\_\_ Temporary waiver \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if the student or the student’s family meets the financial eligibility criteria or is involved in one of the following programs:

Full waiver

\_\_\_\_\_ Free meals offered under the Children Nutrition Program

\_\_\_\_\_ The Family Investment Program (FIP)

\_\_\_\_\_ Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

\_\_\_\_\_ Transportation assistance under open enrollment

\_\_\_\_\_ Foster care

Partial waiver

\_\_\_\_\_ Reduced priced meals offered under the Children Nutrition Program

Temporary waiver

If none of the above apply, but you wish to apply for a temporary waiver of school fees because of serious financial problems, please state the reason for this request:

Signature of parent, guardian, legal or actual custodian: \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Your signature is required for the release of information regarding the student or the student’s family financial eligibility for the programs checked above.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT FEE WAIVER AND REDUCTION PROCEDURES

The board recognizes that while certain fees charged students are appropriate and authorized, certain students and their families are not financially able to pay the fees. The school district will grant either full waivers, partial waivers or temporary waivers depending upon the circumstances and the student or student's parents' ability to meet the financial criteria.

A. Waivers -

1. Full Waivers - a student will be granted a full waiver of fees charged by the school district if the student or student's parents meet the financial eligibility criteria for free meals under the Child Nutrition program, Family Investment Program, or transportation assistance under open enrollment. Students in foster care are also eligible for full waivers.

2. Partial Waivers - a student will be granted a partial waiver of fees charged by the school district if the student or the student's parents meet the financial eligibility criteria for reduced price meals offered under the Child Nutrition program. A partial waiver is based on the same percentage as the reduced price meals.

3. Temporary Waivers - a student may be eligible for a temporary waiver of fees charged by the district in the event the student's parents are facing financial difficulty. Temporary waivers may be applied for at any time throughout the school year and will not extend beyond the end of the school year.

B. Application - Parents or students eligible for a fee waiver will make an application on the form provided by the school district. Applications may be made at any time but must be renewed annually.

C. Confidentiality - The school district will treat the application and application process as any other student record and student confidentiality and access provisions will be followed.

D. Appeals - Denials of a waiver may be appealed to the Superintendent of Schools

E. Fines or charges assessed for damage or loss to school property are not fees and will not be waived.

F. Notice - the school district will annually notify parents and students of the waiver. The following information will be included in registration materials.

Students whose families meet the income guidelines for free and reduced price lunch, the Family Investment Program (FIP), or transportation assistance under open enrollment, or who are in foster care are eligible to have their student fees waived or partially waived. Students whose families are experiencing a temporary financial difficulty may be eligible for a temporary waiver of student fees. Parents or students who believe they may qualify for temporary financial hardship should contact the business manager for a waiver form. This waiver does not carry over from year to year and must be completed annually.



## GOOD CONDUCT RULE

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and abilities in the students during their school years and for their lifetimes.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year, whether away from school or at school. Students who wish to have the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities which are illegal, immoral or unhealthy.

Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures. The principal shall keep records of violations of the good conduct rule.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop rules and regulations for school activities. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school district for participation in the activity.

NOTE: This is a mandatory policy. The detail outlining specific conduct expected and penalties for violation should be in the student handbook, and students involved in extracurricular activities must be notified of its contents.

Cross Reference:      502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                              503 Student Discipline  
                              504 Student Activities

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, MECHANICAL RESTRAINT AND PRONE RESTRAINT

The use of corporal punishment, mechanical restraint and/or prone restraint is prohibited in all schools. Corporal punishment is defined as the intentional physical punishment of a student. It includes the use of unreasonable or unnecessary physical force or physical contact made with the intent to harm or cause pain. No employee is prohibited from any of the following which are not considered corporal punishment:

Using reasonable and necessary force, not designed or intended to cause pain, in order to accomplish any of the following:

- To quell a disturbance or prevent an act that threatens physical harm to any person.
- To obtain possession of a weapon or other dangerous object(s) within a student's control.
- For the purposes of self-defense or defense of others as provided for in Iowa Code section 704.3.
- For the protection of property as provided for in Iowa Code section 704.4 or 704.5.
- To remove a disruptive student from class or any area of school premises or from school-sponsored activities off school premises.
- To protect a student from the self-infliction of harm.
- To protect the safety of others.

Using incidental, minor, or reasonable physical contact to maintain order and control.

Mechanical restraint means the use of a device as a means of restricting a student's freedom of movement. Mechanical restraint does not mean a device used by a trained individual for specific approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which the device was designed and, if applicable, prescribed, including restraints for medical immobilization, adaptive devices or mechanical supports used to allow greater freedom of mobility than would be possible without use of such devices or mechanical supports; and vehicle safety restraints when used as intended during the transport of a student in a moving vehicle.

Prone restraint means any restraint in which the student is held face down on the floor.

Reasonable force should be commensurate with the circumstances of the situation. The following factors should be considered in using reasonable physical force for the reasons stated in this policy:

1. The size and physical, mental, and psychological condition of the student;
2. The nature of the student's behavior or misconduct provoking the use of physical force;
3. The instrumentality used in applying the physical force;
4. The extent and nature of resulting injury to the student, if any, including mental and psychological injury;
5. The motivation of the school employee using physical force.

Upon request, the student's parents are given an explanation of the reasons for physical force.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference:        *Ingraham v. Wright*, 430 U.S. 651 (1977).  
                              *Goss v. Lopez*, 419 U.S. 565 (1975).  
                              *Tinkham v. Kole*, 252 Iowa 1303, 110 N.W.2d 258 (1961).  
                              Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.21.  
                              281 I.A.C. 12.3(6); 103.

Cross Reference:        402.3 Abuse of Students by School District Employees  
                              502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                              503 Student Discipline  
                              503.6 Physical Restraint and Seclusion of Students

Approved December, 2008 Reviewed November 2021 Revised November 2021

## PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION OF STUDENTS

It is the goal of the district that all students can learn and grow in a safe and peaceful environment that nurtures the student and models respect for oneself and others. On occasion, trained district employees and others may have to use behavior management interventions, physical restraint and/or seclusion of students. The goal of these interventions is to promote the dignity, care, safety, welfare and security of each child and the school community. With this objective in mind, the district will prioritize the use of the least restrictive behavioral interventions appropriate for the situation.

Physical restraint means a personal restriction that immobilizes or reduces the ability of a student to move the student's arms, legs, body, or head freely. Physical restraint does not mean a technique used by trained school personnel, or used by a student, for the specific and approved therapeutic or safety purposes for which the technique was designed and, if applicable, prescribed. Physical restraint does not include instructional strategies, such as physically guiding a student during an educational task, hand-shaking, hugging, or other non-disciplinary physical contact.

Seclusion means the involuntary confinement of a child in a seclusion room or area from which the child is prevented or prohibited from leaving; however, preventing a child from leaving a classroom or school building are not considered seclusion. Seclusion does not include instances when a school employee is present within the room and providing services to the child, such as crisis intervention or instruction.

Physical restraint or seclusion is reasonable or necessary only:

- To prevent or terminate an imminent threat of bodily injury to the student or others; or
- To prevent serious damage to property of significant monetary value or significant nonmonetary value or importance; or
- When the student's actions seriously disrupt the learning environment or when physical restraint or seclusion is necessary to ensure the safety of the student or others; and
- When less restrictive alternatives to seclusion or physical restraint would not be effective, would not be feasible under the circumstances, or have failed in preventing or terminating the imminent threat or behavior; and
- When the physical restraint or seclusion complies with all applicable laws.

Prior to using physical restraint or seclusion, employees must receive training in accordance with the law. Any individual who is not employed by the district but whose duties could require the individual to use or be present during the use of physical restraint or seclusion on a student will be invited to participate in the same training offered to employees on this topic.

When required by law, the superintendent or the superintendent's designee will ensure a post-occurrence debriefing meeting is held, maintain documentation and fulfill all reporting requirements for each occurrence of physical restraint or seclusion as required by law.

***NOTE: This policy is not mandatory. However, there are specific requirements for school districts to fulfill before and after using physical restraint and seclusion with students. Administrators should thoroughly read and understand the requirements listed in Chapter 103 of the Iowa Administrative Code.***

Legal Reference: Iowa Code §§ 279.8; 280.21.  
281 I.A.C. 103.

Cross Reference: 402.3 Abuse of Students by School District Employees  
502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
503 Student Discipline  
503.5 Corporal Punishment, Mechanical Restraint and Prone Restraint

Approved November 2021

Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_

Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## USE OF PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND SECLUSION WITH STUDENTS

The District will comply with 281 *Iowa Administrative Code* Ch. 103 for the use of physical restraint and seclusion with students, including, but not limited to:

- Physical restraint and seclusion will be used only by employees who have been trained in accordance with applicable law unless a trained employee is not immediately available due to the unforeseeable nature of the occurrence.
- As soon as practical after the situation is under control, but within one hour after either the occurrence or the end of the school day, whichever occurs first, the school will attempt to contact the student's parent or guardian using the school's emergency contact system.
- The seclusion or physical restraint is used only for as long as necessary based on research and evidence to allow the student to regain control of their behavior to the point that the threat or behavior necessitating the use of the seclusion or physical restraint has ended, or when a medical condition occurs that puts the student at risk of harm. Unless otherwise provided for in the student's written approved IEP, BIP, IHP or safety plan, if the seclusion or physical restraint continues for more than 15 minutes:
  - The student will be provided with any necessary breaks to attend to personal and bodily needs, unless doing so would endanger the child or others.
  - An employee will obtain approval from an administrator or administrator's designee to continue seclusion or physical restraint beyond 15 minutes. After the initial approval, an employee must obtain additional approval every 30 minutes thereafter for the continuation of the seclusion or physical restraint.
  - The student's parent or guardian and the school may agree to more frequent notifications than is required by law.
  - Schools and district employees must document and explain in writing the reasons why it was not possible for the employees to obtain approval, notify parents, or take action within prescribed time limits.
  - Schools and district employees who begin and then end use of nonapproved restraints will document and explain in writing the reasons why they had no other option but to use this type of behavioral intervention.
- □ The area of seclusion will be a designated seclusion room that complies with the seclusion room requirements in accordance with law, unless the nature of the occurrence makes the use of the designated seclusion room impossible, clearly impractical, or clearly contrary to the safety of the student, others, or both; in that event, the school must document and explain in writing the reasons why a designated seclusion room was not used.
- □ An employee must continually visually monitor the student for the duration of the seclusion or physical restraint.
- □ If an employee restrains a student who uses sign language or an augmentive mode of communication as the student's primary mode of communication, the student shall be permitted to have the student's hands free of physical restraint, unless doing so is not feasible in view of the threat posed.
  - Seclusion or physical restraint shall not be used: as punishment or discipline; to force compliance or to retaliate; as a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support; to prevent property damage except as provided in law; as a routine school safety measure; or as a convenience to staff. Code No. 503.6R1
- □ The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will investigate any complaint or allegation that one or more employees violated any provisions of 281 Iowa Administrative Code Ch. 103. If the District determines a

violation has occurred, corrective action will be taken up to and including termination of the employees involved. If the allegation or complaint involves a specific student the District will notify the parents or guardian of the involved student about the results of the investigation. If any allegation or complaint is also defined as abuse in 281 *Iowa Administrative Code* 102.2, the procedures listed in chapter 102 will apply.

- The District must comply with and implement Chapter 103 whether or not a parent consents to the use of physical restraint or seclusion.





|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| Administrator approving:  | Administrator ap |
| Time approved:  | Time approved:   |
| Reasons for length of incident:   | Reasons for leng |
| If Administrator approval was not obtained at 15 minutes or every 30 minutes thereafter, or a student was provided with breaks for bodily needs in incidents lasting longer than 15 minutes, explain why:   |                  |
| Parent/Guardian notification: Parents/Guardians will be notified as soon as practicable once the occurrence is under control, but no more than one hour after, or the end of the school day, whichever occurs first. Space below for documenting multiple attempts to notify guardians is listed in case the guardian cannot be reached on the first attempt. |                  |
| Employee attempting notification:   | Parent/Guardian  |
| Employee attempting notification:   | Parent/Guardian  |
| Employee attempting notification:   | Parent/Guardian  |
| If Parent/Guardian notification requirements were not complied with, explain why:   |                  |
| Describe injuries sustained or property damaged by students or employees:   |                  |
|   |                  |
|   |                  |
|   |                  |
| Describe future approaches to address student behavior including any consequences or disciplinary actions that may be implemented:  |                  |
|   |                  |
|   |                  |
|   |                  |

This form has been reviewed and completed by the undersigned employee. A written copy of this form has been sent to the student's parent or guardian within three school days of the occurrence. Unless the parent or guardian agrees to receive the report by email, fax, or hand delivery, the report must be sent by mail and postmarked by the third day following the occurrence. Enclosed with a copy of this form is an invitation for the parents or guardians to participate in the debriefing meeting scheduled in accordance with the law.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of form delivered to Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Method of Transmittal

DEBRIEFING LETTER TO GUARDIAN OF STUDENT INVOLVED IN AN OCCURRENCE WHERE  
PHYSICAL RESTRAINT AND/OR SECLUSION WAS USED

*[This letter and the enclosed report may be transmitted electronically via email or fax, picked up in person, or mailed. If the district and the guardian do not agree on how to transmit this letter, it must be mailed via postage prepaid, first class mail to the guardian within 3 school days of the occurrence.]*

Dear [Guardian],

Recently, your student [*name*] was involved in an occurrence at school that required the physical restraint and/or seclusion of your student as defined by 281 Iowa Administrative Code Ch. 103. A report related to this occurrence is enclosed with this letter.

The law requires debriefing meetings be held for such occurrences in the following circumstances:

- following the first instance of seclusion or physical restraint during a school year;
- When any personal injury occurs as a part of the use of seclusion or physical restraint;
- When a reasonable educator would determine a debriefing session is necessary;
- When suggested by a student's IEP team;
- When agreed to by the guardian and school officials; and
- After seven instances of seclusion or physical restraint of the student.

This letter is intended to inform you that a debriefing meeting will be held on [*date within 5 days of transmission of letter, time, place*] because of [*reason from bulleted list above*]. The following employees will be in attendance at this meeting: [*list names and titles of employees*]. We are inviting you to attend this debriefing meeting to engage with us on topics related to this occurrence.

If you would like to reschedule the debriefing meeting, please contact me as soon as possible via email [*email address*] or telephone [*telephone number*], and at least one school day prior to the date and time listed for this debriefing meeting. Your student is allowed to attend this meeting with your consent, and you are welcome to bring a representative of your choosing if you wish. If you plan to bring a representative to this meeting, please let us know at least one school day prior to the meeting so that we have an opportunity to make arrangements.

We look forward to working with you to foster the continued health, safety and educational growth of your student.

---

[*Administrator name*], title

---

Date

Enclosure: Report related to student occurrence

### DEBRIEFING MEETING DOCUMENT

*[The following individuals must attend the debriefing meeting: employees who administered physical restraint or seclusion; an administrator or employee not involved in the occurrence; the administrator or employee who approved continuation of the physical restraint or seclusion; other relevant personnel designated by the school; if indicated by student's behavior in occurrence, an expert in behavioral/mental health or other discipline. The following individuals must be invited to attend the debriefing meeting: the parent or guardian of the student, the student with guardian's consent.]*

|   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Student name:   | Date of occurrence:         |
| Date of debriefing meeting:   | Time of debriefing meeting: |
| Location of debriefing meeting:   |                             |
| Names of individuals attending the debriefing meeting (must include the employees involved and at least one employee who was not involved): | Job title of employees:     |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
| Documentation reviewed during meeting (must include at least the occurrence report; and BIP, IHP, IEP safety plan if applicable):           |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
| Identification of patterns of behavior and proportionate response, if any, in the student and employees involved:                           |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
| Possible alternative responses, if any, to the incident/less restrictive means, if any:   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
| Additional resources, if any, that could facilitate those alternative responses in the future:  |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |
|   |                             |

|   |
|---|
| Plans for additional follow up actions, if any: |
|   |
|   |
|   |
|   |

This form has been reviewed and completed by the undersigned employee. A written copy of this form has been sent to the student's guardian within three school days of the debriefing meeting.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of delivered to Parent/Guardian

\_\_\_\_\_  
Method of Transmittal

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

The student council provides for student activities, serves as a training experience for student leaders, promotes the common good, gives students a share in the management of the school, develops high ideals of personal conduct, acts as a clearinghouse for student activities, seeks to interest students in school district affairs and helps solve problems that may arise. Members of the council are student representatives who have direct access to the administration.

The principal, in conjunction with the students and licensed employees, shall set forth the guidelines for the student government's elections, operations, and other elements of the government.

Cross Reference:       502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                              504 Student Activities

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995   Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021   Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Extracurricular activities and student groups are related to the curriculum of the secondary schools in the school district. These secondary school curriculum-related student organizations may use the school facilities for meetings and other purposes before, after, and during the instructional school day.

It will also be the responsibility of the principal to determine whether a student group is curriculum-related. One or more of the following questions will be answered affirmatively if the group is curriculum-related:

- Is the subject matter of the group actually taught in a regularly offered course?
- Will the subject matter of the group soon be taught in a regularly offered course?
- Does the subject matter of the group concern the body of courses as a whole?
- Is participation in the group required for a particular course?
- Does participation in the group result in academic credit?

It is the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. The administrative regulations will include, but not be limited to, stating the process for establishing a curriculum-related student group, assigning a faculty advisor and obtaining board approval for each student group. The administrative rules will also include the purpose of each group and its relationship to the curriculum.

Cross Reference:       502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                              504 Student Activities

Approved April, 1995       Reviewed November 2021   Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students may produce official school publications as part of the curriculum under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the principal. Official school publications include material produced in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee.

Any expression made by students, including student expression in official school publications, is not an expression of official school policy. The school district, the board, and the employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students unless the employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student speech or expression. The liability, if any, is only to the extent of the interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

Official school publications are free from prior restraint by employees or officials except as provided by law. A faculty advisor shall supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech. The production of official school publications shall be guided by the law and by the ethical standards adopted by professional associations or societies of journalism.

Persons, other than students, who believe they have been aggrieved by student expression in a student-produced official school publication shall follow the grievance procedure outlined in board policy 214.1. Students who believe their freedom of expression in a student-produced official school publication has been restricted shall follow the grievance procedure outlined in board policy 502.6.

The superintendent shall be responsible for developing a student publications code. This code shall include, but not be limited to, reasonable rules including time, place, and manner of restrictions. The superintendent shall also be responsible for distributing this policy and the student publications code to the students and their parents.

Cross Reference:       502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                              504 Student Activities

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS CODE

A. Official school publications defined.

An "official school publication" is material produced by students in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to students either free or for a fee.

B. Expression in an official school publication.

1. No student shall express, publish or distribute in an official school publication material which is:
  - a. obscene;
  - b. libelous;
  - c. slanderous; or
  - d. encourages students to:
    - 1) commit unlawful acts;
    - 2) violate school rules;
    - 3) cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity;
    - 4) disrupt or interfere with the education program;
    - 5) interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
    - 6) infringe on the rights of others.
2. The official school publication shall be produced under the supervision of a faculty advisor.

C. Responsibilities of students.

1. Students writing or editing official school publications shall assign and edit the news, editorial and feature contents of the official school publications subject to the limitations of the student publications code and the law.
2. Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of accuracy, fairness, objectivity and thoroughness in each and every aspect of official school publications.
3. Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling for clarity and accuracy of official school publications.

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_



## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS CODE

D. Responsibilities of faculty advisors.

Faculty advisors shall supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech.

E. Liability.

Student expression in an official school publication shall not be deemed to be an expression of the school district. The school district, the board, and the employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students unless the employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student expression. The liability, if any, is only to the extent of interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

F. Appeal procedure.

1. Students who believe they have been unreasonably restricted in their exercise of expression in an official student publication shall seek review of the decision through the student grievance procedure, under board policy 502.6.
2. Persons who believe they have been aggrieved by a student-produced official student publication shall file their complaint through the citizen grievance procedure, under board policy 214.1.

G. Time, place and manner of restrictions on official school publications.

1. Official student publications may be distributed in a reasonable manner on or off school premises.
2. Distribution in a reasonable manner shall not encourage students to:
  - a. commit unlawful acts;
  - b. violate school rules;
  - c. cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school district or school activity;
  - d. disrupt or interfere with the education program;
  - e. interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
  - f. infringe on the rights of others.

## STUDENT PERFORMANCES

Students, as part of the education program, may participate in contests or other public and private events approved by the superintendent that will be of benefit to the student and the education program. Performance at such events is a privilege.

Students, who perform at such events, serve as ambassadors of the school district and must conduct themselves in the same manner as required in the regular school day. Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures.

Students will be allowed to perform in these events only with proper permission and supervision and when the events do not disrupt the education program or other school district operations. The events must be approved by the superintendent, unless it involves unusual travel and expense, in which case the board must approve of the performance.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy. In developing the administrative regulations, these guidelines should be followed:

- Performances by student groups below the high school level should be allowed on a very limited basis;
- All groups of students should have an opportunity to participate; and,
- Extensive travel by one group of students should be discouraged.

It shall be within the discretion of the superintendent to determine whether the event will benefit the education program and the participating students. Contests or other performances by students unapproved by the superintendent shall be the responsibility of the parent and the student.

Cross Reference:      502      Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                             503.4      Good Conduct Rule  
                             504      Student Activities  
                             904      Community Activities Involving Students

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT FUND RAISING

Students may raise funds for school-sponsored events with the permission of the principal. Fund raising by students for events other than school-sponsored events is not allowed. Collection boxes for school fund raising must have prior approval from the principal before being placed on school property.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:      502      Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                                 503      Student Discipline  
                                 504      Student Activities  
                                 704.5   Student Activities Fund  
                                 904.2   Advertising and Promotion

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995      Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021      Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and ability in the students during their school years and for their lifetime.

Students will have an opportunity to participate in a school activity unless the activity is not offered, the activity is an intramural or interscholastic athletic activity or the student cannot participate for disciplinary reasons. If the activity is an intramural or interscholastic athletic activity, students of the opposite sex will have a comparable opportunity for participation. Comparable opportunity does not guarantee boys and girls will be allowed to play on each other's teams when there are athletic activities available that will allow both boys and girls to reap the benefits of school activities, which are the promotion of additional interests and abilities in the students.

Student activity events must be approved by the superintendent unless it involves unusual travel expense, in which case the board will take action. The events must not disrupt the education program or other school district operations.

A high school student who participates in school sponsored athletics may participate in a non-school sponsored sport during the same season with approval of one of the following: superintendent, high school principal or athletic director.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations for each school activity. These regulations shall include, but not be limited to, when physical examinations will be required, how and when parents will be informed about the risk of the activity, academic requirements, and proof of insurance on the student participating in certain activities. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school district for participation in the activity.

Cross Reference:       501 Student Attendance  
                              502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
                              503 Student Discipline  
                              504 Student Activities  
                              507 Student Health and Well-Being

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised January 1999 \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS AND CONFERENCES

Students shall receive a progress report at the end of each grading period. Students who are doing poorly, and their parents, shall be notified prior to the end of the semester in order to have an opportunity to improve their grade. The board encourages the notification of students who have made marked improvement prior to the end of the semester.

Scheduled parent-teacher conferences will be held in the fall and spring at the elementary, junior high and high school to keep parents informed. The conferences in grades 7-12 are student led.

Parents, teachers, or principals may request a conference for students in grades kindergarten through twelve in addition to the scheduled conference time. Parents and students are encouraged to discuss the student's progress or other matters with the student's teacher.

Cross Reference:       505 Student Scholastic Achievement  
                              506 Student Records

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995   Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021   Revised \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT PROMOTION - RETENTION - ACCELERATION

Students will be promoted to the next grade level at the end of each school year based on the student's achievement, age, maturity, emotional stability, and social adjustment.

The district shall adhere to the following:

- **Retention/Promotion in kindergarten – eighth grade:** The retention of a student will be determined based upon the judgment of the district's professional staff. When it becomes evident a student in grades kindergarten through eight may be retained in a grade level for an additional year, the parents will be informed prior to making the retention decision. It is within the sole discretion of the district to retain students in their current grade level and to deny promotion to a student.
- **Retention/Promotion in ninth – twelfth grade:** Students in grades nine through twelve will be informed of the required coursework necessary to be promoted each year. When it becomes evident a student in these grades will be unable to meet the minimum credit requirements for the year, the student and parents will be informed. It is within the sole discretion of the district to retain students in their current grade level and to deny promotion to a student.
- **Acceleration in kindergarten – twelfth grade:** Students in grades kindergarten through twelve with exceptional talents may, with the permission of the principal and parents, take classes beyond their current grade level. Enrichment opportunities outside the school district may be allowed when they do not conflict with the school district's graduation requirements.
- **Retention or Acceleration in kindergarten – twelfth grade** may also occur in additional instances as provided by law.

Any student or parent who is not satisfied with the decision of the district's professional staff may seek recourse through policy 502.4 – *Student Complaints and Grievances*.

Cross Reference:     501     Student Attendance  
                          505     Student Scholastic Achievement  
                          603.2   Summer School Instruction

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995     Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021     Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## STUDENT HONORS AND AWARDS

The school district will provide a program that establishes honors and awards including, but not limited to, academic letters, scholarships and good citizenship awards for students to assist students in setting goals. Students will be made aware of honors and awards and the action necessary on the part of the student to achieve them. It is possible that students who have not attended the school district for their entire education or have not attended an accredited public or private school will not be eligible for honors and awards.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop the administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Cross Reference:      501.6   Student Transfers In  
                             504     Student Activities  
                             505     Student Scholastic Achievement

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## TESTING PROGRAM

A comprehensive testing program shall be established and maintained to evaluate the education program of the school district and to assist in providing guidance or counseling services to students and their families.

No student shall be required, as part of a program funded by the United States Department of Education, to submit, without prior written consent from the student's parent, to surveys, analysis or evaluation which reveals information concerning:

- political affiliations;
- mental and psychological problems potentially embarrassing to the student or the student's family;
- sex behavior and attitudes;
- illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating and demeaning behavior;
- critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships;
- legally recognized, privileged and analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians and ministers; or
- income, but not including income required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the board to review and approve the evaluation and testing program.

Cross Reference:      505 Student Scholastic Achievement  
                             506 Student Records  
                             607.2 Student Health Services

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_



## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Students must successfully complete the courses required by the board and Iowa Department of Education in order to graduate.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure that students complete grades one through twelve and that high school students complete 64 credits prior to graduation. The following credits will be required:

|                    |             |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Language Arts      | 8 credits   |
| Science            | 6 credits   |
| Mathematics        | 6 credits   |
| Social Studies     | 6 credits   |
| Physical Education | 2 semesters |
| Electives          | 36 credits  |

The required courses of study will be reviewed by the board annually.

Beginning with the class of 2022, graduation requirements for special education students will include successful completion of four years of English, three years of math, three years of social studies and three years of science.

Students who complete a regular session in the Legislative Page Program of the general assembly at the state capitol will be credited  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit of social studies.

Students enrolled in a junior officers' training corp will receive  $\frac{1}{8}$ th physical education credit for each semester the student is enrolled in the program.

Cross Reference:      505      Student Scholastic Achievement  
                             603.3      Special Education

Approved April 1995      Reviewed November 2021      Revised November 2021

## EARLY GRADUATION

Generally, students will be required to complete the necessary course work and graduate from high school at the end of grade twelve. Students may graduate prior to this time if they meet the minimum graduation requirements stated in board policy.

A student who graduates early will no longer be considered a student and will become an alumnus of the school district. However, the student who graduates early may participate in commencement exercises.

NOTE: This is a mandatory policy. School districts do not have the authority to limit when a student may graduate early. Students can graduate early whenever they meet the school district's graduation requirements. It is recommended that when a student graduates early, the student either gets the diploma or a notice from the school district that the student has graduated. The board should determine in policy how an early graduate will be treated after the student graduates. The board should determine whether the early graduate will be allowed to participate in activities and, if so, which activities.

Cross Reference: 505 Student Scholastic Achievement

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## COMMENCEMENT

Students who have met the requirements for graduation will be allowed to participate in the commencement proceedings provided they abide by the proceedings organized by the school district. It shall be the responsibility of the principal to solicit input from each graduating class regarding the proceedings for their commencement.

Failure of a student to participate in commencement will not be a reason for withholding the student's final progress report or diploma certifying the student's completion of high school.

Cross Reference:        505 Student Scholastic Achievement

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ April 1995 \_\_\_\_\_ Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_ November 2021 \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DISTRICTWIDE POLICY

Parent and family engagement is an important component in a student's success in school. The board encourages parents and families to become involved in their child's education to ensure the child's academic success. In order to facilitate parent and family involvement, it is the goal of the district to conduct outreach and implement programs, activities and procedures to further involve parents and families with the academic success of their students. The board will:

1. This written policy will be distributed to parents of participating Title I children during the fall and spring parent-teacher conferences and/or during the annual Title I public meeting.
2. An annual meeting during parent teacher conferences is held for all parents of participating children, both public and private. Additional parent meetings with flexible meeting times shall be held throughout the year as determined by parent interest and suggestions. Parents will be notified of the meeting times by means of the Glidden Graphic and a letter.
3. Parents are given assistance in understanding the requirements of the Title I law, National Educational Goals, content standards, performance standards, and assessments during parent-teacher conferences and/or the annual Title I public meeting.
4. Parents receive an explanation of the school's performance profile, expected proficiency levels for students, and their student's assessment results during the fall and spring parent-teacher conferences or as determined by the student's progress.
5. Parents are informed of the reasons for their children's participation, the curriculum, and the instructional objectives and methods of the program. This is achieved during parent-teacher conferences, letters to the parents, phone calls, and classroom visits.
6. Parents receive timely responses to all parent recommendations. All information sent to parents is in the language used in the home. Full opportunities are provided for all parents to participate in Title I activities. Verbal and written responses are utilized between parent and teachers.
7. A jointly developed school/parent compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents continue to build and develop partnerships to help children achieve the local high standards. The compact is explained, shared, and distributed annually at the first parent-teacher conference and reviewed during subsequent conferences.
8. The Title I program provides opportunities for parents to become partners with the school in promoting the education of their children at home and at school. Parents are given help monitoring their student's progress. The school provides assistance to parents on how they can participate in decisions related to their student's education. The school provides reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents. Materials are sent home to the parents periodically containing methods and activities to promote their child's education growth. Ideas are also discussed during parent-teacher conferences.
9. The school coordinates and integrates parent involvement programs and activities with other programs as appropriate. One method is through articles in the school newsletter.

10. An annual evaluation of the parental involvement policy shall be conducted to determine the effectiveness of this policy and the barriers of this policy for increasing parental involvement. Policy evaluation findings shall be used in designing strategies for school improvement and revising parent policies. Surveys will be sent to the parents of Title I students, the students who have participated in the program during the school years, and the classroom teachers of the Title I students. The surveys will be sent by and evaluated by the Title I teacher in the month of May.

The district shall involve parents in determining how to allocate reserved Title I funds in accordance with applicable laws.

The board will review this policy annually. The superintendent is responsible for notifying parents and families of this policy annually or within a reasonable time after it has been amended during the school year. The superintendent may develop an administrative process or procedures to implement this policy.

***NOTE: This is a mandatory policy and accompanying regulation. The intent of this portion of Every Student Succeeds Act is that districts will uniquely tailor this policy in a manner and format that suits the needs of their individual community. As a result, there are underlined spaces within this policy that indicate areas where the district should add their own plans after having taken the steps to collaborate with parents and families. This policy is not complete without the necessary description of how each district intends to implement the policy.***

Cross References: 903.2 Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

Approved November 2021

Reviewed \_\_\_\_\_

Revised \_\_\_\_\_

## PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT BUILDING-LEVEL REGULATION

To further the interests of student achievement, the superintendent will create necessary rules to engage parents and family members within the district in the following ways on a building-level basis:

1. Policy Involvement: The district will host an annual meeting and invite all parents to attend; and inform parents of their rights and the district's requirements under Title I. This meeting will also invite parents to become involved in the planning, review and improvement of a building policy and in developing the district plan. The district will inform parents of:
  - programs under this policy,
  - curriculum and assessment used for students,
  - the opportunity to meet with administration to participate in decisions related to their children's education,
  - a description and explanation of curriculum used in the school forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and
  - achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards.
  
2. Accessibility: Provide opportunities for informed participation of parents and family members in understandable formats and languages. This includes participation by parents and family members who may have disabilities, limited English proficiency, and migratory children. Offer a flexible number of meetings during the day, evening and weekends to facilitate parent involvement. The superintendent has discretion to allow schools to provide childcare for families of students during these meetings through Title I funds.
  
3. High Student Academic Achievement: Each school in the district will jointly develop with parents and family members a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, staff and students share responsibility for improving student academic achievement; and how a partnership will be built to achieve this. The compact will describe the responsibility of the school to provide high quality curriculum and instruction, and the parents' responsibility to support their children's learning. This will also address the importance of communication between schools and parents through parent teacher conferences, regular reports to parents on their children's progress, and ensuring regular meaningful communication between family and school staff.
  
4. Building Capacity for Involvement: Each school within the district will include in their plan ways to achieve the following:
  - Assist parents and families to understand topics including academic standards and assessments and how to monitor student progress;
  - Provide materials and training to help parents work with students to improve achievement;
  - Educate teachers and staff in how to communicate with parents and build ties to foster academic success;
  - Coordinate and integrate other federal, state and local programs to support parents in more fully participating in students' education;
  - Ensure information related to programs is sent to parents and families in understandable formats; and
  - Provide other reasonable support to encourage parental involvement

5. Schools Operating a Schoolwide Program: Each school operating a schoolwide program under this policy shall:
  - Involve parents on a timely and ongoing basis in the planning, review and improvement of programs, including the parent and family engagement school policy drafting and review, and the joint development of the schoolwide program.
  - If the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of the participating children, parent comments will be requested and submitted with the plan to the district.