

**Nondiscrimination and Student Rights**

The Board of Education reaffirms its belief that every student regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, age, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual orientation or perceived sexual orientation be given equal opportunity for educational development.

The Board recognizes the importance of providing each student with a school environment conducive to intellectual, emotional and social growth through participation in a full range of educational programs and activities. Board and staff commitments insure equal educational opportunities in course offerings, guidance and counseling, test procedures, extracurricular activities, discipline procedures and student support services.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2110** **(Regulation 2110)**

### **Nondiscrimination and Student Rights**

#### **Equal Educational Opportunity**

It is the policy of the Board of Education to provide a free and appropriate education for students with disabilities. Students with disabilities are those who, because of certain atypical characteristics, have been identified by professionally qualified personnel as requiring special educational planning and services. Students with disabilities will be identified on the basis of physical, health, sensory, and/or emotional handicaps, behavioral problems or observable exceptionalities in mental ability. It is possible that a student may have more than one type of disability.

The District's programs and services available to meet the needs of these students will be in accordance with The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, The Education for All Handicapped Students Act of 1975, The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and SS 162.670 - .995 RSMo., Missouri Special Education Services. In addition, the identification of students with disabilities and the services provided by the District will be in accordance with the regulations and guidelines of the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Current Plan for Part B of The Education of the Handicapped Act, as amended.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2120**

### **Nondiscrimination and Student Rights**

#### **Students of Legal Age**

Upon attainment of the age of eighteen (18), students will be deemed to be adults for purposes of educational records, placement and reporting.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2140**

### **Nondiscrimination and Student Rights**

#### **Marital, Parental Status of Students**

Students who are married, pregnant or who have given birth will be treated in a like manner as other students with respect to academic matters, student activities as well as other educational benefits provided by the District.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2150**  
**(Form 2150)**

### **Nondiscrimination and Student Rights**

#### **Searches by School Personnel**

School lockers and desks are the property of the Board of Education and are provided for the convenience of students, and as such, are subject to periodic inspection without notice, without student consent, and without a search warrant. The lockers and desks may be searched by school administrators or staff who have a reasonable suspicion that the lockers or desks contain drugs, alcohol, material of a disruptive nature, stolen properties, weapons, items posing a danger to the health or safety of students and school employees, or evidence of a violation of school policy. In addition, the Board of Education authorizes the use of trained dogs to sniff lockers or other school property to assist in the detection of the presence of drugs, explosives, and other contraband.

Students or student property may be searched based on reasonable suspicion of a violation of District rules, policy or state law. Reasonable suspicion must be based on facts known to the administration, credible information provided or reasonable inference drawn from such facts or information. The privacy and dignity of students shall be respected. Searches shall be carried out in the presence of adult witnesses, if such witnesses are available. Students may be asked to empty pockets, remove jackets, coats, shoes and other articles of exterior clothing for examination if reasonable under the circumstances.

No employee shall perform a strip search of any student. The exception to this would be if a school administrator reasonably believes that a student possesses a weapon, explosive, or substance that poses an imminent threat of physical harm to himself or herself or another person, and if a commissioned law enforcement officer is not immediately available. Strip searches may be conducted by, or under the authority of, a commissioned law enforcement officer.

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

Law enforcement officials shall be contacted if the search produces a controlled substance, drug paraphernalia, weapons, stolen goods or evidence of a crime, in any case involving a violation of law when a student refuses to allow a search, or where the search cannot safely be conducted. Parents may also be contacted. A student who refuses to submit to a search may be appropriately disciplined by school officials.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2160**

### **Nondiscrimination and Student Rights**

#### **Interviews, Interrogations and Removal From School**

##### **Interview or Interrogation**

The School District has legal jurisdiction over students during the school day and hours of approved extracurricular activities. The school administration is responsible for making an effort to protect each student's rights with respect to interrogations by law enforcement officials. When law enforcement officials find it necessary to question students during the school day or periods of extracurricular activities, the school principal or designee will be present and the interview will be conducted in private.

The principal will verify and record the identity of the officer or other authority and request an explanation of the need to question or interview the student at school. The principal ordinarily will make reasonable efforts to notify the student's parents/guardians.

##### **Removal of Students From School**

Before a student at school is arrested or taken into custody by a law enforcement or other legally authorized person, the principal will verify the official's authority to take custody of the student. The school principal will attempt to notify the student's parent/guardian that the student is being removed from school.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2170**  
**(Regulation 2170)**

### **Nondiscrimination and Student Rights**

#### **Distribution of Noncurricular Publications by Students**

The District recognizes that student expression regarding a variety of topics may be beneficial to the District's education mission. Discussion and debate regarding serious issues can engender tolerance for diverse viewpoints. The District, however, has the obligation to ensure that student expression is consistent with the District's educational mission. Accordingly, the District has adopted guidelines to regulate student expression in a manner consistent with the District's educational goals.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2180**

### **Nondiscrimination and Student Rights**

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Schools shall ensure that the Pledge of Allegiance is recited in at least one scheduled class of every student no less than once a week.

No student shall be required to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.



## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2200** **(Regulation 2200)**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

The admission and denial of admission of all students shall be under the direction of the Superintendent/Designee, subject to the approval of the Board of Education. All persons seeking admission to the District and its instructional programs must satisfactorily meet all residency, academic, age, immunization, health, safety, and other eligibility prerequisites as established by Board policies, rules and regulations, and by law. Students entering the District will be required to present a birth certificate or some other acceptable proof of age, proof of residency in the District, or a request for a waiver of the residency requirements unless the student is exempt from the residency requirements as set forth in District policies, rules, and regulations and/or law.

Upon a request to enroll any student in the District, the Superintendent/Designee will request the student's previous school records along with any other relevant records as set forth in Regulation 2200 and state law. Any enrollment of a student prior to receipt of the student's previous discipline records will remain conditional until receipt of such records. A student will be allowed to attend school during conditional enrollment so long as the student does not violate the District's code of conduct or pose a threat of harm to students or employees of the District. (See Regulation 2200, Policy 2290, and Policy and Regulation 2664).

Students who are entering kindergarten or first grade are encouraged to pre-register in the spring prior to the fall semester in which they are to begin attendance.

### **Placement of Students**

The Independence School District believes neighborhood schools are essential in providing a high quality public education to our students and building a strong sense of community and collaboration throughout the district. Students shall attend the school designated for the attendance area in which the student resides.

**REV. 9/16**

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2210**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

#### **Entrance Age**

##### **Entrance Age for Pre-Kindergarten Programs**

If the District chooses to maintain a pre-kindergarten program, the students must have reached the age of three (3) before August 1 of the school year beginning that calendar year to be eligible for admission.

##### **Entrance Age for Kindergarten**

To be admitted to kindergarten or to summer school prior to the student's regular term, a student must be five (5) years old before August 1 preceding entrance.

##### **Entrance Age for First Grade**

To be admitted to first grade a student must be six (6) years old before August 1 preceding entrance. However, students who have completed an accredited kindergarten program will be considered for enrollment in the first grade regardless of the August 1 cut-off date.

A birth certificate or some other acceptable document will be required as proof of age.

##### **Military Dependents**

Military dependents that have completed an accredited pre-kindergarten or kindergarten program in another state may enter kindergarten or first grade regardless of age. The District will facilitate the timely enrollment of children of military families and will ensure that they are not placed at a disadvantage due to difficulty in their transfer of education records from the previous school district(s) or variations in entrance legal requirements.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2220**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

### **Compulsory Attendance Ages**

The Board of Education shall abide by the compulsory attendance laws of the state by requiring District resident students between the ages of seven and either seventeen years or successful completion of sixteen credits toward high school graduation, to attend school full time, with the exception of those students who may be excused from full-time attendance by the Superintendent. Individual petitions for any deviation from full-time attendance shall be considered by the Superintendent on the merits of the individual student's application and in compliance with state law and regulations. For purposes of this Policy, a completed credit toward high school graduation is defined as one hundred hours of instruction or more in a course.

Any student age seventeen years or older who drops out of school for any reason other than to attend another school, college or university, or to enlist in the armed services, shall be reported to the state literacy hotline office by the School District.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2230**  
**(Regulation 2230)**  
**(Form 2230)**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

#### **Admission of Non-Tuition Students**

##### **Resident Students**

Resident students of the District five to twenty-one (5-21) years of age who have not graduated from high school or received any document evidencing completion of the equivalent of a secondary curriculum (G.E.D.) and are not barred from enrollment by provisions of the Safe Schools Act (See Policy and Regulation 2664) may attend District schools tuition free. Resident students must provide proof of residency in the District at the time of enrollment. To be a resident of the District, a student must both physically reside and be domiciled within District boundaries. The domicile of a minor child is the domicile of a parent, military guardian pursuant to a military issued guardianship, or court-appointed legal guardian.

Where due to military stationing or deployment out-of-state of one or both of a child's parent(s), the child, a resident of Missouri, relocates to live with other family members that live in the District or live in a military support community located in the District, the child may attend District schools. If the parents' active duty orders expire during the school year, the student will be permitted to finish the current school year at the District.

In addition, the District will provide tuition-free special education services to resident students who qualify for special education services between the ages of 3 and 21 as required by law.

##### **Students Entitled to Enroll Without Proof of Residency**

The residency provisions of this policy are not applicable to homeless students, inter-District court-ordered desegregation students, wards of the state, students placed in residential care facilities, students placed in a residential care facility due to a mental illness or developmental disability, students placed in a residential facility by a juvenile court, students with a disability identified under state eligibility criteria if the student in the district for reasons other than accessing the district's educational program, students attending regional or cooperative alternative education programs, students attending an alternative education program on a contractual basis, or students attending a school pursuant to R.S.Mo s/s 167.151(2) or (4). The exemptions to the residency requirement are expressly established by state law and entitle such students to tuition free school attendance. Additionally, a student may be partially exempt from the payment of tuition as set forth in Policy and Regulation 2240 and state law. For purposes of IDEA special education evaluation and provision of special education services, a student attending a private school located within the District will be evaluated as a resident student.

### **Requests for Waiver of Proof of Residency Requirements**

Those students who are unable to satisfy the proof of residency requirements and who are not entitled to enroll as provided in the previous section of this Policy and state law may request a waiver of the proof of residency requirements. Upon filing a Request for Waiver of Proof of Residency (Form 2230.1) and satisfaction of all other enrollment requirements, the student will be conditionally enrolled and allowed to attend school pending a Board of Education hearing on the student's request unless there is reason to suspect that the admission of the pupil will create an immediate danger to the safety of other students or employees of the District. If there is reason to suspect that the student poses an immediate danger, the Superintendent/Designee may convene a hearing within five working days of the request to register and determine whether or not the pupil may register. (See Policy and Regulation 2200, Regulation 2230 and Policy and Regulation 2664).

### **Students of Nonresident Teachers and Regular Employees**

Nonresident students of District teachers or regular District employees may be permitted to attend school without payment of tuition. Such students will be considered a "resident" student for purposes of state aid.

### **Remote Registration**

Parent(s) who are being relocated to Missouri pursuant to military orders will be permitted to enroll their students remotely. Proof of residence is not required at the time of registration, but will be required within ten (10) days of the student's attendance in the District.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2240** **(Regulation 2240)**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

#### **Admission and Tuition – Nonresident Students**

Nonresident students will be permitted to attend the District schools only upon the processing of the student's Request for Waiver of Proof of Residency (Form 2230.1) and payment in full of tuition as determined by District representative in their sole discretion, and provided the student is not barred from enrollment by provisions of the Safe Schools Act. (See Policy 2664.) Prior to the first day of school, the District must receive the full tuition payment as established by the Board, unless the student is exempt from tuition as required by law. All costs of transportation for any student admitted on a tuition basis will be the sole responsibility of the person enrolling the student, unless otherwise required by law. In no event shall the Independence School District be responsible for the transportation costs for a student admitted on a tuition basis. Tuition rates will be determined annually by the Board of Education on the basis of the per-pupil cost for the preceding year including operation, maintenance, and debt service of the schools.

In accordance with state law, the district will admit nonresident students (“transfer students”) who reside in a Missouri school district that: (1) is located in the same or an adjoining county as the district (Jackson County, Missouri); and (2) is currently classified as unaccredited by the Missouri State Board of Education.

The unaccredited school district shall pay the full tuition for each semester before the transfer student will be enrolled or allowed to attend that semester, unless an alternative arrangement is made with the district and approved by the Board of Education. If a timely payment of tuition is not made, the transfer student shall not be entitled to attend the district.

Transfer students will be permitted to enroll in the district on a semester basis only. Transfer students will not be admitted during the term of a school semester. For the fall semester, applications will be accepted from January 1 to February 1. For the spring semester, applications will be accepted from October 1 through October 31. Late applications will not be considered. Students residing in an unaccredited district must submit an application by no later than January 1 for every school year they wish to attend the district, but students who have been admitted for the fall semester are not required to reapply for the spring semester.

Pursuant to guidance issued by the State Board, the district has adopted a procedure for establishment of class size and student-teacher ratios for all grade levels. The district will not enroll transfer students if enrollment would require the district to exceed its standards for class size and student-to-teacher ratios.

Within two (2) business days of enrollment in the District by state officials of a nonresident student pursuant to state statute, the Superintendent/designee will request the student’s transfer and discipline records from all schools or facilities previously attended and from other state agencies

and entities involved in the placement of the student within the twenty-four (24) month period preceding enrollment. The Superintendent/designee is authorized to share relevant portions of such student's transfer and discipline records with District employees who, based upon their duties, have a need to know such information. Such records will be maintained in confidence for purposes of maintaining discipline and for assistance to the student.

**REV. 12/13**

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2250**  
**(Regulation 2250)**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

#### **Admission of Exchange Students**

Exchange students under sponsorship of the American Field Service shall be accepted as resident students, and shall have all the rights and privileges of a resident student during the period of enrollment.



## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2260**  
**(Regulation 2260)**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

#### **Homeless Students**

The Board of Education is committed to providing equal access for all eligible homeless students to a free, appropriate education in the same manner as is provided to other District students. In carrying out this commitment, the District will identify and assess the needs of the District's homeless students; provide for the placement of its homeless students in the school of best interest; provide access to the District's programs; and appoint a homeless liaison. The Superintendent will review all District policies to determine whether they act as barriers to the enrollment of homeless students. Special attention will be given to policies regarding transportation, immunization, residency, birth certificates, school records and guardianship.

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## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2270**  
**(Regulation 2270)**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

#### **Migrant Students**

The Board of Education is committed to the identification, needs assessment and enrollment of migrant students living within the District. The District's Coordinator of Programs for Homeless Students is also responsible for implementation and maintenance of the District's program for migrant students. (See Policy 6274 - Instruction for Migrant Students.)

The Board of Education directs the administration to screen students, as required by law, to assist the state in identifying migratory children. If the District becomes aware of any student who might be a migrant student, the superintendent or designee will notify the state director of migrant education, as designated by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), so that the student may be formally recognized as a migrant student.

The administration will develop written administrative procedures for ensuring that migrant students, once identified, receive services for which they are eligible. In developing and implementing a program to address the needs of migratory children, the District will:

1. Screen students and assess the educational and related health and social needs of each student identified as migrant.
2. Provide a full range of services to migrant students, including applicable Title I programs, special education, gifted education, career or technical education, language programs, counseling programs, elective classes, fine arts classes, etc.
3. Provide migratory children with the opportunity to meet the same statewide assessment standards that all children are expected to meet.
4. To the extent feasible, provide advocacy and outreach programs to migratory children and their families and professional development for district staff.
5. Provide parents/guardians an opportunity for meaningful participation in the program.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2280**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

#### **Admission of Home Schooled Students**

Students who enroll in the District from a home-schooled status must meet residency requirements as stipulated in Policy 2230.

Grade placement will be determined by an administrative evaluation of records from the home-school setting and assessment of student's age, total educational experience, achievement tests administered at the time of District registration, and consultation with parents/guardians.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2290**

### **Admission and Withdrawal**

#### **Denial of Admission and Student Withdrawal from School**

##### **Denial of Admission**

A student who is conditionally enrolled pending a Waiver of the Proof of Residency Requirement hearing may be denied admission and barred from attending school after denial of the student's waiver request as provided in Regulation 2230 and state law.

A student may be denied admission based upon a previous disciplinary expulsion that would result in expulsion in the District or criminal conduct as provide in Policy and Regulation 2664 and state law.

A nonresident student who is not otherwise entitled to a free public education in the District may be denied admission for any nondiscriminatory reason in accordance with District policies, regulations and rules, and state and federal law.

##### **Administrative Removal of Student from Enrollment Not Resulting from Student Disciplinary Action**

Upon information that calls into question a student's entitlement to a free public education in the District, the Superintendent/Designee will attempt to contact the student's parent(s) or guardian and give him/her the opportunity to respond. If the Superintendent/Designee determines after this communication or attempted communication that the student is not entitled to a free public education in the District, the Superintendent/Designee will provide written notification of this determination to the parent(s)/guardian and will notify the parent(s)/guardian of the right to appeal this determination to the Board of Education. The student will not be removed from the District's enrollment and barred from school attendance until after the time period to appeal to the Board has expired or if the Superintendent/Designee's determination is appealed, the Board has upheld the Superintendent/Designee's determination.

##### **Voluntary Student Withdrawal**

Students who voluntarily withdraw from school for any reason are required to notify the building principal and provide a specific reason for withdrawal.

Each building principal will submit a monthly report to the Superintendent concerning the identity and reason of each student withdrawing from school.

**Requests to Transfer Student's Records to Another Public, Private or Charter School**

Building principals will respond within five (5) business days to requests by other schools for the records of students transferring from District schools. Records transferred pursuant to such requests will include the written notification of criminal charges/adjudications by law enforcement officials for criminal acts listed in Regulation 2673.

**Rev. 9/2014**

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2310** **(Regulation 2310)**

### **Attendance**

#### **Student Attendance**

The Board of Education believes that regular attendance is essential to achieving success in school. Education is a total process based upon continual communication and shared responsibilities among parents, students, teachers and school. As students mature and progress through the educational system, they should increasingly assume responsibility for regular attendance. However, parents have a legal and moral responsibility to require regular attendance at school.

**STUDENTS**

**Policy 2320**  
**(Regulation 2320)**

**Attendance**

**Part-Time Attendance**

Resident students may attend District schools on a part-time basis as provided by state law and regulations of the Board of Education.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2330**  
**(Regulation 2330)**

### **Attendance**

#### **Student Early Dismissal Procedures**

Students are to be released from school during school hours only with permission of the building principal/designee.

Early dismissal of a student may be approved only by the principal/designee. Normally requests for early dismissal must be in writing, signed and dated by a parent/guardian.

The Principal gives permission, upon enrollment, for students to leave school early as a result of block scheduling.



## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2340**  
**(Regulation 2340)**

### **Attendance**

#### **Truancy and Educational Neglect**

The Board of Education believes regular attendance is important to academic success. Therefore, the Board directs that problems with attendance on the part of any student be investigated and acted upon promptly.

Truancy is defined as deliberate absence from school on the part of the pupil with or without the knowledge of the parent/guardian and for which no justifiable excuse is given. When a pattern of truancy becomes evident, the principal will investigate and take such action as circumstances dictate.

Section 210.115 R.S.Mo. mandates reporting to the Division of Family Services when there is reasonable cause to suspect that a student's nonattendance is due to the educational neglect of the parents/guardians.

Any school official or employee who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a student is being subjected to home conditions or circumstances which would reasonably result in truancy will immediately report or cause a report to be made to the building principal, or his/her designee, who will then become responsible for making a report via the Student Abuse Hotline to the Missouri Division of Family Services (DFS). The building principal shall inform the Superintendent/designee that a report has been made, and keep the Superintendent apprised of the status of the case.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2400**  
**(Regulation 2400)**  
**(Form 2400)**

### **Student Educational Records**

A cumulative educational record shall be maintained for each student from his/her entrance into school through the last date of attendance or through graduation, whichever occurs first.

Each student's educational record will include information required by state and federal statutes, regulations or agencies and shall include other information considered necessary by school officials.

The District will comply with the mandates of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Safe Schools Act regarding confidentiality of student records and disclosure of personally identifiable information.

The parents/guardians of students who are attending or have attended the District's schools have the right to inspect and review the educational records of their students and to request amendment of their students' educational records. The District has adopted procedures (Regulation 2400) for the granting of parental requests for access to the educational records of their students within a reasonable period of time, but in no case more than forty-five (45) days after the request is made.

All information contained in a student's educational record, except information designated as directory information by the District, shall be confidential and shall be directly accessible only to school officials who demonstrate a legitimate educational interest in the student's records and to parents/guardians or eligible students.

Upon request by military recruiters or an institution of higher learning, the District will provide students' names, addresses and telephone listings. Parents will be notified annually of their right to individually request that such information not be released without prior parental consent. Military recruiters will be provided the same access to students as is given to institutions of higher learning.

**Student Educational Records****Recording of Meetings**

The District prohibits the use of audio, video or other recording devices in any meetings between District employees and parents/guardians with the exception of meetings held pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Exceptions to this prohibition will be made on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with federal and state laws. If a parent or guardian wishes to request an exception to this general prohibition, he or she must make a written request to the organizer of the meeting no later than one week prior to the meeting. The request must state the reasons why the parent or guardian believes the District should make an exception and/or why he or she believes that the use of a recording device is necessary to comply with any applicable federal or state laws. The District will provide a written response to the request prior to the scheduled meeting.

Parents and/or legal guardians will be permitted to make an audio recording of any meeting held under the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) or Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act including, but not limited to, IEP meetings. Any such audio recording shall be the property of the parent/legal guardian creating the recording. When a parent or legal guardian creates such recording, the District will also create an audio recording of the meeting. The District requires parents/legal guardians intending to make such audio recording to give the District's Director of Special Education twenty-four (24) hours' notice prior to the meeting of their intent to record. District employees making a good faith report of a violation of this paragraph will not be subject to adverse employment action in retaliation for making such report.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2510**

### **Student Academic Achievement**

#### **Grade Placement for Transfer Students**

All students entering the District from other educational settings are required to submit evidence of their achievement in the last grade attended. Grade placement of a student may be adjusted on the basis of examination of the student's previous record, achievement tests administered, or other factors which the principal and staff believe are appropriate under the circumstances. A transcript of all entering secondary school students is required before enrollment can be completed. However, a student may be permitted to enroll temporarily until a full transcript is obtained.

#### **Transfers from Unaccredited Schools**

Parents/guardians should be advised that if they choose to transfer their student to the public school from an unaccredited school, the student will not be guaranteed comparable placement in the public schools. Students transferring will be assigned an appropriate grade level and class assignment based on their educational and developmental level as determined by the principal through assessment of student's age, educational experience, achievement tests and consultation with parent/guardian and personnel from the student's former school.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2520** **(Regulation 2520)**

### **Student Academic Achievement**

#### **Promotion and Retention**

The purpose of promotions and retentions is to provide maximum consideration for the long range welfare of the student and to provide an opportunity for each student to progress through school according to his/her own needs and abilities.

It is expected that most students in the schools will be promoted annually from one grade level to another upon completion of satisfactory work, however, a student may be retained when his/her standards of achievement or social, emotional, mental, or physical development would not allow satisfactory progress in the next higher grade. Retention normally occurs before the student leaves the primary grades.

Parents/guardians who wish to appeal the decision for retention must first contact the building principal. If parents/guardians do not accept the decision at the building level, an appeal may be made in writing to the Superintendent. All appeals must be requested within two (2) weeks after the last student attendance day.

The process for reading assessments and remediation, and retention guidelines for students who fail to meet the District's objectives for reading, are contained in Regulation 2520 – Promotion and Retention.

**Student Academic Achievement****Graduation Requirements - Students with Disabilities**

The District must provide a free appropriate public education (FAPE) for students with disabilities pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) until they graduate or until the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age.

Students with disabilities pursuant to the IDEA who have completed four years of high school shall be allowed to participate in the graduation ceremony of the student's high school graduating class and all related activities if the student's individualized education program (IEP) prescribes special education, transition planning, transition services, or related services beyond the student's four years of high school, and the student's individualized education program team determines the student is making satisfactory progress toward the completion of the individual education program and participation in the graduation ceremony is determined appropriate.

The District shall provide timely and meaningful written notice to children with disabilities and their parents or guardians about this policy. [Notice of the District's policy shall be provided at the annual IEP meeting that occurs prior to the student's fourth year of high school.] The purpose of the notice is to inform parents and students about the policy and should not be confused with IDEA notices of action relating to the identification, evaluation, placement, or provision of FAPE.

This policy does not apply to non-IDEA students.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2540**

### **Student Academic Achievement**

#### **Early Graduation**

Graduation, with all attendant privileges, will be allowed any time after seven (7) semesters of attendance beginning with grade nine and attainment of all requirements as set by the state and local School Boards. Early graduation should be part of a cooperative plan arrived at by students, their parent/guardian, and the school.

The above requirements may be modified in exceptional cases with approval of the Board of Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

**Discipline**

The District has the authority to discipline for student conduct that is prejudicial to good order and discipline in the schools as provided by state law. School officials are authorized to hold students accountable for misconduct in school, on school property, and during school-sponsored activities. Students who engage in significant acts of misconduct off campus which materially and adversely impact the education of District students will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. However, no student will be confined in an unattended locked space except for emergency situations while awaiting the arrival of law enforcement officials.

Students forfeit their right to a public school education by engaging in conduct prohibited in Regulation 2610, the code of student conduct, and/or state or federal law. Disciplinary consequences include, but are not limited to, withdrawal of school privileges (athletics, intramurals, student clubs and activities and school social events); the reassignment of the student to another school; removal for up to ten (10) school days by building principals; extension of suspensions for a total of 180 days by the Superintendent; and longer term suspension and expulsion from school by the Board of Education. See also Policies 2610, 2662, and 2663.

Removal of any student who is a student with a disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is subject to state and federal procedural due process rights. See policy 2672 and its corresponding regulation.

The District will provide annual in-service training to all employees concerning the District's discipline regulations and their implementation. Annual training will also include, but will not be limited to, approved methods of dealing with school violence, discipline of students with disabilities, and the requirements of student confidentiality.



## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2610** **(Regulation 2610)**

### **Discipline**

#### **Misconduct and Disciplinary Consequences**

All students attending school in District schools will be expected to accept the obligation and responsibility to attend school on a regular basis and to comply with the District's discipline code set forth in Regulation 2610. Those students who choose not to fulfill their responsibilities at school will be held accountable for their conduct. Consequences for individual acts of misconduct are calculated to discipline the student, to deter future misconduct, and to provide a safe and positive environment in which students can learn. Students who engage in significant acts of misconduct off campus which materially and adversely impact the educational environment of district students to the extent allowed by law will be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2620** **(Regulation 2620)**

### **Discipline**

#### **Firearms and Weapons in School**

The District recognizes firearm and weapon possession as a potential threat to the health, safety and security of students, employees, and other persons. The District will not tolerate the presence of firearms or weapons on the premises of our schools. This prohibition includes possession of firearms and weapons on school playgrounds, school parking lots, school buses, and at school activities, whether on or off school property. The District complies with the provisions of the Improving America's Schools Act of 1994 and other applicable federal and state law.

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit the District from permitting a Civil War re-enactor to bring a Civil War era weapon to school for educational purposes so long as the weapon is not loaded.

Students who violate this policy will be suspended for no less than one (1) year and are subject to permanent expulsion. However, the Superintendent may recommend to the Board a modification of the suspension on a case-by-case basis. Students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Act and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act are entitled to the protections of those laws.

This policy will be annually submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education together with a report of disciplinary action taken for possession of a "firearm" or "weapon" as defined in Regulation 2620.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2630**

### **Discipline**

#### **Closed Campus**

With the safety and welfare of the students in mind, the Board of Education has closed all campuses during the school day. Permission to leave school will be granted only for valid reasons, and only with a written request signed by a parent/guardian. In emergency situations, a telephone call from a parent/guardian may suffice, with approval of the building principal.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2640**

### **Discipline**

#### **Student Use of Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs**

##### **Smoking**

The Board of Education believes that smoking and the use of any tobacco products or substances appearing to be tobacco products are detrimental to the health and well-being of staff and students. Therefore, the Board prohibits the use, sale, transfer, and possession of any tobacco products or substances appearing to be tobacco products, e.g. e-cigarettes, vaping paraphernalia, and/or other tobacco or nicotine delivery devices at school and at school activities. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, electronic cigarettes, vaping devices, electronic nicotine delivery systems, and similar devices used in conjunction with vaping.

##### **Alcohol and Drug Use**

The improper use of controlled substances, alcohol, and substances represented to be such is detrimental to the health and welfare of students and is detrimental to discipline in school. Such conduct, as well as the possession of drug paraphernalia, is prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action as set forth in Regulation 2610.

Pursuant to 29 U.S.C. 705(20c)(iv), a student with a 504/ADA disability who is currently engaging in the illegal use of alcohol or drugs is not considered a student with a disability under those laws, and the District may take disciplinary action – to the same extent that disciplinary action is taken against nondisabled students – in relation to that use or possession of alcohol or drugs. In such cases, the due process procedures contained in the Section 504 regulations will not apply to protect those students. This provision does not apply to students who are identified as disabled under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. However, school personnel may remove an IDEA disabled student to an interim alternative educational setting for not more than 45 school days without regard to whether that student’s behavior is a manifestation of his/her disability where that student knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the District’s jurisdiction. “Illegal drug,” as it pertains to the discipline of IDEA students, means a controlled substance but does not include a controlled substance that is legally possessed or used under the supervision of a licensed health-care professional or under any other authority.

The determination of whether or not a student is under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance is based upon a variety of information including but not limited to physical appearances, speech patterns, and witnesses’ statements. While not required, District administrators may request a student suspected of alcohol use to submit to a Breathalyzer. Conduct that includes possession of or use of alcohol or controlled substances as well as the possession of drug paraphernalia is prohibited and is subject to disciplinary action as set forth in Regulation 2610.

**CBD Products**

The use or administration of CBD at school or school related activities is strictly prohibited unless such administration is required under the law for a student with a disability. Penalties for violations of this policy will be consistent with the penalties for alcohol and drug possession.

**REV. 4/20**

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2641**

### **Discipline**

#### **Drug-Free Schools**

Pursuant to requirements of the 1989 amendments of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and to the requirements of the Safe Schools Act, and for the purpose of preventing the use of illicit drugs and alcohol by students, the District shall provide age-appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs to all students from early childhood level through grade twelve (12). (See also Policy 6130 – Drug Education.) Such programs will address the legal, social and health consequences of drug and alcohol use, and provide information about effective techniques for resisting peer pressure to use illicit drugs or alcohol.

The District shall provide information about any drug and alcohol counseling and rehabilitation and re-entry programs that are available to students. Students may be required to participate in such programs. All parents/guardians and students shall annually be provided with a copy of this policy.

The District certifies that it has adopted and implemented the drug prevention program described in this policy in the form required by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education or the United States Department of Education. The District conducts a biennial review of such program to determine its effectiveness, to implement necessary changes and to ensure that the disciplinary sanctions are consistently enforced.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2650**  
**(Form 2650)**

### **Discipline**

#### **Student Vehicle Use**

Building principals have the authority to regulate student use of automobiles at school. Use of school property for student parking purposes is a privilege that may be denied due to violation of District regulations and school policies. Student vehicles parked on District property are subject to search by school officials where there is reason to believe a vehicle contains materials prohibited by District regulations.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2651**

### **Discipline**

#### **Student Dress**

The Board of Education expects each student to share in promoting a positive, healthy and safe atmosphere. Student dress which is offensive or detracts from the learning process or creates a health or safety problem will not be permitted. This expectation includes the school day and school sponsored extracurricular activities.



## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2652**  
**Form 2652**

### **Discipline**

#### **Student Conduct on Buses**

The safety of students during their transportation to and from school is a responsibility which they and their parents/guardians share with the bus drivers and school officials. Therefore, the rules of student conduct will be issued to all students at the beginning of the school year, and to new students upon enrollment.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2653** **(Regulation 2653)**

### **Discipline**

#### **Student Participation in Secret Organizations and Gangs**

The Board of Education prohibits the organization of or membership in secret fraternities, sororities, or in other clubs or gangs not sponsored by established agencies or organizations recognized by the School District. The Board considers those organizations or memberships in those organizations detrimental to the good conduct and discipline of the school.

The Board of Education feels that the presence of gangs and gang activities can cause a substantial disruption of or material interference with school and school activities. A “gang” as defined in this policy is any group of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of illegal acts.

The Board of Education has adopted Regulations 2653 in order to prohibit the existence of gangs and gang activities on or about school property or at any school function.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2654**

### **Discipline**

#### **Student Use and Care of School Property**

The Board of Education recognizes that acts of destruction, defacing, trespassing, burglary and theft of District property are contrary to the interests of students, staff and taxpayers. The District officials will cooperate fully with all law enforcement agencies in the prevention of crimes against District property as well as in the prosecution of persons involved in such conduct.

The District will seek restitution from students and other persons who have damaged or destroyed District property. As permitted by law, the District will also seek restitution from the parent/guardian of children involved in such misconduct.

**Discipline****Bullying**

The District is committed to maintaining a learning and working environment free of any form of bullying or intimidation toward District personnel or students on school grounds, during the school day, at any school-sponsored activity, or in any school-related context. Bullying of students and District personnel is prohibited on all school property, during any District-sponsored activity, and on all District school buses.

“Bullying” means intimidation, unwanted aggressive behavior, or any other unwanted negative action that is repetitive or is substantially likely to be repeated and causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property; substantially interferes with the educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of any student without exception; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Bullying may consist of physical actions, cyberbullying, electronic or written communication, and any threat of retaliation for reporting such acts.

Bullying occurs when a student:

- Communicates to another individual by any means (including face to face, by telephone, in writing, through cyberbullying, or via electronic communications), an intention to intimidate, or inflict physical, emotional, or mental harm without legitimate purpose, or
- Physically contacts another individual with the intent to intimidate or to inflict physical, emotional, or mental harm without legitimate purpose. Physical contact does not require physical touching, although touching may be included.

“Cyberbullying” means bullying as defined above through the transmission of a communication including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image by means of an electronic device including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone, or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager.

The District shall have jurisdiction to prohibit cyberbullying that originates on a school’s campus or at a District activity if the electronic communication was made using the school’s technological resources, if there is sufficient nexus to the educational environment, or if the electronic communication was made on the school’s campus or at a District activity using the student’s own personal technological resources. The District may discipline any student for such cyberbullying to the greatest extent allowed by law.

### **Anti-Bullying Coordinator**

The Superintendent shall, on an annual basis, appoint a District employee who is teacher-level staff or above at each school to serve as the Anti-Bullying Coordinator.

The list of District Anti-Bullying Coordinators shall be kept on file at central office, along with this Policy.

### **Reporting**

District employees are required to report any instance of bullying of which the employee has first-hand knowledge. District employees who witness an incident of bullying are required to report the incident to the school Anti-Bullying Coordinator within two (2) school days of the employee witnessing the event, unless the Anti-Bullying Coordinator is unavailable or is the subject of a report. In that case, the report should be made directly to the District's Compliance Officer (see Board Policy 1310).

All District employees shall instruct all persons seeking to report an incident of bullying to communicate directly with the Anti-Bullying Coordinator.

If a verbal report is made, the person will be asked to submit a written complaint to the Anti-Bullying Coordinator. If such person refuses or is unable to submit a written complaint, the Anti-Bullying Coordinator will summarize the verbal complaint in writing.

Even if a written complaint is not directly filed, if the Anti-Bullying Coordinator otherwise learns about possible bullying or cyberbullying, the District will conduct a prompt, impartial, adequate, reliable, and through investigation to determine whether unlawful conduct occurred and will implement the appropriate interim measures, if necessary. The District may take action upon finding a violation of law, District policy, or District expectations even if a complaint is not directly filed.

### **Investigation**

Within two (2) school days of receiving a report of an incident of bullying, the Anti-Bullying Coordinator, the school principal, or his/her designee shall initiate an investigation of the incident. The school principal may appoint other school staff to assist with the investigation.

The investigation shall be completed within ten (10) school days from the date of the written complaint of bullying, unless good cause exists to extend the investigation.

### **Retaliation**

The District prohibits retaliation against any person who files a complaint of bullying,

cyberbullying, or retaliation, and further prohibits retaliation against any person who testifies, assists, or otherwise participates in any investigation, proceeding, or hearing relating to such bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation. The District will discipline or take other appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who retaliates against any such person.

### **Consequences and Remedies**

When the District receives a report of bullying, cyberbullying, and/or retaliation, the District will take appropriate interim measures to protect the alleged victim(s). If, after investigation, it is determined that bullying, cyberbullying, and/or retaliation did occur, the District shall take prompt, effective, appropriate action reasonably calculated to end the bullying, cyberbullying, and/or retaliation and to protect individuals from further bullying, cyberbullying, and/or retaliation.

Students who are found to have violated this policy will be subject to the following consequences: loss of privileges, classroom detention, conference with teacher, parents contacted, conference with principal, in-school suspension, out-of-school suspension, expulsion, and/or law enforcement contacted. Consequences imposed shall depend on factors such as: age of student(s), degree of harm, severity of behavior, disciplinary history and number of incidents.

The District will discipline or take other appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, or other school personnel who is found to have violated this Policy. Patrons, contractors, visitors, or others who violate this Policy may be prohibited from District property or otherwise restricted while on District property.

### **Public Notice**

The superintendent or designee will continuously publicize the District's anti-bullying policy and will disseminate information to employees, parents/guardians, and students, as well as to newly-enrolled students and newly-hired employees, regarding how to report incidents of bullying. This Policy shall also be published in District student handbooks.

In addition, the District shall:

- a. Provide information and appropriate training to district staff who have significant contact with students regarding the policy;
- b. Give annual notice of the policy to students, parents/guardians, and staff;

- c. Provide education and information to students regarding bullying, including information regarding the school district policy prohibiting bullying, the harmful effects of bullying, and other applicable initiatives to address bullying (including student peer-to-peer initiatives to provide accountability and policy enforcement for those found to have
- d. engaged in bullying, reprisal, or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying);
- e. Instruct school counselors, school social workers, licensed social workers, mental health professionals, and school psychologists to educate students who are victims of bullying on techniques for students to overcome bullying's negative effects. Such techniques shall include, but not be limited to, cultivating the student's self-worth and self-esteem; teaching the student to defend himself or herself assertively and effectively; helping the student develop social skills; and/or encouraging the student to develop an internal locus of control; and
- f. Implement programs and other initiatives to address bullying, respond to such bullying conduct in a manner that does not stigmatize the victim, and make resources or referrals available to victims of bullying.

All complaints of violation of this policy will be promptly investigated by the District, and appropriate action will be taken. Complaints alleging unlawful discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in violation of Board Policy/Regulation 1300 and/or 1310 shall be referred to the compliance officer for investigation pursuant to Board Policy/Regulation 1310.

**NEW 9/16**

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2656**

### **Discipline**

#### **Cell Phone Usage for Audio and Video Recordings**

The use of student cell phones, digital cameras, iPads, and similar electronic devices for the purpose of producing audio and/or visual records is banned during the instructional day, as well as in dressing areas during extra-curricular activities and on District-provided transportation, including but not limited to buses.

The policy does not prohibit the use of student cell phones, digital cameras and similar electronic devices for the purpose of producing audio and/or visual recordings when:

- (1) The recording is produced as part of a required school-sponsored class or activity;
- (2) The recording is produced at a school performance, activity, or sporting event to which the general public is invited;
- (3) The recording is otherwise permitted by these policies or the building principal.

Violation of this policy will result in in-school suspension for the first offense, while second offenses will result in out-of-school suspension being imposed.

**Rev. 3/17**



## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2660**  
**(Regulation 2660)**

### **Discipline**

#### **Detention**

The provisions of a detention program for student violations of policies, rules and regulations shall provide principals with an additional alternative for dealing with disciplinary problems that occur in the schools. Detention is an assigned before-school and/or after-school period, during which student activity is closely monitored and severely restricted. Students are expected to be quiet during the entire detention period and to work exclusively on assigned tasks.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2661**

### **Discipline**

#### **In-School Suspension**

In-school suspension is a structured disciplinary action in which a student is isolated or removed from regular classroom activities, but is not dismissed from the school setting. The principal/designee may assign students to the in-school suspension program for a reasonable and specified period of time.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2662**  
**(Regulation 2662)**  
**(Form 2662)**

### **Discipline**

#### **Suspension**

*Suspension* refers to an exclusion from school for a specific period of time short of permanent exclusion. Building principals are authorized to suspend students for periods of time not to exceed ten (10) consecutive school days for violation of District regulations, and are authorized to impose additional suspensions of not more than 10 consecutive school days in the same school year for separate acts of misconduct. Building principals may also recommend extensions of suspension for periods of time up to 180 consecutive school days by the Superintendent. The Superintendent of schools may suspend students for periods up to 180 consecutive school days and recommend longer suspensions and expulsions to the Board of Education. Only the Board may impose suspensions in excess of 180 consecutive school days.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2663**  
**(Regulation 2663)**  
**(Form 2663)**

### **Discipline**

#### **Expulsion**

The term "expulsion" refers to permanent exclusion from school.

If a student consistently or grossly refuses to conform to school policies, rules and/or regulations, the Superintendent may recommend to the Board of Education that the student be expelled from school. Parent(s) (guardian(s)) may waive the right to a hearing for their student provided the student is under the age of eighteen (18) and provided the waiver is in writing.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2664**  
**(Regulation 2664)**

### **Discipline**

#### **Enrollment or Return Following Suspension and/or Expulsion**

No student shall be readmitted, or permitted to enroll or otherwise attend school (except as may otherwise be required by law), following a suspension or expulsion from this or any other school until the District has conducted a conference to review the conduct that resulted in the expulsion or suspension, and any remedial actions needed to prevent any future occurrences of such or related conduct.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2670**

### **Discipline**

#### **Corporal Punishment: Prohibited**

No person employed by or volunteering for the School District shall administer or cause to be administered corporal punishment upon a student attending District schools.

A staff member may, however, use reasonable restraint against a student without advance notice to the principal, if it is essential for self-defense, the preservation of order, or for the protection of other persons or the property of the School District.

## **STUDENTS**

### **Discipline**

**Policy 2671**  
**(Regulation 2671)**  
**(Form 2671)**

#### **Student Discipline Hearings**

Parents/guardians of students suspended for more than ten (10) school days may make a written request for a hearing before the Board of Education. This request will be addressed to the Superintendent/Designee who will review all matters concerning the suspension and refer the request for a Board hearing.

In conducting a discipline hearing, the Board will carefully consider the information presented by the administration and by the parent/guardian. In making its decision concerning guilt and innocence as well as punishment, the Board will be mindful of Board discipline policies in place, the effect of its decision upon the individual student, and the safety and welfare of District students and staff.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2672**  
**(Regulation 2672)**

### **Discipline**

#### **Discipline of Students with Disabilities**

The obligation and the responsibility to attend school regularly and to comply with the District's discipline policies applies to all students. The District may discipline a student with a disability who has not complied with the District's discipline policies in a manner that is consistent with the District's policies and applicable law. Special education services will be provided to a disabled student if the student has been removed from school for more than ten (10) school days. If a student with a disability is removed for less than ten (10) cumulative days, educational services will be provided only if such services are provided to students without disabilities who have been similarly removed in accordance with applicable federal and state law and Board policy.



## **STUDENTS**

### **Discipline**

**Policy 2673**  
**(Regulation 2673)**  
**(Form 2673)**

### **Reporting of Violent Behavior**

The District requires school administrators to report acts of school violence to all teachers at the attendance area and other District employees who are directly responsible for the student's education or who interact with the student in the performance of the employee's duties, and who have a need to know. School administrators will also disclose to appropriate staff members portions of any student's individualized education program that is related to past or potentially future violent behavior. Violent behavior and the phrase acts of school violence are defined as the use of physical force by a student with the intent to do serious physical injury to another person while on school property, including a school bus, or while involved in school activities.

In addition the Superintendent/designee will report to law enforcement officials, as soon as is reasonably practicable, the commission of any of the acts or related juvenile offenses listed in Regulation 2673, which are committed on school property, including school buses, or while involved in school activities.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2710** **(Regulation 2710)**

### **Student Welfare**

#### **Reporting Student Abuse**

The Board of Education believes that school staff members, school volunteers, and school contractors are in unique positions to assist children, families, and the community in dealing with the issue of child abuse and neglect. Child abuse is defined as any physical injury, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse inflicted on a child other than by accidental means. Neglect is defined as the failure to provide the proper or necessary support, education, nutrition or medical, surgical or other care necessary for the child's well-being. The status as an unaccompanied youth is not, in and of itself, a sufficient basis for reporting child abuse or neglect unless the child is under sixteen (16) years of age or is an incapacitated person. However, if a mandated reporter knows or has reason to believe that an unaccompanied child has been or may be a victim of child abuse or neglect, a report must be made. Employees, volunteers, and school contractors making reports of allegations of sexual abuse of a student will be provided immediate unrestricted use of communication technology and will be temporarily released from their work duties to make an immediate report.

If a school employee, volunteer or school contractor has a reasonable belief that a student has been or may be subjected to abuse or neglect, such employee, volunteer, or contractor and the Superintendent shall report the information immediately upon receiving the information to the Children's Division. Thereafter, the Superintendent will investigate the allegation for the purpose of making decisions about the accused person's employment. Depending upon the specific facts, the District may place the alleged abuser on paid leave of absence; place the employee in a non-student contact position; initiate dismissal proceedings; or continue the employee in their present position pending outcome of the investigation.

Any school district employee, volunteer, or school contractor acting in good faith, who reports alleged sexual misconduct on the part of a school employee will not be disciplined or discriminated against because of such reporting.

The District will annually provide employee and volunteer training, which will include but not be limited to current information concerning identification of the signs of sexual abuse in children as well as the identification of the danger signals of potentially abusive relationships between children and adults. This training will emphasize the importance of mandatory child abuse reporting, including the obligation to report suspected abuse by other mandated reporters. Employees and volunteers will receive training on the need for and methods to create an atmosphere of trust so that students believe their school and school employees are available to discuss matters concerning abusive behavior.

The District will post in each student restroom and in a clearly visible location in each school office, the toll free child abuse and neglect hotline number established by the Children's Division. These signs will be published in both English and Spanish. Such child abuse and neglect hotline

**Policy 2710**  
**(Regulation 2710)**  
**Page 2**

numbers shall be depicted in large print on posters 11 inches by 17 inches and will be placed at eye level for easy viewing. The hotline number will be shown in bold print. The signs shall also contain instructions to call 911 for emergencies and contain directions for accessing the Children's Division's website for more information on reporting abuse and neglect.

**Rev. 11/2019**  
**REV. 11/21**

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2720**  
**(Form 2720)**

### **Work Certificate**

#### **Employment of Students**

The Superintendent of Schools will make provision for the issuance of work permits to students between the ages of fourteen (14) and sixteen (16). In addition, principals/designees and District employees holding a student service certificate and, who is authorized by the Superintendent, may issue work certificates to students who are attending their schools. Employees with authority to issue certificates may not issue a certificate to their own child.

Principals issuing work certificates will provide self-certification that the principal understands the legal requirements for issuing work certificates. The principal issuing a work certificate will submit a copy of each certificate and the certificate application to the Superintendent. The Superintendent may revoke a certificate issued by a principal if the Superintendent becomes aware of any grounds upon which the student may be ineligible for a work certificate.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2730**

### **Student Welfare**

#### **Supervision of Students**

Students are to be under supervision of the professional staff at all times during school hours and at school sponsored activities.

It is the responsibility of principals to arrange for adequate supervision during school hours. It is the duty of teachers to perform assigned supervision during school hours. Students are not to be left unsupervised during the school day whether in instructional areas or on the playground.

It is the responsibility of principals to arrange for adequate supervision at school sponsored activities.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2740** **(Regulation 2740)**

### **Student Welfare**

#### **Student Safety**

The District places a high priority on the safety of its students and employees. When a student or employee is the victim of a violent criminal offense, severe disciplinary consequences will be imposed. (See also Regulation 2610 – Behavioral Expectations.) In addition and pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act, student victims of a violent criminal offense that was committed on school premises will be offered transfer to another District school. To insure awareness of this policy, the parents of student victims will be notified in writing of their right to a school transfer.

For purposes of this policy, a victim is a student who has suffered personal injury or injuries to his or her property as a direct result of a violent criminal offense. This definition does not include bystanders or witnesses to the act unless they suffered personal or property injury as a direct result of a violent criminal offense while on school premises.

The District will notify the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) of all violent criminal offenses committed on school premises when the victim is a student or employee. Reportable offenses are set out in Regulation 2740.

**Rev. 5-2018**

## **Student Welfare**

### **Sexual Abuse Awareness Training**

Beginning in the 2020-21 school year and annually thereafter, The District will provide trauma-informed, developmentally-appropriate sexual abuse training to students in grades 6-12. Student training will include, but not be limited to:

1. Instruction in recognizing sexual abuse;
2. Instruction in reporting incidents of sexual abuse;
3. Instruction in actions that student-victims of sexual abuse can take to obtain assistance and intervention; and
4. Instruction in resources that are available to students affected by sexual abuse.

Prior to inception of the training, the District will notify parents/guardians of the training content and of the parents/guardians right to have their student excused from the training. Upon written request of the parent/guardian their student will be excused from the training.

**New 11/2019**

**Student Welfare****Electronic Data Breach**

In the event of a breach of data that includes personal student information maintained in an electronic form, the District will send written notification of the breach to the student's parent/guardian. In addition, the District will also send notification of such breach to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and to the state auditor.

For purposes of this policy, student personal information shall mean a student's first name or first initial and last name in combination with any one or more of the following data elements that relate to the individual if any of the data elements are not encrypted, redacted, or otherwise altered by any method or technology in such a manner that the name or data elements are unreadable or unusable:

1. Social Security Number;
2. Financial account number, credit card number, or debit card number in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account;
3. Unique electronic identifier or routing code, in combination with any required security code, access code, or password that would permit access to an individual's financial account;
4. Driver's License Numbers or other unique identification number created or collected by government body;
5. Medical information; or
6. Health Insurance Information.

Student personal information does not include information that is lawfully obtained from publically available sources or from federal, state, or local government records that are lawfully made available to the general public.



## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2750** **(Regulation 2750)**

### **Student Welfare**

#### **Wellness**

The District is committed to the optimal development of every student. The District believes that for students to have the opportunity to achieve personal, academic, developmental and social success, there needs to exist a positive, safe, and health-promoting learning environment at every level, in every setting, throughout the school year.

The District promotes healthy schools, by supporting wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity as part of the total learning environment. The District supports a healthy environment where children learn and participate in positive dietary and lifestyle practices. Schools contribute to the basic health status of children by facilitating learning through the support and promotion of good nutrition and physical activity. Improved health optimizes student performance potential.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2760** **(Regulation 2760)**

### **Student Welfare**

#### **Students in Foster Care**

The District is committed to ensuring and facilitating the proper educational placement and enrollment in school and checkout from school for foster children.

In order to facilitate this process and to serve as the educational liaison for District foster children, the District will designate the Director of Neighborhood Family Services to oversee and assess the District's foster care program.

The Board recognizes students in foster care experience mobility in and out of the foster care system and from one home placement to another that may disrupt their education, and which may create barriers to academic success and on-time graduation. The District, in collaboration with state and local agencies, to minimize or eliminate educational barriers for students in foster care, particularly in enrollment, transfer of student records, and transportation to their school of origin, where appropriate. For purposes of this policy, "school of origin" is the school in which the student is enrolled at the time of placement in foster care. The District will, to the largest extent possible, ensure that a child in foster care enrolls or remains in his or her school of origin, unless a determination is made that remaining in the student's school of origin is not in the student's best interest.

In determining the student's best interest for purposes of this policy, the following factors will be considered:

1. Preference of the student;
2. Preference of the student's parent or educational decision making;
3. The student's attachment to the school, relationships with staff and peers;
4. Placement of the student's siblings;
5. Influence of the school climate on the student, including safety;
6. Availability and quality of the services in the school in meeting the student's educational and socioemotional needs;
7. History of school transfers and their impact;
8. Impact of the length of commute;
9. Whether the student has a disability under the IDEA or Section 504;
10. Whether student is an EL student receiving language services.

A foster care child whose home placement is changed may remain enrolled and attend their school of origin, or return to a previously attended school in an adjacent district. The District will accept for credit full or partial course work satisfactorily completed by a foster child while attending a public school, nonpublic school, or non-sectarian school in compliance with District policies, regulations, and practices.

If a child in foster care is absent from school due to a decision to change the placement of a pupil made by a court or child placing agency, or due to a verified court appearance or related court-ordered activity, the grades and credits of the pupil will be calculated as of the day the pupil left school and no reduction in grades will occur as a result of the pupil's absence under these circumstances.

If a foster care student transfers into the District prior to or during a school year, the District will initially honor the placement of the student in educational courses and programs based on the student's prior enrollment or educational assessments; will provide comparable services to transferring foster care students with disabilities based on the student's current IEP; and will make reasonable accommodations and modifications to address the needs of a student with disabilities, subject to an existing 504 or Title II Plan in order to provide equal access to education. The District will conduct evaluations, where necessary, to ensure proper placement and services.

The District will waive specific courses required for graduation if similar course work has been satisfactorily completed at another school. Similarly, the District may waive prerequisites for placement in a District course or program based upon courses taken at a prior school. If a waiver is denied for reasonable justifications, the District will provide an alternative means of acquiring the required course work so that graduation may occur on time. If foster care students who transfer at the beginning of their senior year or during their senior year are deemed ineligible to graduate after all alternatives have been considered, the sending District and this District will ensure that a qualified student who satisfied graduation requirements of the sending school, will receive a diploma from the sending school.

Students in foster care who have completed the graduation requirements of the District while under juvenile court jurisdiction will receive a diploma in the same manner as other District students.

### **Transportation**

Some students in foster care who are residents of the District may need transportation to remain in their school of origin when it is in their best interest. To facilitate transportation for such students, the District will collaborate with the state and/or local child welfare agencies to ensure that transportation for such students is arranged, provided, and funded. If there are additional costs incurred in providing transportation to the school of origin, the District will provide such transportation if:

- a) The local child welfare agency agrees to reimburse the District for such costs;
- b) The District elects to pay the costs; or
- c) The District and the local child welfare agency agree to share the cost.

## **Dispute Resolution**

In the event that a caregiver or education decision-maker disputes a District decision regarding the best interest or the provision of other educationally related services for a student in foster care, the caregiver or education decision-maker may use the District's dispute resolution procedure.

During the pendency of the dispute resolution, the student shall remain in his or her school of origin in order to minimize disruptions and to reduce the number of moves between schools. Similarly, students attending their school of origin are entitled to continue to receive transportation during the appeal.

In the event of such dispute, the District will inform the educational decision-maker or parent of their right to appeal the Best Interest Determination in a language and format reasonably calculated to inform the parent/educational decision-maker of their rights. They will also be provided with the following:

1. Contact information for the District's foster care point of contact.
2. An explanation of the Best Interest Determination.
3. A step-by-step description of how to appeal the Best Interest Determination at Level I.
4. A statement advising that the student will remain in the school of origin, receiving all appropriate educational services during the pendency of the appeal.
5. Timelines for dispute resolution at each level.
6. Notice of rights to appeal to DESE if the parent/educational decision-maker is not satisfied of the level decision.

## **Level I**

In order to appeal from the Best Interest Determination, a parent/educational decision-maker must submit their appeal in writing. This writing must contain the following:

1. The school in which enrollment is sought.
2. The basis for seeking enrollment.
3. The requesting parent/educational decision-maker's name and contact information.

If the appeal is submitted by email, the subject line should provide "Foster Care Appeal."

The appeal letter must be submitted within ten (10) weekdays of receiving the District's notice of the right to appeal the decision. Failure to timely submit an appeal letter may result in dismissal of the appeal.

The Superintendent/designee will arrange for a personal conference with the parent/educational decision-maker, the student where appropriate, and the student's case manager or point of

contact. Prior to the meeting, the Superintendent will have reviewed the documentation from the Best Interest Determination meeting. The conference will be arranged within ten (10) days of receipt of the appeal letter and will be conducted as soon as practicable.

Within five (5) days of the conference, the Superintendent/designee will inform the parent/educational decision-maker as well as other parties attending the meeting of the Superintendent/designee's decision. The decision will be communicated in writing. The written decision will include the following:

1. Copy of the complete Level I appeal packet (appeal, Best Interest documents, notices, and decision).
2. The decision and an explanation of the decision.
3. Directions concerning the procedure to appeal the decision to Level II, including the DESE foster care point of contact, including that individual's name, phone number and email address.

## **Level II**

If the parent/educational decision-maker disagrees with the Level I decision, they may submit a written and dated appeal letter headed "Foster Child Appeal" which must include:

1. The school in which enrollment is sought and the basis for seeking such enrollment.
2. The parent/educational decision-maker's name and contact information.
3. Best Interest Determination notes and reports.
4. Copy of the Level I appeal letter.
5. Copy of the District's Level I decision.

The appeal letter must be submitted to the DESE contact person and the District's Superintendent within five (5) days of receipt of the Level I decision. The District will have five (5) days from receipt of the Level II appeal letter to submit its response, which will be headed "Foster Child Appeal." Documents submitted after the stated deadline will not be considered.

The State's decision will be made by a three person panel including the DESE foster care point of contact, an additional DESE representative, and a representative of the state child welfare agency. The panel will make its decision within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Level II appeal letter. The DESE foster care point of contact will send the written decision to the parent/educational decision-maker and the Superintendent. The decision will include:

1. Copy of the Level II packet.
2. The decision and its explanation.

**Student Welfare**

**Temporary Alternative Placement Agreements**

If a parent/guardian is temporarily unable to provide care or support for their child and if the child is not in imminent danger of death, serious bodily injury, or being sexually abused, an adult relative and the parent/guardian of the child may enter into a Temporary Alternative Placement Agreement (“Agreement”) with Missouri’s Children’s Division.

The Agreement provides for a placement with an adult relative for a period of ninety (90) days. The adult relative shall make the day-to-day decisions for the child as provided in the agreement, and shall further have the authority to make educational and medical decisions.

The adult caregiver (relative) is required to notify the District of the Agreement and is required to provide the District with notice of the Agreement.

This provision will become effective only when the Children’s Division has prepared and disseminated Rules and Regulations governing such Agreements.

**NEW 11/2020**

**Student Welfare****Transfer of Care and Custody**

A parent or legal custodian of a student may execute a power of attorney transferring the care and custody of the student for a period of up to one year. The transfer of custody will not change or modify parental or legal rights contained in an existing court order or deprive parents of visitation. Parents or legal guardians may revoke the power of attorney at any time.

Parents or legal custodians who are members of the Armed Forces, including reserve components, the Commissioned Officer Corps of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Public Health Services of the United States, Department of Health and Human Services detailed for duty with the United States Armed Forces, or who is required to enter or serve in the active military service of the United States, under a call or order of the President of the United States, or to serve on state active duty, may delegate care and custody of their student for a period of longer than one year if on active duty service. The delegation of care and custody may not exceed the term of active duty service plus thirty (30) days.

The delegation of care and custody will not alter or affect the District's residency requirements.

If enrolled in the District, as soon as reasonably possible upon execution of a power of attorney for the temporary care of a child, the District shall be notified of the existence of the power of attorney and be provided a copy of the power of attorney as well as the contact information for the attorney-in-fact. While the power of attorney is in force, the District will communicate with both the attorney-in-fact and any parent or legal custodian with parental or legal rights, obligations, or authority regarding the custody, visitation, or support of the child. The District shall also be notified of the expiration, termination, or revocation of the power of attorney as soon as reasonably possible following such expiration, termination, or revocation and will no longer communicate with the attorney-in-fact regarding the child upon the receipt of such notice.

**Student Welfare**

**Seclusion and Restraint**

**A. Purpose**

Through the adoption of this policy the Board expects to:

- Meet the requirements of RSMo 160.263.
- Promote safety and prevent harm to all students, school personnel and visitors in the school district.
- Treat all students with dignity and respect in the use of discipline and behavior-management techniques.
- Provide school personnel with clear guidelines about the use of seclusion, isolation, and restraint on school district property or at any school district function or event.
- Promote retention of teachers and other school personnel by addressing student behavior in an appropriate and safe manner.
- Promote parent understanding about state guidelines and district policies related to the use of discipline, behavior management, behavior interventions and responses to emergency situations.
- Promote the use of non-aversive behavioral interventions and positive behavior support techniques.

**B. Definitions:**

“**Authorized School Personnel**” means school personnel who have received annual training in:

- De-escalation practices,
- Appropriate use of physical restraint,
- Professionally-accepted practices in physical management and use of restraints,
- Methods to explain the use of restraint to the student who is to be restrained and to the individual’s family,
- Appropriate use of isolation,
- Appropriate use of seclusion, and
- Information on the policy and appropriate documentation and notification Procedures



“**Behavior Intervention Plan (BIP)**” sets forth specific behavior interventions for a specific student who displays chronic patterns of problem behavior.

“**Chemical Restraint**” shall never be used by school personnel.

“**Functional Behavior Assessment**” a formal assessment to identify the function or purpose the behavior serves for the student so that classroom interventions and behavior support plans can be developed to improve behavior. The assessment could include observations and charting of the behavior and interviews with family, teachers, and the student, so as to determine the frequency, antecedent and response of the targeted behavior.

“**IEP**” means a student’s Individualized Education Program as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

“**Mechanical Restraint**” means the use of any device or equipment to restrict a student’s freedom of movement. “Mechanical Restraint” shall not include devices implemented by trained personnel or use by a student with prescription for such devices from an appropriate medical or related services professional and that are used for specific and approved purposes for which such devices were designed such as the following:

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

“**Physical Restraint**” is a personal restriction such as person-to-person physical contact that immobilizes, reduces, or restricts the ability of a student to move the student’s torso, arms, legs, or head freely. “Physical restraint” shall not include:

- a) A “physical escort” which is a temporary touching or holding of the hand, wrist, arm, shoulder, or back for the purpose of inducing a student to walk to a safe location.
- b) Comforting or calming a student.

“**School personnel**” means

- Employees of a local board of education.

- Any person, paid or unpaid, working on school grounds in an official capacity.
- Any person working at a school function under a contract or written agreement with the school system to provide educational or related services to students.
- Any person working on school grounds or at a school function for another agency providing educational or related services to students.

“**Seclusion**” is the involuntary confinement of a student alone in an area or room that the student is physically prevented from leaving and that complies with the code in effect in the District. Seclusion does not include the following:

- a) A timeout, which is a behavior management technique that is part of an approved program, involves the monitored separation of the student in a non-locked setting, and is implemented for the purpose of calming.
- b) In-school suspension.
- c) Detention; or
- d) Other appropriate disciplinary measures.

“**Section 504 Plan**” means a student’s individualized plan developed by the student’s Section 504 multidisciplinary team after a pre-placement evaluation finding the student is disabled within the meaning of Section 504 and its implementing policy.

“**Time out**” means brief removal from sources of reinforcement within instructional contexts that does not meet the definition of seclusion or Safe Room placement. Time out includes both of the following:

- a) Non-exclusionary time out: removal of reinforcers from the student without changing the physical location of the student (*e.g.*, asking the student to put his/her head down on the desk); and
- b) Exclusionary time-out: removal of the student from participation in an activity or removal from the instructional area.

### **C. Seclusion**

The District will not confine a student in seclusion unless there is a situation or condition where there is imminent danger to the student or others.

Use of seclusion requires all of the following:

- ⊖ The student shall be monitored by an adult in close proximity who is able to see and hear the student at all times. Monitoring shall be face-to-face unless personal safety of the child or staff member is significantly compromise.

- ⊖ The total time of seclusion placement is to be reasonably calculated by District personnel on a case-by-case basis based on the age of the child and the circumstances, and is not to exceed 40 minutes unless the student continues to be a threat to the safety of self or others.
- The space in which the student is placed should be a normal-sized meeting or classroom commonly found in a school setting and should have comparable lighting, ventilation, heating, cooling, and ceiling height to those systems that are in use in other places in the school and must be reasonably free of objects that could cause harm.

Seclusion placement shall never be used as a form of punishment or for the convenience of school personnel.

#### **D. Physical and Prone Restraint**

For all school years beginning on or after July 1, 2022, the District will not use any mechanical, physical, or prone restraint technique that:

- 1) Obstructs views of the student's face.
- 2) Obstructs the student's respiratory airway, impairs the student's breathing or respiratory capacity, or restricts the movement required for normal breathing to cause positional or postural asphyxia.
- 3) Places pressure or weight on or causes the compression of the student's chest, lungs, sternum, diaphragm, back, abdomen, or genitals.
- 4) Obstructs the student's circulation of blood.
- 5) Involves pushing on or into the student's mouth, nose, eyes, or any part of the face or involves covering the face or body with anything including, but not limited to, soft objects such as pillows, blankets, or washcloths.
- 6) Endangers the student's life or significantly exacerbates the student's medical condition.
- 7) Is purposely designed to inflict pain.
- 8) Restricts the student from communicating. If an employee physically restrains a student who uses sign language or an augmentative mode of communication as the student's primary mode of communication, the student shall be permitted to have the student's hands free of restraint for brief periods unless an employee determines that such freedom appears likely to result in harm to self or others.

Physical restraints should never be used as a form of punishment or for the convenience of school personnel- or unless there is a situation or condition in which there is an imminent danger of physical harm to the student or others.

#### **E. Assurances and Training**

The District will ensure that the policy adopted under this section requires the following:

1. Any student placed in seclusion or restraint shall be removed from such seclusion or restraint as soon as the District personnel determines that the student is no longer an imminent danger of physical harm to self or others.
2. District personnel shall annually review the policy and procedures involving the use of seclusion and restraint. Personnel who use seclusion or restraint shall annually complete mandatory training in the specific seclusion and restraint techniques that the District uses.

**F. Recordkeeping and Parental Notification**

The District will attempt to notify the parents or legal guardians as soon as possible but no later than one hour after the end of the school day on which the use of seclusion or restraint occurred. Notifications shall be oral or electronic and shall include a statement indicating that the District will provide the parents or legal guardians a copy of the report described in this section within five (5) school days.

Each time seclusion or restraint is used for a student, the incident shall be monitored by a member of the District's staff and a report shall be completed by the District personnel that contains at a minimum the following:

- a. Date, time of day, location, duration, and description of the incident and intervention;
- b. Any event leading to the incident and reason for using seclusion or restraint;
- c. A description of the methods of seclusion or restraint used;
- d. The nature or extend of any injury to the students;
- e. The names, roles, and certifications of each employee involved in the use of seclusion or restraint;
- f. The name, role, and signature of the person who prepared the report;
- g. The name of the employee whom the parent or guardian can contact regarding the incident and use of seclusion or restraint;
- h. The name of the employee to contact if the parent or guardian wishes to file a complaint;
- i. A statement directing parents and/or legal guardians to a sociological, emotional, or behavioral support organization and a hotline number to report child abuse and neglect.

Form 2770 is a sample reporting form which may be utilized to satisfy the reporting requirement.

The District will maintain the report as an education record of the student, provide a copy of the report to the parent or legal guardian within five (5) school days, and a copy of each incident report shall be sent to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education within thirty (30) days of the incident.

**G. Applicability of this Policy**

This policy applies to all district school personnel. School personnel assigned to programs not located on district premises (hospitals, detention centers, juvenile facilities, and mental health facilities) shall follow the policy and procedure of the facility/program where they work.

**H. School Personnel Debriefing**

Following any situation involving the use of seclusion, isolation, or restraint, as defined in this policy, a debriefing shall occur as soon as possible but no later than two (2) school days after the emergency situation. The debriefing shall include, at a minimum, a discussion of the events that led to the emergency and why the de-escalation efforts were not effective; any trauma reactions on the part of the student, other students or school personnel; what, if anything, could have been done differently, and an evaluation of the process.

**I. Retaliation**

District employees will not retaliate against any person for having:  
Reported a violation of any policy established under this section or failure of the District to follow any provisions of this section in retaliation to incidents of seclusion and restraint or provided information regarding a violation of this section by the District or a member of the staff of the District.

**STUDENTS**

**Policy 2780**

**Student Welfare**

**Use of Tracking Devices**

District employees are prohibited from requiring students to use an identification device that uses radio frequency identification technology, or related technology to identify the student, to transmit information regarding the student, or to monitor or trace the location of the student.

**New 9/2014**

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2785**

### **Student Welfare**

#### **Student Suicide Awareness**

The Independence School District is committed to maintaining a safe environment to protect the health, safety and welfare of students.

Pursuant to Section 170.048, RSMo., all Independence School District employees will receive information annually regarding this policy and the district's protocol for suicide awareness, prevention and response. The importance of suicide prevention, recognition of suicide protective and risk factors, strategies to strengthen school connectedness and building specific response procedures will be highlighted.

Such information shall include the following:

1. Current trends in youth mental health, wellbeing and suicide prevention and awareness
2. Strategies to encourage students to seek help for themselves and other students
3. Warning signs that indicate a student may be at risk of suicide
4. The impact of mental health issues and substance abuse
5. Communication to students regarding concerns about safety and that asking for help can save life
6. Understanding limitations and boundaries for giving help and techniques to practice self-care
7. Identification of key school personnel who are comfortable, confident and competent to help students at risk of escalated distress and suicide

All students will receive age appropriate information and instruction on suicide awareness and prevention. Information and instruction may be offered in health education, by the counseling staff or in other curricula as may be appropriate.

Student education will include the following:

1. Information about mental health, well-being and suicide prevention and awareness.
2. Promotion of a climate that encourages peer referral and which emphasizes school connectedness.
3. Recognition of the signs that they or peers are at risk for suicide.
4. Identification of issues that may lead to suicide including depression, anxiety, anger, and drug/alcohol dependency.
5. Directive to not make promises of confidentiality when they are concerned about peer suicide.
6. Identification of a trusted adult on campus with whom students can discuss concerns about suicide.

**Student Services**

**Guidance and Counseling Services**

The Board of Education supports a systematic program of Guidance and Counseling which will be provided to all students from kindergarten through twelfth grade. This program will be a total education process with a priority of assisting students in reaching their full potential in their personal and educational development.

The Guidance and Counseling program may include the following areas:

1. Counseling
2. Developmental Guidance
3. Testing
4. Orientation, Registration, and Scheduling
5. Referrals



## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2812**

### **Student Services**

#### **Identification of At-Risk Students**

The District is committed to identifying students who are at-risk of not being ready for college-level work or not being ready for employment in entry-level career positions. It is essential that such identification occur early enough that our schools can intervene with academic counseling, career counseling, and other intervention services to enhance a student's readiness for post high school academic or employment opportunities.

#### **Identification**

Consistent with this District's commitment, at-risk students will be identified by at least their ninth grade year, including students who transfer into the District during ninth grade. In order to identify such at-risk students, District staff will utilize the following criteria:

1. Student performance in Mathematics and English on the eighth grade Missouri Assessment Program (MAP) tests.
2. The District will consider comparable statewide assessment performance for students transferring into ninth grade from outside of Missouri.
3. The District's reported rate of students taking remedial courses in basic academic subjects of English, Mathematics, and Reading during their initial year of college. In assessing this data, the District will rely on data submitted by the Department of Higher Education pursuant to § 173.750 RSMo.
4. The student's attendance rates.

While the above at-risk identifiers are mandatory, the District may consider additional criteria including, but not limited to, review of discipline record; performance more than one grade level below in Reading and/or Math; core subject middle school grades; academic assessment results; contents of Section 504 Plan; ACE score (Adverse Childhood Experience) of 5 or more or other relevant identifiers.

#### **Academic and Career Counseling**

When at-risk students are identified, the District will initiate academic and/or career counseling as soon as is practicable to enhance at-risk students' opportunity to graduate on-time, and to enhance their college and/or career readiness.

This policy may be appropriately waived for any student with a disability upon the recommendation of the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team.

**New 8/2018**

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2815**

### **Student Services**

#### **Contact and Involvement With Outside Agencies**

The counseling staff, in consultation with other staff members, is responsible for reviewing students' academic progress as well as personal/social concerns. Where appropriate, the District will make contact with and/or put students and their parents/guardians in contact with outside agencies or professional resources. Where appropriate, the District will cooperate and assist other agencies or professional resources that become involved with students. Student information will not be provided to outside agencies or professional resources until the student's parents/guardians or the eligible student has signed a release of information form. Except as required by law, including but not limited to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the cost of any services provided by the outside agency or professional resource is the sole responsibility of individual parents/guardians or eligible student.

**Rev. 10/2013**

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2820**

### **Student Services**

#### **Psychological Testing of Students**

Psychological tests administered to students by qualified District personnel or appropriate diagnostic agencies will ensure quality psychological services in the District, and will protect the educational rights, dignity and privacy of students and parents/guardians.

Psychological evaluations will be made only after informed and written consent of the student's parent/guardian is obtained. A conference will be held with the parent/guardian to review all test results and the student's specific educational needs in the educational program. Psychological data are only partial criteria for determining any change in a student's educational program.

Psychological data older than three years shall not be used as the basis for prescriptive teaching or placement.

All psychological services provided by the District or agencies contracted by the District will be in accordance with state and federal statutes and regulations concerning the privacy of student records and use of psychological services.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2825**

### **Student Services**

#### **ACT Administration**

In any school year in which DESE directs a state-funded, or the District directs a District-funded census administration of the ACT to any group of District students, students who are allowed or required to take the ACT assessment will have the option to take the assessment in its regular configuration or take the ACT Work-Keys assessment. Students opting to take the ACT Work-Keys assessment will do so within three (3) months before administration of the ACT assessment.

The District will not be required to fund an administration of the ACT assessment to any student who participated in a State- or District-funded administration of Work-Keys.

**New 1/19**

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2830**

### **Student Services**

#### **Health Services**

The Board of Education believes that in order to provide for the safety and well being of its students, it is necessary to implement and maintain a District-wide student health services program. The health service staff will be responsible to their building principal and may also be responsible to a designated District administrator.

The District will be responsible for providing first aid or emergency treatment for students in cases of sudden illness or injury. Where necessary, and with notice to the parent/guardian, emergency health services will be secured. The parent/guardian is responsible for the cost of their child's medical treatment.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2835**  
**(Form 2835)**

### **Student Services**

#### **Consent to Medical Treatment and Educational Service**

As provided by statute, and as otherwise provided in Board Policy, the following individuals may consent to student medical treatment and educational services:

1. Parents
2. Student's legal guardian
3. Relative caregiver
4. Foster parent
5. Any person who under court order is authorized to give consent for a student

A "relative caregiver" is defined by statute as a competent adult (18 years of age or older) who is related to the student by blood, marriage, or adoption and who is not the parent. Relative caregivers are required to provide an affidavit attesting that the student lives with the relative caregiver and they are responsible for the care of the student. (See Form 2835).

A relative caregiver acting under the requirements of an affidavit may consent to medical treatment and educational services for a student who cannot otherwise legally consent if the parent has delegated these responsibilities in writing or if after reasonable efforts the consent of the parent cannot be obtained.

The consent of the relative caregiver will be revoked in the event the student's parent withdraws their authorization provided the parent's decision does not threaten the life, health or safety of the student. In addition, if the student ceases to live with the relative caregiver, the relative caregiver must immediately notify the District. Upon receipt of such notice, the relative caregiver can no longer consent to medical treatment or educational services.

A relative caregiver's affidavit is valid for one year from the date received by the District.

**New 9/2014**

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2840**

### **Student Services**

#### **Student Insurance Program**

The Board of Education believes that parents/guardians, students and others should have an opportunity on an annual basis to purchase student accident insurance.



## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2850**  
**(Regulation 2850)**  
**(Form 2850)**

### **Student Services**

#### **Inoculations of Students**

All students attending District schools are required to be in compliance with state programs mandating immunization against specific diseases. Failure to comply with District immunization requirements will result in exclusion from school until proof of compliance is provided. Parents/guardians of homeless students are encouraged to submit proof of compliance as soon as possible.

The Superintendent shall institute procedures for the maintenance of health records, which are to show the immunization status of every student enrolled or attending in the District, and for the completion of all necessary reports in accordance with guidelines prepared by the Department of Social Services-Missouri Division of Health.

Upon written request, the District will notify the parents/guardians of pre-kindergarten students whether other pre-kindergarten students are attending school with an immunization exemption. The identity of students for whom an immunization exemption has been filed is confidential and will not be released except as required by law.

**REV. 1/18**

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2860** **(Regulation 2860)**

### **Student Services**

#### **Students with Communicable Diseases**

A student shall not attend classes or other school-sponsored activities, if the student (1) has, or has been exposed to, an acute (short duration) or chronic (long duration) contagious or infectious disease, and (2) is liable to transmit the contagious or infectious disease, unless the Board of Education or its designee has determined, based upon medical evidence, that the student:

1. No longer has the disease.
2. Is not in the contagious or infectious stage of an acute disease.
3. Has a chronic infectious disease that poses little risk of transmission in the school environment with reasonable precautions.

School officials may require any child suspected of having a contagious or infectious disease to be examined by a physician and may exclude the child from school, in accordance with the procedures authorized by this policy, so long as there is a substantial risk of transmission of the disease in the school environment.

A student who has a chronic infectious disease, and who is permitted to attend school, may be required to do so under specified conditions. Failure to adhere to the conditions will result in the student being excluded from school. A student who has a chronic infectious disease and who is not permitted to attend school or participate in school activities will be provided instruction in an alternative educational setting in accordance with District policy.

Students with acute or chronic contagious or infectious diseases and their families have a right to privacy and confidentiality. Only staff members who have a medical reason to know the identity and condition of such students will be informed. Willful or negligent disclosure of confidential information about a student's medical condition by staff members will be cause for disciplinary action.

The District will implement reporting and disease outbreak control measures in accordance with the provisions of Missouri Department of Health publication PACH-16, "Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases: A Guide for School Administrators, Nurses, Teachers and Day Care Operators," a copy of which shall be on file in the office of the Supervisor of Health Services and in the office of each school nurse.

## **STUDENTS**

### **Student Services**

**Policy 2870**  
**(Regulation 2870)**  
**(Form 2870)**

#### **Administering Medicines To Students**

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education that the giving of medicine to students during school hours be discouraged and restricted to medication that cannot be given on an alternative schedule. The Board of Education recognizes that some students may require medication for chronic or short-term illness/injury during the school day to enable them to remain in school and participate in their education. Employees providing routine first aid according to District procedures will be immune from liability or disciplinary action. Similarly, trained employees will be immune from civil liability for administering cardiopulmonary resuscitation and other lifesaving methods in good faith and according to standard medical practices. The Board of Education also recognizes that the administration of medication may be required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and/or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide a free appropriate public education for identified as disabled under those laws.

Student Services

Medical Marijuana

The Board strives to honor families' private medical decisions while ensuring a learning environment free of disruption. To that goal, the District maintains a strict prohibition against the possession, use, sale and presence under the influence of prohibited substances, having adopted a Drug Free School Policy (*Policy 2641 – Drug Free Schools*) as well as a prohibition against Student Use of Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs (*Policy 2640 - Student Use of Tobacco, Alcohol and Drugs*). The purpose of these policies and others is not primarily punitive to catch offenders, rather it is designed to provide a safe learning environment and to serve as a deterrence to drug use.

The State of Missouri has adopted a limited authorization of medical marijuana, as defined by state law and all applicable regulations (hereinafter “medical marijuana” or “drug”). The law does not authorize, however, the use of medical marijuana on school premises, nor does it require or permit district employees to administer the drug to students. Accordingly, the District does not permit the use or administration of medical marijuana by an Individual while on school premises.

Under this policy, caregivers of qualified users of medical marijuana should administer the drug before or after school hours. Caregivers are advised to administer the drug as early in the morning as possible or after school in order to avoid safety issues at school.

Student possession, use, distribution, sale or being under the influence of marijuana inconsistent with this policy may be considered a violation of Board policy concerning drug and alcohol involvement by students or other Board policy and may subject the student to disciplinary consequences, including suspension and/or expulsion, in accordance with applicable Board policy.

**New 8/2019**

**Student Services**

**Student Allergy Prevention and Response**

The purpose of this policy is to create an organized system for preventing and responding to allergic reactions in accordance with House Bill 922 (2009). This policy is not a guarantee of an allergen-free environment; instead, it is designed to increase awareness, provide education and training, reduce the chance of exposure and outline responses to allergic reactions.

This policy applies to district facilities to which students have access and includes transportation provided by the district. The Board instructs the superintendent or designee to develop procedures to implement this policy.

**Identification**

An allergic reaction is an immune system response to a substance that itself is not harmful but that the body interprets as being harmful. Allergic reactions range from mild to life-threatening. Each school in the district will attempt to identify students with life-threatening allergies, including food allergies. At enrollment, the person enrolling the student will be asked to provide information on any allergies the student may have.

**Prevention**

Students with allergies that rise to the level of a disability as defined by law will be accommodated in accordance with district policies and procedures pertaining to the identification and accommodation of students with disabilities. An Individualized Health Plan (IHP), including an Emergency Action Plan (EAP), may be developed for students with allergies that do not rise to the level of a disability.

All staff members are required to follow any 504 Plan or IHP/EAP developed for a student by the district. Staff members who do not follow an existing 504 Plan or IHP/EAP will be disciplined, up to and including termination.

Staff members shall not use air fresheners, oils, candles, incense or other such items intended to add fragrance in any district facilities. This provision will not be construed to prohibit the use of personal care items that contain added fragrance, but the principal may require staff members to refrain from the use of personal care items with added fragrance under particular circumstances.

Staff members are prohibited from using cleaning materials, disinfectants, pesticides or other chemicals except those provided by the district.

The district will not serve any processed foods, including foods sold in vending machines, which are not labeled with a complete list of ingredients. Vended items must include a list of ingredients on the individual package. The food service director will create an ingredient list for all foods provided by

the district as part of the district's nutrition program, including food provided during the school day and in before- and after-school programs. This list will be available upon request.

Prepackaged items used in concessions, fundraisers and classroom activities must include a list of ingredients on the package. If the package does not contain a list of ingredients, the list of ingredients must be available at the location where the package is sold or provided.

### **Education and Training**

All staff members will be annually trained on the causes and symptoms of and responses to allergic reactions. Training will include instruction on the use of epinephrine premeasured auto-injection devices.

Age-appropriate education on allergies and allergic reactions will be provided to students as such education aligns with state Grade-Level Expectations (GLEs) for health education. Education will include potential causes, information on avoiding allergens, signs and symptoms of allergic reactions and simple steps students can take to keep classmates safe.

### **Confidentiality**

Information about individual students with allergies will be provided to all staff members and others who need to know the information to provide a safe learning environment for the student. Information about individual students with allergies will be shared with students and others who do not have a legitimate educational interest in the information only to the extent authorized by the parent/guardian or as otherwise permitted by law, including the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

### **Response**

Response to an allergic reaction shall be in accordance with established procedures, including application of the student's 504 Plan or IHP/EAP, where applicable. Each building will maintain an emergency supply of epinephrine premeasured auto-injection devices to be administered in accordance with Board policy, and if parents are aware that their student(s) have a life-threatening allergy, they should supply the school with the epinephrine premeasured auto-injection devices to be administered in accordance with Board policy.

## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2880**

### **Student Services**

#### **Student Physical Examination**

The Board of Education may require any student to be examined by a physician for the purpose of determining whether the student is afflicted with a contagious or infectious disease or have the liability of transmitting the disease.

The Board may also require certification from a physician indicating a student's fitness to participate in specific educational programs or extra-class activities.

Refusal on the part of parent/guardian to obtain the required examination and to submit the certification indicating freedom from contagious or infectious disease may result in student exclusion from school.

Students may be excused from engaging in required educational activities upon proper certification from a physician advising of student disability.

All costs of physical or other examinations shall be at the expense of students unless State or Federal law specifically mandates the examination to be the responsibility of the school.

**Student Services****Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) Orders**

The School District recognizes that some students have progressive medical conditions that may result in the students' death while present at school or school activities. The District appreciates the difficult medical and emotional decisions that must be made when families choose to limit resuscitative efforts for these students. Accordingly, the administration shall develop procedures for evaluating requests by a parent or guardian that the District honor a Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order from a licensed physician.

At a minimum, the procedures will require an individualized evaluation of each request. The procedures will comply with federal and state law. A health care and resuscitation/non-resuscitation plan shall be developed for each request and shall include a determination regarding what if any resuscitation efforts are appropriate. Health care and resuscitation/non-resuscitation plans will be developed by a multidisciplinary team that shall include the student's parents or guardians and physician; appropriate school personnel (including but not limited to, the principal, counselor, and school nurse) and their consultants; and when appropriate, the student. This team will consider the best interests of the student.

The team will also address and plan for the effect of a student's sudden death on other students and staff in each school setting in which the student participates. Health care and resuscitation/non-resuscitation plans shall be reviewed regularly and have a specific limited duration. Such plans will be communicated to all school personnel who have a need to know in order to implement these plans. The administration shall coordinate with local emergency medical services to implement the plans.



## **STUDENTS**

## **Policy 2910** **(Regulation 2910)**

### **Activities and Athletics**

#### **Student Publications**

The Board of Education encourages student production and distribution of publications which can provide opportunities for practical journalistic experience and for the written expression of differing opinions. The Board of Education recognizes that freedom of speech and press bring corresponding responsibilities, therefore, in its inherent authority based on Missouri Public School Law, it designates the school principal as the Board's representative. The principal, through appointment of a faculty advisor or committee, shall provide guidance to students in appropriate methods for preparing and producing publications.

The building principal/designee may delay or stop distribution of any materials proposed for printing or that have been printed which may be reasonably forecast to cause substantial and material disruption or obstruction of any lawful mission, process, or function of the school or school district.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2920**  
**(Regulation 2920)**  
**(Form 2920)**

### **Activities and Athletics**

#### **Interscholastic Activities and Athletics**

The District provides opportunities for students to participate in interscholastic activities and athletics. The interscholastic programs should encourage participation by as many students as possible and should be carried on with the best interests of the students as the primary consideration. The programs are expected to be well organized and well conducted and to have a positive influence on the students and the community.

Participation in interscholastic and extracurricular activities is a privilege and not a right. Interscholastic competition may be withheld from any student as a condition of discipline. Furthermore, all policies that apply to the regular school day apply also to interscholastic competition. Coaches and sponsors may establish policies for their groups in addition to those set out by the Missouri State High School Activities Association.

#### **Hazing**

Student hazing is inconsistent with the educational goals of the District and poses a significant risk to the physical and mental welfare of District students. Hazing of students, on or off District property, is prohibited and may result in suspension or expulsion from school and from activity/athletic participation.

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2921**  
**(Regulation 2921)**

### **Activities and Athletics**

#### **Participation by Non-Traditional Students**

Should the District elect to permit non-traditional students to participate in interscholastic activities, such students must qualify as bonafide students under MSHSAA regulations in order to participate in such activities.

Non-Traditional students may be considered bonafide under MSHSAA regulations under any of the following options:

##### **Option 1 – Transcribed Credits**

1. The student must be enrolled in a District high school although some courses/credits are taken off-campus, i.e. virtual, post-secondary, work study, etc; and
2. All credits attempted must appear on the student's high school transcript; and
3. All classes must be completed by the high school's close of semester in order to be considered counted toward activity eligibility.

##### **Option 2 – Seat Time plus Non-Transcribed Credits**

1. The student must be enrolled in a District High School and take a minimum of two (2) credit bearing seat time classes for a minimum of 1.0 units of credit at the high school; and
2. High School Administration must confirm after a full academic review that the student is further enrolled in courses outside of the high school, which bring the student up to full MSHSAA mandated credit requirements of 80%. The High School Administration will develop and submit to the Superintendent a written procedure to determine approval of outside courses/credits; as well as the procedures to determine success/credit confirmation for academic eligibility for the current and following semester. It is not necessary that such confirmed credits be placed on the student's transcript.
3. All classes must be completed by the high school's end of semester in order to be considered toward activity eligibility.

**Change of Enrollment Status**

Any student whose enrollment status changes from being a non-bonafide activity eligible student to a bonafide activity eligible student will be considered a transfer student. As a transfer student, the student would be activity ineligible until a transfer of eligibility form is filed and an eligibility ruling rendered.

**New 5/2018**

## **STUDENTS**

### **Activities and Athletics**

#### **Concussions – Brain Injury**

**Policy 2930**  
**(Form 2930)**  
**(Form 2930.1)**  
**(Form 2930.2)**

Any District athlete suspected of sustaining a concussion or brain injury must be removed from practice and competition immediately and may not participate in contact athletic practice or competition for at least twenty-four (24) hours. Athletes suspected of sustaining concussion or brain injury will not be permitted to return to contact practice or competition until being evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and receiving a written clearance from the provider to return to competition. (See Form 2930 - MSHSAA Concussion Return to Play Form). Information about concussions obtained from MSHSAA (Form 2930.2) or similar materials will be made available to all student athletes and to their parents/guardians.

**New 12/12**

## **STUDENTS**

**Policy 2940**  
**(Regulation 2940)**

### **Activities and Athletics**

#### **Student Group Use of School Facilities**

Pursuant to the Equal Access Act, District secondary schools will provide an opportunity for student-initiated noncurricular groups to conduct meetings on school premises, during noninstructional time, and will not discriminate against students on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

An activity is to be considered curricular if the subject matter is or will be taught in a regularly offered class; if the subject matter concerns the body of courses as a whole; if participation in the group is a requirement for a course; or if academic credit is available for participation. Extracurricular activities include activities organized and supervised under the auspices of the school. Extracurricular activities primarily involve students in activities occurring outside academic class time, for which no units of credit are awarded. Any activity which does not meet the definition of a curricular or extracurricular activity will be considered noncurricular.