

HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Student-Parent Handbook

2026-27 PK-12

HPS Central Office – 505 14th Avenue – (308) 995-8663

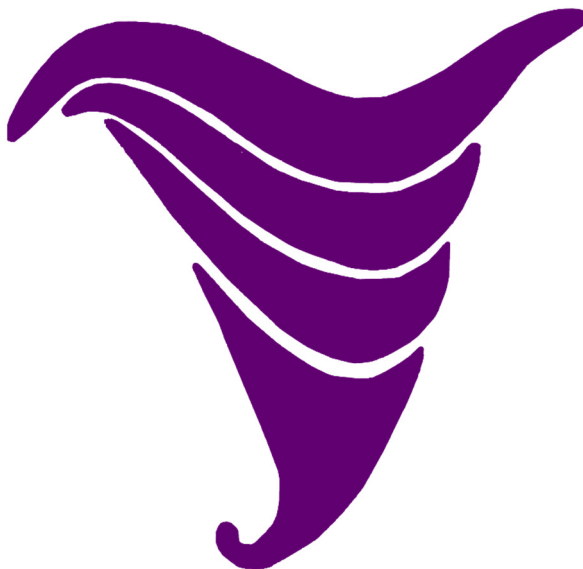
HPS Early Childhood Education (PK) – 1700 Broadway Street – (308) 995-4048

Holdrege Elementary School (Grades K-4) – 1700 Broadway Street – (308) 995-4339

Holdrege Middle School (Grades 5-8) – 600 14th Avenue – (308) 995-5421

Holdrege High School (Grades 9-12) – 600 12th Avenue – (308) 995-6558

Website URL <https://www.dusters.org/>



HONOR – PROGRESS – SUCCESS

An Equal Opportunity Agency

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SECTION 1 – DISTRICT INTENT & NOTICES

Intent of Handbook

Each student/parent is responsible for becoming familiar with the handbook and knowing the information contained in it. Although the information found in this handbook is detailed and specific on many topics, the handbook is not intended to be all encompassing so as to cover every situation and circumstance that may arise. This handbook is intended to supplement other documents, policies and regulations of the Board of Education. In reading this handbook, please understand that where a direct conflict exists, state or federal law, the negotiated agreement, and Board policies and regulations will control.

Mission

The mission of the Holdrege Public Schools is to empower all students to reach their full potential ~ Honor Progress Success.

Vision

The Holdrege Public Schools strive to prepare students to be responsible citizens, partnering with families and the community to provide meaningful experiences and opportunities for individual growth. We focus on equipping students with knowledge and critical thinking skills so that they can thrive in an ever-changing world.

Statement of Philosophy for Holdrege Public Schools

The Holdrege Public Schools have been established by this community for the purpose of preparing students to assume their place as responsible, productive citizens in our community, state, nation, and world. To accomplish this we must endeavor to provide experiences and opportunities for each individual to develop to their fullest potential. We must impart not only knowledge, but the thinking skills to put our knowledge to use. We are charged with assisting the student to acquire the skills, attitudes, appreciations, and insights which will help him or her to live effectively and productively in a challenging and changing world.

Governing Values

We believe . . .

- that everyone deserves to be treated with dignity and respect.
- that we must demonstrate, encourage, and expect responsible behavior.
- that all students are individuals with unique talents and abilities.
- that all students should be given the opportunity for an appropriate education to help them reach their potential.
- that we are committed to prepare our students for the future.
- that schools should provide an inviting and stimulating environment for all.
- that learning is a lifelong process with responsibility shared by the learner, school, home, and community.

Goals

The goals and objectives of Holdrege Public Schools are to provide:

1. A curriculum that is based on state standards; comprehensive, coordinated, and sequential, and is directed toward locally approved goals and standards for student learning. It draws upon research, best practice, and reputable theory and provides the foundation for standards based instruction. The instructional program focuses on achievement and provides for the diverse learning needs of all students including learners with disabilities and high ability learners. Curriculum and instruction help students develop content and skill mastery, analytical thinking, problem solving, work ethics, creativity, and respect for diversity.
2. An instructional program that focuses on achievement and provides for the needs of all students, including learners with disabilities and high ability learners. It draws upon research, best practice, and reputable theory broad enough yet with sufficient depth to allow education for all of the students.
3. Assessment procedures and results that assist teachers in planning and providing appropriate instruction for all students. Assessment results also provide information for monitoring program success, and for reporting to parents, policy makers, and the community. The school periodically reviews procedures to improve assessment quality and increase student learning. The information assists schools in establishing and achieving improvement goals.

4. A library/media/technology program that provides a wide range of accessible print and electronic resources that expand opportunity for learning, contribute to information literacy, support the local curriculum, and enhance and enrich learning experiences for all students. The program provides materials through onsite and electronic access that complement, supplement, and enrich curriculum and instruction. It facilitates research, supports and encourages personal interest reading and the study of current events, and develops technological and other skills for accessing, evaluating, and using resources.
5. Instructional staff who have appropriate training and preparation to work with the students assigned to them, who are knowledgeable of principles of child growth and development and of the curriculum content for which they are responsible, who use teaching strategies that engage students actively in learning, and who help students understand and apply content across subject areas. Staff development activities that support the school's efforts in curriculum development, instructional improvement, assessment, and general school improvement to achieve school improvement goals.
6. Administration that exercises leadership in the development and implementation of school goals and policies. Administrators who demonstrate leadership in management and operation of the school system and in the improvement of curriculum and instruction. Building administrators who provide leadership to curriculum, instruction, assessment, and school improvement. They guide staff and students in achieving goals and fulfill other functions supportive of quality learning.
7. A systematic ongoing process that guides planning, implementation, and evaluation and renewal of school improvement activities to meet local and statewide goals and priorities. The school improvement process focuses on improving student learning. The process includes a periodic review by visiting educators who provide consultation to the school/community in continued accomplishment of plans and goals.
8. A school system that demonstrates accountability to the school community. School staff periodically assesses and reports student progress toward accomplishment of academic content standards. Results are used to plan and make needed changes to improve instruction for all students.
9. School facilities and a general environment that supports quality learning. Facilities and grounds are safe, orderly, and well maintained, and facilities that have adequate space, lighting, and furnishings. The system has plans or provisions for climate-controlled buildings to the extent feasible. The environment is emotionally safe and supportive and promotes respect, trust, and integrity.
10. A Board of Education that governs through orderly procedures which focus efforts of the school upon quality learning, result in equitable opportunities for learning for all students, and insure accountability to the local community.
11. An activities program that is scheduled outside the regular school day, focuses on active participation of all students involved in the activity, and promotes a positive image of the school and community.
12. A welcoming environment for parents and the community.

Core Beliefs

1. We believe that every attempt should be made to maintain the dignity of both the adult and the student.
2. We believe that students should be guided and expected to solve the problems they create without making problems for anyone else.
3. We believe that students should be given the opportunity to make decisions and live with the results, whether the consequences are good or bad.
4. We believe that misbehavior should be viewed as an opportunity for individual problem solving and preparation for the real world as opposed to a personal attack on the school or staff.
5. We believe that it is best if a student does most of the thinking.
6. We believe that there should be a logical connection between misbehavior and resulting consequences.
7. We believe that students should have the opportunity to tell their side of the story (due process hearing) when consequences appear to be unfair.
8. We believe that school problems should be handled by school personnel and that criminal activity should be referred to the proper authorities.

Mutual Respect

Holdrege Public Schools expect every staff member and student to be treated with respect and dignity. A show of disrespect toward a staff member or insubordination on the part of students will not be tolerated.

Anti-discrimination, Anti-harassment, and Anti-retaliation and Notice of Nondiscrimination

See Appendix for Board Policy 5401 Anti-discrimination, Anti-harassment, and Anti-retaliation and the associated Notice of Nondiscrimination.

Confidentiality of Student Records (FERPA)

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) gives parents and students over 18 years of age rights of access and confidentiality with respect to education records. Board Policy 5202 Student Records and the associated notice are included in the Appendix.

Directory Information

Board Policy 5208 Directory Information is included in the Appendix.

Additional Notice Concerning Directory Information

The district's policy is for education records to be kept confidential except as permitted by the FERPA law, and the district does not approve any practice which involves an unauthorized disclosure of education records. In some courses student work may be displayed or made available to others. Also, some teachers may have persons other than the teacher or school staff, such as volunteers or fellow students, assist with the task of grading student work and returning graded work to students. The District designates such student work as directory information and as non-education records. Each parent and eligible student shall be presumed to have accepted this designation in the absence of the parent or eligible student giving notification to the District in writing in the manner set forth above pertaining to the designation of directory information. Consent will be presumed to have been given in the absence of such a notification from the parent or eligible student.

Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit

The District designates the Holdrege Police Department as the District's "law enforcement unit" for purposes of (1) enforcing any and all federal, state or local law, (2) maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District, and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools.

Complaint Procedures

The proper procedure for a parent or student to make complaints or raise concerns is to begin with the school employee who is most immediately or directly involved in the matter, as illustrated in the complaint procedure set forth below. There are specific procedures to address certain complaints or concerns, such as discrimination or harassment, bullying, disciplinary actions. Those procedures should be used where applicable.

1. Complaint procedure
 - Step 1 – Schedule a conference with the staff person most immediately or directly involved in the matter.
 - Step 2 – Address the concern to the Principal if the matter is not resolved at Step 1.
 - Step 3 – Address the concern to the Superintendent if the matter is not resolved at Step 2.
2. Step 4 – Address the concern to the Board of Education if the matter is not resolved at Step 3. Conditions Applicable to All Levels of Complaint Procedure
All information to be considered at each step should be placed in writing in order to be most effective. Action or decisions will be expedited as quickly as possible, typically within ten (10) calendar days, depending on the nature of the complaint and the need for prompt resolution.

Disclosure of Staff Qualifications

At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that the parents may request, and the District will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:

1. Whether the student's teacher
 - a. has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - b. is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - c. is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
2. Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Requests to Contact Students and Student Interviews by Non-School Personnel

Board Policy 5413 Requests to Contact Students and Student Interviews by Non-School Personnel is included in the Appendix.

Student Privacy Protection

Board Policy 5419 Student Privacy Protection is included in the Appendix.

Disclosure of Student Information to Military Recruiters and Colleges

Federal law requires the District to provide military recruiters and institutions of higher education access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone listings. Parents and secondary students have the right to request that the school not provide this information (i.e., not provide the student's name, address, and telephone listing) to military recruiters or institutions of higher education, without their prior written consent. Employees are expected to follow these requirements.

Parental and Family Involvement

Board Policy 6400 Parental Involvement is included in the Appendix.

Title I Parental and Family Involvement

Board Policy 6410 Title I Parent & Family Engagement is included in the Appendix.

Every Student Succeeds Act

Board Policy 3570 Title I Funds – ESSA is included in the Appendix.

Homeless Students

Federal law requires that homeless students not be stigmatized or segregated on the basis of their status as homeless. Homeless children generally include children who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence. The Superintendent serves as the District's designated Homeless Coordinator and should be contacted for questions relating to a homeless student. Board Policy 5418 Homeless Students is included in the Appendix.

SECTION 2 – ATTENDANCE, SCHEDULES & DAILY OPERATIONS

Attendance

Board Policy 5008 Attendance is included in the Appendix.

Excessive Absences/Tardiness

HPS Early Childhood Education – Preschool – A student will be considered tardy if they arrive 20 minutes or less after school begins. If a student arrives after that time, the absence will be recorded in attendance.

Holdrege Elementary School – A student will be considered tardy if they arrive 20 minutes or less after the tardy bell has rung at 8:05 a.m. If a student arrives after 8:25, the absent minutes will be recorded in attendance and will be reported to the County Attorney if the accumulated absences violate statutory attendance requirements.

A student that accumulates three tardies within the current quarter will be required to arrive at school at 7:50 a.m. on the next school day following the third tardy. The time will be served from 7:50-8:00 a.m. in the school office, which will ensure the student is on time for school. This requirement will apply for each additional tardy within the quarter. If the student continues to be tardy in a subsequent quarter of the school year, the student and parents will be required to meet with the principal to create a plan to improve attendance.

Holdrege Middle School – Students have ample time to move from one classroom to another. If a student accumulates five tardies, then they will be given a 30 minute detention to be served before/after school or during a student's lunch/recess, as arranged by the Principal.

For any excused absence for a medical appointment, the appointment time plus reasonable travel time will be allowed. The document from the medical provider must include the appointment start and end times.

Holdrege High School – High school students are expected to attend class on a regular basis. Students are considered tardy if they arrive after the tardy bell. Unexcused tardies will be made up either after school on the day of occurrence or the next morning of attendance during access period. If the tardy is not made up during one of these times, the student will be added to the extracurricular activities ineligible list until the tardy is made up with the Principal's office.

For any excused absence for a medical appointment, the appointment time plus reasonable travel time will be allowed. The document from the medical provider must include the appointment start and end times.

In order to emphasize the relationship between attendance and academic success, credits toward graduation will be awarded based on attendance, as follows: Students who attend 90% or more of the scheduled class sessions will be awarded the full 5 credits towards graduation if they achieved a passing grade. Students who attend 80%-89% of the scheduled class sessions will be awarded 4 credits towards graduation if they achieved a passing grade. Students who attend 70%-79% of the scheduled class sessions will be awarded 3 credits towards graduation if they achieved a passing grade. Students who attend less than 70% of the scheduled class sessions and still achieve a passing grade may have 2 credits towards graduation awarded upon approval of a committee consisting of the Principal, Counselor and Teacher of that particular class. **Students may have the opportunity to earn back attendance credit as arranged by the Principal.*

Schedules

HPS Early Childhood Education - Preschool

Monday-Thursday Schedule (not in session on Friday)

- Morning Preschool Session – 8:00 – 11:15am
- Afternoon Preschool Session – 12:05 – 3:20pm

Holdrege Elementary School

Monday-Thursday Schedule

- Breakfast – 7:30 – 7:55am
- Entry Bell – 8:00am
- Tardy Bell – 8:05am
- School Day 8:05am – 3:20pm
 - Preschool Lunch & Recess – 11:45 – 12:10pm
 - Kindergarten Lunch & Recess – 10:50 – 11:40am

- 1st Grade Lunch & Recess – 11:00 – 11:50am
- 2nd Grade Lunch & Recess – 11:30am – 12:20pm
- 3rd Grade Lunch & Recess – 12:00 – 12:45pm
- 4th Grade Lunch & Recess – 12:25 – 1:10pm

Friday/Shortened Schedule

- Breakfast – 7:30 – 7:55am
- Entry Bell – 8:00am
- Tardy Bell – 8:05am
- School Day 8:05am – 1:25pm
 - Kindergarten Lunch & Recess – 10:45 – 11:40am
 - 1st Grade Lunch & Recess – 11:00 – 11:45am
 - 2nd Grade Lunch & Recess – 11:20am – 12:10pm
 - 3rd Grade Lunch & Recess – 11:50am – 12:35pm
 - 4th Grade Lunch & Recess – 12:15 – 1:00pm

Holdrege Middle School

Monday-Thursday Schedule 8:00am – 3:30pm

- 5th & 6th Grade Lunch & Recess 11:17 – 11:57am
- 7th & 8th Grade Lunch & Recess 12:04 – 12:44pm

Friday/Shortened Schedule 8:00am – 1:30pm

- 5th & 6th Grade Lunch & Recess 11:17 – 11:57am
- 7th & 8th Grade Lunch & Recess 12:04 – 12:44pm

Holdrege High School

Monday-Thursday Schedule 8:00am – 3:37pm

- Access – 7:45 – 7:57am
- Period 1 – 8:00 – 8:45am
- Period 2 – 8:48 – 9:33am
- Period 3 – 9:36 – 10:21am
- Period 4 – 10:24 – 11:09am
- Period 5 – 11:12 – 11:57am
- Lunch – 11:57am – 12:30pm
- Period 6 – 12:33 – 1:18pm
- Period 7 – 1:21 – 2:06pm
- Period 8 – 2:09 – 2:54pm
- Seminar – 2:57 – 3:37pm

Friday/Shortened Schedule 8:00am – 1:37pm

- Access – 7:45 – 7:57am
- Period 1 – 8:00 – 8:31am
- Period 2 – 8:34 – 9:05am
- Period 3 – 9:08 – 9:39am
- Period 4 – 9:42 – 10:15am
- Period 5 – 10:16 – 10:47am
- Period 6 – 10:50 – 11:21am
- Period 7 – 11:24 – 11:55am
- Lunch – 11:55am – 12:28pm
- Period 8 – 12:31 – 1:02pm
- Seminar – 1:05 – 1:37pm

Severe Weather and School Cancellations

The Superintendent of Schools is authorized by the Board of Education to close public schools in case of severe weather. Representatives of the Superintendent's staff will notify local news media when inclement weather

warrants such action. The information is broadcast regularly by radio and television stations. HPS also utilizes an automated phone notification system to inform parents and staff of school closings and delayed starting times.

Decision to Close Schools – A decision to close school is made when forecast by the weather service and civil defense officials indicate that it would be unwise for students to go to school. An early decision is not always possible because of uncertain weather conditions. School officials will make periodic assessment of conditions during the night and will decide early in the morning. In any case, an announcement will be made to the news media when schools will be closed and the automated calling system will be activated. In some instances, schools will be open, but certain services may be canceled (bus transportation, preschool, student activities).

After School Starts – Every attempt will be made to avoid closing school once classes are in session. In some instances, closing school during the day is inevitable if children are to safely return home before the brunt of a major storm hits. In these cases, as much advance notice as possible will be given. If school is closing during the day, staff will be notified and parents will be notified via media broadcast and the automated calling system. Teachers will be responsible for remaining with students until all students have safely left school or the administration has made arrangements for remaining students.

Parental Decisions – Parents may decide to keep their children at home in inclement weather because of personal circumstances. Students absent because of severe weather when school is in session will be marked absent. Teachers should treat the absence like any other absence for legitimate causes provided parents properly notify the school of their decision. Parents may pick up their children in inclement weather (except in case of a tornado) at any time during the school day.

Emergency Conditions – HPS has a signal which, when activated, includes the necessity to either evacuate the building or to move to safer areas of the building. All regular drills are held as required by law throughout the school year. The following plans are in place: Emergency Exit System, Tornado Warning System, and Critical Incident Response. **School officials are not permitted to release students from the school building during a tornado warning.** In the event of an emergency exit alert or tornado warning, teachers should implement the school's established safety procedures.

Emergency Closing Procedures – Parents are requested to provide an emergency contact telephone number to have on file in the event of an emergency closing or any other general or individual situation that requires the immediate presence of a parent/guardian. In the event that parents do not have such a number or cannot be contacted, it will be assumed that the parent has instructed their children concerning the procedure they are to follow should school be dismissed early. Realizing that the school might be unable to reach all parents, it is suggested that all children be advised as to what they are to do should they ever be dismissed early. It is recommended that parents give their children an alternate destination and that the building principal be made aware of this information.

If conditions allow and supervision is available in the event of an early dismissal, the child will be held in school until the normal dismissal time. If the parent or guardian has not arrived to pick up the child by the normal dismissal time, law enforcement or child protective services may be contacted to ensure the safety of the child.

Generally, if school is canceled, extracurricular sport/activity practices, rehearsals, performances, or contests will not be held. Exceptions shall be determined by the administration.

Open-Closed Campus - Lunch

All **PK-9th** grade students are required to remain on campus during the school day, except for students that have parent permission slips in the office allowing them to walk home for lunch or be picked up by one of their parents. **Tenth (10th) through 12th** grade students have an open campus during lunch.

Supervision Responsibility Before/After School

Arrival at School/Dismissal from School – Students are expected to arrive at school no more than 30 minutes prior to the first class or school program in which they are participating and will not be admitted into the building prior to 7:30 a.m. Students will not be permitted to enter earlier unless the Principal determines it to be necessary due to inclement weather or other factors. **Prior to that time, the school is not responsible for supervision of the students.** Students are to enter through their assigned entrance and proceed to designated areas. After-school supervision ends at 3:45 p.m. and all students are to have left the building, unless participating in an activity or sport, or if arrangements are made with a teacher.

Students will be dismissed at the end of the last period of the school day unless there are other circumstances (early dismissal, detention etc.). Upon dismissal, students must leave the school grounds and proceed home or to a previously designated location unless participating in a school-sponsored activity. **The school is not responsible for supervision of students once the students have left school grounds.**

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

Signing a Child In and Out of School – Parents or guardians are required to call in or send a note if their children are entering after their first class or leaving prior to their final class. Your child will be given a pass for the time indicated and will be released from class at that time. **PK-4th grade students are required to be signed out in the office by a parent/guardian/emergency contact. Fifth (5th)-12th grade students should sign out at the office, but a parent/guardian is not required to be present.** The schools will only release children to a parent/guardian or an adult designated by the parent/guardian on the emergency card.

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

Visitors

All visitors must report to the office, upon entering the main entrance, to sign in and receive a visitor's pass. Visits to classrooms during the first week of school and the last week of school may be limited to ensure a smooth transition. Visits by parents to classrooms are encouraged; provided that the visits do not disrupt the educational program, individual students, or create a safety concern. Classroom visits must be approved in advance by the Principal and will be limited to one hour.

Student Transportation

Transportation to and from school is provided to students in accordance with law and established Board policy, procedures, and guidelines. Students may also be transported on field trips and when participating in school activities. Students are expected to follow the behavioral expectations for riding school buses. Consequences for school bus misconduct may include restriction or suspension of bus privileges and other disciplinary measures, up to and including expulsion from school. Parents may access the transportation rules, form, and schedule via the district website. A transportation permission form is included in the handbook signatures page.

Drop Off/Pick Up Areas & Parking

HPS Early Childhood Education – Preschool – Parents/Guardians should bring their student(s) no more than 5 minutes before the time school starts and pick up the student(s) promptly at dismissal, accompanying the student(s) at all times between the parking area and the classroom.

Holdrege Elementary School – Parents/Guardians may drop off students in the drop off lane in front of the school. **When picking up students, parents/guardians must park in the designated parking areas and walk to the school entry to escort their child safely to their vehicle. Students will not be allowed to approach the parking lot without adult supervision.**

Holdrege Middle School – Before and after school, students should be dropped off or picked up in the east parking lot to avoid school bus traffic. During school hours, parents may use the horseshoe drive in front of the school building for quick pick up and drop off for appointments.

Holdrege High School – Students may park in any parking stall except those reserved for school employees, guests, buses, and persons with handicaps. Staff parking is identified with yellow lines and student parking is identified with white lines. Student drop off/pick up will be at the south main front entrance.

SECTION 3 – CONDUCT, GENERAL RULES & EXPECTATIONS

Student Conduct

Student conduct rules are established to maintain a school atmosphere which is conducive to learning, to aid student development, to further school purposes, and to prevent interference with the educational process. Students are not to engage in conduct which causes or which creates a reasonable likelihood that it will cause a substantial disruption in or material interference with any school function, activity, or purpose, or interfere with the health, safety, well-being, or rights of other students, staff, or visitors. Violations of the rules will result in disciplinary action according to Board Policy 5101 Student Discipline, which is included in the Appendix. Additionally, Board Policy 5415 Anti-Bullying, Board Policy 6284 Initiations, Secret Clubs and Outside Organizations, are included in the Appendix.

Student Conduct Expectations Regarding Electronic Devices

No Phone Zone (7:30am – 4:00pm) – No phones, watches of any kind, or wireless listening devices (headphones, earpods, etc.) are allowed at school.

Board Policy 6800 Internet Safety and Acceptable Use and Policy 5101 Student Discipline are included in the Appendix.

Dress Code

The following dress code expectations compliment Policy 5101 and apply to individual HPS students while attending school and school-sponsored activities. The goal is to maintain a safe, respectful, and undistracted learning environment. Team uniforms for extracurricular activities may deviate from the below expectations with administrative approval.

- Clothing must cover the body and be made of a weight and density that maintains a smooth, opaque appearance.
- Garments must extend from mid-thigh (or below the student's closed fist while standing naturally with arms relaxed at their sides,) up to the neckline and to the outer edge of the shoulders at a minimum while free of holes, openings, and see-through materials within this covered area.
- Plunging necklines (front and back) must remain above the bustline.
- Tops and bottoms must overlap.
- Clothing must be worn in a manner that ensures all undergarments are fully covered.
- Clothing with words or images must meet expectations as described in Policy 5101.
- Winter coats, blankets, hoods, hats, and other headwear are not permitted during the school day.

These expectations are to be met at all times; while standing, sitting, hands reaching overhead or to the floor.

Drug and Substance Use and Prevention

Board Policy 5104 Drug and Substance Use and Prevention is included in the Appendix.

Smoke-Free Environment

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

Care of School Property

Students are responsible for the proper care of all books, equipment, supplies, and furniture supplied by the school. Students who disfigure property, break windows, or do other damage to school property or equipment will be required to pay the District for the replacement cost or damage done as determined by the Principal or his/her designee. School issued items that are stolen or damaged are the responsibility of the student to whom they were issued. Students must pay all damage assessments and fines before they can receive school publications and final grades.

Lockers

Each student will be assigned a locker. Students must use their own lockers and are not to share lockers with other students except as assigned by school officials. Students are expected to keep all books, etc., in their assigned

locker. Students are also responsible for the cleanliness inside their locker and the door of their locker. Students may be assessed a fine for damage to lockers.

High school lockers are required to be locked at all times when not being accessed.

Searches of Lockers and Other Types of Searches

Board Policy 5406 Search and Seizure is included in the Appendix.

Video Surveillance

The Board of Education has authorized the use of video cameras on School District property to ensure the health, welfare and safety of all staff, students and visitors to District property, and to safeguard District facilities and equipment. Video cameras may be used in locations deemed appropriate by the superintendent.

Notice is hereby given that video surveillance may occur on District property. In the event a video surveillance recording captures a student or other building user violating school policies or rules or local, state or federal laws, the video surveillance recording may be used in appropriate disciplinary proceedings against the student or other building user and may also be provided to law enforcement agencies.

Use of Telephone

Use of the office phone will only be allowed in an emergency or when a student is ill. Students may use the office phone after receiving permission to do so. The office phone is not to be used for planning after school activities. We encourage these plans to be made ahead of time.

Bicycles

Bicycles must be parked in the racks provided. All bicycles should be equipped with locks and licenses. The school is not responsible for damage or theft of parts while bicycles are on school property.

Student Valuables

Students, not the school, are responsible for their personal property. Students are cautioned not to bring large amounts of money or items of value to school. If it is necessary to bring valuable items or more money than is needed to pay for lunch, leave the money or valuables with a staff member in the school office for temporary and safe-keeping. Even then, the school is not in a position to guarantee that the student's property will not be subject to loss, theft, or damage.

Baggage

Baggage for carrying items may be brought to and from school, but will not be carried during the school day and should be stored in the student's locker. This includes backpacks, handbags, totes, instrument cases, etc.

Classroom Treats

All classroom treats must be individually packaged and homemade baked goods will not be permitted. Healthy treats are encouraged.

Water Bottles/Beverage Containers

Clear water bottles/containers with clear liquids for hydration may be permitted during the school day at the discretion of the classroom teacher and/or building administration.

Gift Delivery

Delivery to the school of items for students including, but not limited to, flowers, balloons, or other gifts is prohibited.

Lost and Found

Students who find lost articles are asked to take them to the office, where the articles can be claimed by the owner. If articles are lost at school, report that loss to office personnel. We strongly recommend labeling bags, sweatshirts, coats, etc. Each week items that have not been claimed will be donated to a local charity on the following Friday.

Accidents

Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, at practice sessions, or at any athletic event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the Principal.

Laboratory Safety Glasses

As required by law, approved safety glasses will be required of every student and teacher while participating in or observing vocational, technical, industrial technology, science, and art classes that require safety glasses. All visitors to these areas must check out a pair of safety glasses when entering any of these areas.

Insurance

Under Nebraska law the District may not use school funds to provide general student accident or athletic insurance. The District requires that all student participants in athletic programs have injury and accident insurance and encourages all students who are in classes with risk of personal injury or accident to have insurance coverage. Information about student insurance is offered to every student.

We wish to emphasize that the school district does not provide any type of health or accident insurance for injuries incurred by your child at school. We further encourage all families to have accident coverage on their children prior to participation in any sports or school sponsored activity. Holdrege Public Schools provides the opportunity for families to access optional insurance coverage via Student Assurance Services, Inc. An explanation of the cost and benefits is explained in the brochure and premium envelope. If you feel your insurance is adequate, simply sign the Insurance Waiver section that can be found on the Handbook signature page.

Bulletins and Announcements

Bulletin boards and display cases are available for school-related and approved materials to be posted and displayed. Posters to be used in the halls or materials for distribution will need to be approved by the Principal's office. Posters may be placed on glass, metal, brick, stone, and wood surfaces and may not be attached to painted wall surfaces. The person or organization responsible for distributing the posters is responsible to see that all posters are removed within 48 hours after the event.

Copyright and Fair Use Policy

It is the school's policy to follow the federal copyright law. Staff members and students are reminded that, when using school equipment and when completing course work, they also must follow the federal copyright laws. The federal copyright law governs the reproduction of works of authorship. Copyrighted works are protected regardless of the medium in which they are created or reproduced; thus, copyright extends to digital works and works transformed into a digital format. Copyrighted works are not limited to those that bear a copyright notice.

The "fair use" doctrine allows limited reproduction of copyrighted works for educational and research purposes. The relevant portion of the copyright statute provides that the "fair use" of a copyrighted work, including reproduction "for purposes such as criticism, news reporting, teaching (including multiple copies for classroom use), scholarship, or research" is not an infringement of copyright. The law lists the following factors as the ones to be evaluated in determining whether a particular use of a copyrighted work is a permitted "fair use," rather than an infringement of the copyright:

- The purpose and character of the use, including whether such use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes;
- The nature of the copyrighted work;
- The amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole; and
- The effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work.

Although all of these factors will be considered, the last factor is the most important in determining whether a particular use is "fair." Students should seek assistance from a faculty member if there are any questions regarding what may be copied.

SECTION 4 – ACADEMICS & STUDENT SERVICES

Grading System

The grading scale for Holdrege Public Schools is listed below.

A+ 98-100	A 95-97	A- 93-94	B+ 90-92	B 88-89	B- 85-87
C+ 82-84	C 79-81	C- 77-78	D+ 75-76	D 73-74	D- 70-72
F 0-69					
E=Exceptional		S=Satisfactory		I=Improving	
				N=Needs Improvement	

GPA Calculation

- Grade point average is calculated for Grades 9-12
- All courses that are created to earn 5 credit hours per semester are included
- A=4; B=3; C=2; D=1; and F=0
- Satisfactory (S), Unsatisfactory (U), and Pass (P) grades are not included in GPA; courses taken for college credit are not included
- Any course repeated is only counted once
- Total points are divided by the number of courses taken
- GPA's are calculated to the nearest hundredth
- There is no weighting of courses
- Total GPA is reported unless otherwise specified
- Transcript does not change if course is retaken
- Students with modified grades will not be included in class rank and GPA comparison; GPA's calculated on modified grades are not reported unless requested

Graduation Requirements

Board Policy 5205 Graduation Requirements is included in the Appendix

Part-Time Enrolled and Exempt/Home School Students

Board Policy 5004 Full-Time & Part-Time Enrollment is included in the Appendix.

Promotion and Retention

Students will be placed at the grade level and in the courses best suited to them academically, socially, and emotionally as determined by the professional staff. Students will typically progress annually from grade to grade. A student may be retained at a grade level or be required to repeat a course or program, or attend summer school when such is determined in the judgment of the professional staff to be appropriate for the educational interests of the student and the educational program.

Report Cards

Report cards are made available at the end of each quarter. Letter grades are used to designate a student's progress.

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Parent-teacher conferences are held each semester and are included on the school calendar. Communication between parents/guardians and educators is encouraged throughout the school year to support student success.

Academic Integrity

Please reference Board Policy 5101 Student Discipline in the Appendix.

Job Shadowing

High school students (grades 11 & 12) are encouraged to complete up to three job shadowing experiences per school year. Students must prearrange experiences and provide documentation for absences to be excused. Administrative approval is required for additional days.

College Visits

Excused absence for college visits must be prearranged in the Principal's office.

Media Center

The media center is provided to assist individuals in becoming effective users of information by providing a broad range of materials and technologies which enrich and support the curriculum and meet the individual needs of students and staff. For the media center to best serve the needs of all, students will be expected to follow guidelines and procedures established by the media staff.

Checkout Procedures – Media center materials have a bar code which needs to be scanned at the circulation desk by a staff member. Students may check out a maximum of two items. Books are checked out for two weeks. Audio/Visual materials and magazines may be checked out for one week. Audio/Visual Equipment may be checked out for one day only.

Overdue Items – At the end of each quarter, a hold will be placed on the student's report card until the materials are returned. Students with overdue items will not be allowed to check out new items until the overdue books are returned. Students shall be required to pay for any lost items.

Renewing Materials – Students may renew books for two more weeks if necessary.

Student Technology Access & Use

Laptop Computer Use – Holdrege Public Schools provide laptop computers for student use. Student use for grades PK-6 is restricted to campus usage during the school day. Grades 7-12 students are permitted to utilize laptops for instructional purposes outside the school day. Students may only record audio and/or video with express consent of staff.

Network Access – Students have access to programs and databases on the network by logging on with their password. Passwords will be issued by the media center and should not be shared with other students.

Internet Access – Board Policy 6800 Internet Safety and Acceptable Use is included in the Appendix.

Special Education Services

What Does Special Education Mean? Special education means specially designed instruction and related services adapted as appropriate to the needs of an eligible student with a disability. Special education is provided at no cost to the parent to meet the unique needs of a child with a disability.

Students Who May Benefit – A student verified as having autism, behavior disorders, deaf-blindness, developmental delay, hearing impairments, mental handicaps, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, specific learning disabilities, speech-language impairments, traumatic brain injury or visual impairments, who because of these impairments need special education and related services.

How are Students With Disabilities Identified? Referrals are made by teachers or parents to a Student Assistance Team. If the student assistance team or comparable problem solving team feels that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation is completed. An evaluation is conducted to assist in the determination of whether a student has a disability and the nature and extent of the special education and related services the student needs. The evaluation is conducted only with written consent of a parent or guardian. A multidisciplinary evaluation team (MDT) will then meet to determine whether the student is eligible for special education.

Independent Evaluation – If a parent disagrees with an evaluation completed by the school district, the parent has a right to request an independent educational evaluation at public expense. Parents should direct inquiries to school officials to determine if the school district will arrange for further evaluation at public expense. If school district officials feel the original evaluation was appropriate and the parents disagree, a due process hearing may be initiated. If it is determined that the original evaluation was appropriate, parents still have the right to an independent educational evaluation at their own expense.

Reevaluation – Students identified for special education will be reevaluated at least every three years by the IEP team. The IEP team will review existing evaluation data on the student and will identify what additional data, if any, are needed. The school district will obtain parental consent prior to conducting any reevaluation of a student with a disability.

Individual Education Program (IEP) – Upon a student being verified as having a disability, a conference will be held with parents. At the conference, an Individualized Education Program (IEP) will be developed specifying programs and services which will be provided by the schools. Parent consent will be obtained prior to a student

being placed for the first time in a program providing special education and related services or early intervention services to infant and toddlers. Once in place, the IEP is reviewed on an annual basis, or more frequently as needed. Parents are given a copy of the IEP.

Special Education Placement – The student’s placement in a special education program is dependent on the student’s educational needs as outlined in the Individual Education Program (IEP). To the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities are educated with students who are not disabled. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily. Determination of a student’s educational placement will be made by the IEP team.

Written notice shall be given to parents a reasonable time before the school district: 1) Proposes to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, verification or educational placement of a child or the provision of a free appropriate public education; or 2) Refuses to initiate or change the identification, evaluation, or educational placement of the child or the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

More Information – Anyone interested in obtaining a copy of the District’s special education policy, the Parental Rights in Special Education brochure, or a copy of the Nebraska Department of Education Rule 51 (special education regulations and complaint procedures) or Rule 55 (special education appeal procedures) may contact the Superintendent

Students with Disabilities – Section 504

Accommodations and related services are made available to students with disabilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Board Policy 1240 ADA and Section 504 Grievance Procedure and Policy 1250 Notice of Designation of Coordinator are included in the Appendix.

Notice to Parents of Rights Afforded by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

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

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

ELL SERVICES

Who are English Language Learners? According to Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), English Language Learners (ELL) are those individuals who have a native language other than English and whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny the

individual (i) the ability to meet the State’s proficient level of achievement of state assessments, (ii) the ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where the language of instruction is English, or (iii) the opportunity to fully participate in society.

Each district with ELL students should have written-definition used for determining services and meeting Office of Civil Rights requirements.

Note: Foreign exchange students are NOT considered as ELL students and should not be included in the district assessment process.

In addition to be assessed on the academic content standards, ELL students must be tested and reported annually on language acquisition skills.

A set of English language proficiency guidelines for K-12 language arts standards has been developed through the work of an ELL Advisory group consisting of educators from across the state. Those guidelines, developed in grade clusters, should be used to develop the language acquisition program. To access those guidelines, you may go to the NDE homepage, www.education.ne.gov and click on “NDE” Teams/Sections” and click on “LEP Limited English proficiency”.

Column 1 – A student meets one or more of the following requirements:	AND	Column 2 – As a result of the circumstances listed in Column 1:
Is age 3 to 21;		
Is enrolled or preparing to enroll in an elementary or secondary school;		Whose difficulties in speaking, reading, writing, or understanding the English language may be sufficient to deny the individual:
Was not born in the United States or whose native language is a language other than English;		The ability to meet the challenging State academic standards adopted pursuant to 20 U.S.C §6311(b);
Comes from an environment where a language other than English has a significant impact on the individual’s level of English language proficiency; or		The ability to successfully achieve in classrooms where the language of instruction is English; or
Is migratory, and whose native language is a language other than English, and who comes from an environment where a language other than English is dominant.		The opportunity to participate fully in society.

Guidance Services

Holdrege Public Schools provides a guidance counselor at all grade levels for the purpose of assisting with the testing program, academic planning, scheduling assistance, and resolution of individual student problems and conflicts.

Behavioral Points of Contact

The HPS district-wide behavioral point of contact is Stefanie Neal, Mental Health Practitioner. She can be reached by contacting the school office or by email at stefanie.neal@dusters.org. Board Policy 6930 Behavioral Points of Contact is included in the Appendix.

SECTION 5 – NUTRITION, HEALTH & SAFETY

Wellness Policy

Board Policy 5417 School Wellness Policy is included in the Appendix.

School Meal Program

Holdrege Public Schools participate in the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs. Board Policy 3571 Meal Charge Policy is included in the Appendix.

Holdrege Public Schools use an automated system which requires each student to have a pin number. This system requires money to be in the account in order to purchase a meal or ala carte items. It is the responsibility of the parent or guardian to keep a positive balance in the account.

Holdrege Public Schools offer online payments through Infinite Campus. Parents or guardians can request a user name and password from the school to go online to check account balances or make payments to the student's account. Payments can be made by electronic check using a bank routing number and account information. Payments can also be made using credit cards or PayPal. Parents or guardians can print a receipt and an emailed notification will be sent confirming the transaction. Cash or check payments are also accepted at each school office.

At the start of each school year, a letter is sent to each student household which includes an application for free or reduced price meals. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible to the school or Central Office. Benefits from the previous school year will carry over for the first thirty days of the current school year. Any charges incurred from that point until a new application is approved are the responsibility of the parent or guardian. Families whose applications are not approved for free meals will need to send money to the school or log on to Infinite Campus to deposit money into the account. An application for free or reduced price meals may be completed anytime during the school year if there is a change in income or household size. All free or reduced price applications are kept confidential.

Each school will notify the student, parent, or guardian that the balance is getting low by sending a note, an automated phone call, an email, or ask the student to contact the parent or guardian. If the balance becomes negative, no further regular breakfasts or lunches will be offered. Rather, an alternate meal will be provided to the student as approved by the Nebraska Department of Education Nutrition Services or a sack lunch may be brought from home. We request that food brought from home have nutritional value and should not contain fast food, soda pop, or energy drinks. Ala carte purchases will be prohibited if the student does not have money in their account.

Unpaid meal charges may be carried over at the end of the school year as a delinquent debt and the District shall undertake reasonable collection efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt, pursuant to and in compliance with state and federal law. The District shall maintain records of its collection efforts and, once delinquent meal charges are converted to bad debt, its documentation establishing and handling of the bad debt.

At the end of the school year, if the student is no longer attending school, moves out of the district, or becomes eligible for free meals, the parent or guardian may request reimbursement of any balance left on the account or can have the remaining balance transferred to another student's account. Funds remaining on account for students returning the following year will be left on the account for the next school year.

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

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or

write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1. Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
2. Fax: (202) 690-7442; or
3. Email: program.intake@usda.gov

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Student Illnesses

School health personnel will notify parents when a student needs to be sent home from school due to illness. Conditions requiring a student be sent home include: Temperature greater than 100°F., vomiting, diarrhea, unexplained rashes, live head lice, inflamed red eyes and/or drainage, frequent persistent cough, earache and/or drainage from the ear, questionable illness or injuries which may require evaluation by a physician, sores that appear infected or are draining or on determination by the school nurse that the child's condition prevents meaningful participation in the educational program, presents a health risk to the child or others, or that medical consultation is warranted unless the condition resolves.

Please provide the school with emergency daytime phone numbers so that you can be reached if your child becomes ill or injured while at school. It is helpful to have other emergency numbers on file in case we cannot reach you.

Please also inform your school health office staff of health related information you feel is important for your student's success in the classroom and/or safety at school.

Guidelines for Administering Medication

Whenever possible your child should be provided medications by you outside of school hours. In the event it is necessary that your child take or have medication available at school, the parents/guardians must provide a signed written consent for the child to be given medication at school. A consent form is available at the school health office or HPS Health Services online at <https://www.dusters.org/> under the District tab. If your child has asthma or diabetes and is capable of self-managing his or her health condition, contact the health office to develop a self-management plan.

Medications must be provided to the school by the parent/guardian in the pharmacy-labeled or manufacturer-labeled bottle. Repackaged medications will not be accepted. Cough drops are available in the office for all students. We do not encourage students to bring cough drops from home but if they do, parents must provide a note giving permission.

Specific health protocols, procedures, and guidance information are available on the district website.

School Health Screening

Students are screened for vision, hearing, dental defects, height, and weight. Students entering the Student Assistance Process at any grade level, and those about whom health concerns are identified to the school nurse may also be screened. Parents who do not wish their child to participate in the school screening program must communicate this in writing to the school health office at the start of the school year. Because Nebraska statutes require school-age screening, parents who remove their child from the screening program must submit findings from an alternate medical provider to the school by December 1.

Physical and Visual Examination

Evidence of a physical examination and a visual evaluation is required prior to enrollment for all students transferring from out of state. A physical examination is also required prior to entrance into the seventh grade and prior to playing sports. The physical examination is to be completed by a physician, a physician's assistant, or an advanced practice registered nurse; the visual evaluation is to be completed by any of the foregoing or an optometrist. A parent or guardian who objects to the physical examination and/or visual evaluation may submit a written statement of refusal for his or her child. Waiver forms are available in the school health office. Additional physical examination requirements exist for students participating in athletic participation.

Immunizations

Students must show proof of immunization. A student who does not comply with the immunization requirements will not be permitted to continue in school. Students with medical conditions or sincerely held religious beliefs which do not allow immunizations must complete a waiver statement or affidavit. Forms are available in school health offices. Unimmunized students will be excluded from school in the event of a disease outbreak.

Birth Certificate Requirements

State law requires that a certified copy of a student's birth certificate be provided within 30 days of enrollment of a student in school for the first time. You may obtain a certified copy from the Bureau of Vital Statistics in the state in which your child was born. Assistance in obtaining birth certificates may be obtained from Health Records Management, P.O. Box 95065, Lincoln, NE 68509-5065. There is a fee per certificate.

Please note that the document parents receive from the hospital looks like a birth certificate, but it is not a certified copy. A certified copy has the raised seal of the State of Nebraska on it and is signed by the Director of Vital Statistics.

If a birth certificate is unavailable, other reliable proof of a student's identity may be used. These documents could include naturalization or immigration documents showing date of birth or official hospital birth records, a passport, or a translation of a birth certificate from another country. The documents must be accompanied by an affidavit explaining the inability to produce a copy of the birth certificate.

SECTION 6 – EXTRACURRICULAR PROGRAMS

Extracurricular Activities Participation

The school district offers a variety of extracurricular activities for students in grades 7-12. Such offerings are determined on an annual basis by the administration, subject to approval by the Board of Education. Student participation in these activities is governed by district policy and guidelines, as well as the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA).

Board Policy 5103 Extracurricular Activity is included in the Appendix and addresses participation guidelines, attendance requirements, and discipline. **Students must be in attendance for the full day (excused absences as defined in Board Policy 5008 Attendance are waived) to be eligible for contests, performances, practices, or rehearsals.**

NSAA information, rules, eligibility requirements, and forms for parents and students are available at <https://nsaahome.org/parents-information>.

Students in grades 7-8 participating in sports, as well as students in grades 9-12 participating in any NSAA governed extracurricular sport or activity, are required to have a physical from a qualified health provider and appropriate consent/permission forms on file in the school office prior to participation in the current school year. Physicals must be dated no earlier than May 1 prior to the beginning of the school year.

Student Conduct Expectations - Extracurricular Activities

Board Policy 5103 Extracurricular Activity is included in the Appendix.

Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program

Recognizing that observed and suspected use of alcohol and illicit drugs by students participating in extracurricular activities is a serious concern, a program of deterrence has been instituted as a proactive approach to a truly drug free school. This program is required for Holdrege High School students (grades 9-12) participating in any NSAA governed extracurricular sport or activity. The program information, procedures, and forms are included in the Appendix.

Athletics/Activities Passes

Students and adults may purchase an activities pass for the year as noted below. Students who qualify for free/reduced meals may have this fee waived by filling out a fee waiver and requesting the pass from the office. Students in grades 7-8 participating in sports are required to have an activities pass. Students in grades 9-12 participating in any NSAA governed extracurricular sport or activity are required to have an activities pass.

- HPS Preschool – no pass necessary, admission not charged for children under age 5, or age 5 but not enrolled in Kindergarten
- HES Students Grades K-4 – \$30
- HMS Students Grades 5-8 – \$40
- HHS Students Grades 9-12 – \$60
- Individual Adult – \$75 *
- Two Adults in Household – \$140 *
- VIP65+ Golden Age – Free upon request with age identification *

**Adult and senior citizen passes are available only through the Holdrege High School Office.*

Extracurricular Activities Transportation

School transportation will be provided to all extracurricular contests/practices away from Holdrege. Students are expected to ride to and from contests/practices with the team. In no case may a participating student drive his/her own vehicle, including contests/practices at a cooperative program school. A written personal request from a parent/guardian may be submitted to the coach or Activities Director (at least 24 hours in advance) to allow a participating student to ride home from a contest/practice. The coach/sponsor must witness the athlete leaving with his/her parent/guardian from the contest/practice.

Student Access to Athletic Facilities Outside of Curricular & Extracurricular Programs

Student access for the use of specific athletic facilities outside of the curricular and extracurricular programs may only occur under the direct supervision and presence of designated HPS staff.

Student Use of Weight Room

Students in grades 7-12 may participate in the strength and conditioning program only under the direct supervision and presence of designated HPS staff.

School Dances

The following rules will be in effect for all dances held at school:

- Student arrival time will be set for one hour before the dance start
- Students leaving the dance may not return
- All school rules are in effect for all who attend the dance.
- Holdrege High School students and guests, freshmen up to the age of 20, may attend. Alumni and guests must be signed up in the HHS office prior to the dance and may attend with the understanding they will follow all school rules.
- Students in Grades 7-8 may attend HMS dances and are not permitted to invite guests.
- Prom – All Juniors and Seniors of Holdrege High School may attend both the banquet and the dance without charge, provided class dues are current. Guests of Juniors and Seniors must meet the criteria listed in #4. A fee may be charged for guests to attend the banquet.

Student Fees

Board Policy 5305 Student Fees is included in the Appendix.

2026-27 Parent & Student Acknowledgments, Agreements, Consent, Waivers

After reading the Student Handbook and Appendix, please legibly complete all form fields and initial or check appropriate acknowledgments, agreements, consent, and waivers below and return to the school office. The signature of the student, as well as a parent/guardian is required for direct Internet access for all students. If you feel that there is a discrepancy in these rules and regulations, you may request a conference with the principal to resolve your concerns. This form will be retained on file for the duration of the school year and applicable computer/network/Internet use.

Student Name *please print*

Parent/Guardian Name *please print*

Student Acknowledgment for Handbook & Acceptable Use Policy for Use of Technology and Related Devices

I have received a copy of, and have read the **Student/Parent Handbook** and the **Student Acceptable Use Policy for Use of Technology and Related Devices** adopted by the Holdrege Public Schools.

I understand and will abide by those district guidelines and conditions for the use of the facilities of Holdrege Public Schools and access to the Internet. I further understand that any violation of the district guidelines is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges will be revoked. School disciplinary action and/or appropriate legal action will be taken.

I agree not to hold the Holdrege Public Schools nor any of its employees nor any of the institutions for networks providing access to Holdrege Public Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Parent/Guardian Acknowledgment for Handbook & Acceptable Use Policy for Use of Technology and Related Devices

I have received a copy of, and have read the **Student/Parent Handbook** and the **Student Acceptable Use Policy for Use of Technology and Related Devices** adopted by the Holdrege Public Schools.

As parent/guardian of the student named above, I grant permission for my student to access networked computer services such as e-mail and the Internet. I understand that this free access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that individuals may be held liable for violations of those terms and conditions. However, I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold Holdrege Public Schools responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network.

I agree not to hold the Holdrege Public Schools nor any of its employees nor any of the institutions for networks providing access to Holdrege Public Schools responsible for the performance of the system or the content of any material accessed through it.

Student Standard of Conduct Regarding Drug and Substance Use and Prevention Policy

As a student attending Holdrege Public Schools, I acknowledge receipt of the standards of conduct of this District expected of students concerning the absolute prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises, or as a part of any of the school's activities as described in Board Policy or administration regulation.

This notice is provided pursuant to P.I. 101-226 and 34 C.F.R. Part 86, both Federal legal requirements for the District to obtain any Federal financial assistance. My signature below acknowledges that I fully understand the District's position absolutely prohibiting the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises, or as a part of the school's activities as herein above described and that compliance with these standards is mandatory. Any non-compliance with these standards can and will result in punitive measure being taken against any student failing to comply with these standards.

Parent Standard of Conduct Regarding Drug and Substance Abuse and Prevention Policy

As a parent/guardian of a student attending Holdrege Public Schools, I acknowledge receipt of the standards of conduct of this District expected of students concerning the absolute prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises, or as a part of any of the school's activities as described in Board Policy or administration regulation.

This notice is provided pursuant to P.I. 101-226 and 34 C.F.R. Part 86, both Federal legal requirements for the District to obtain any Federal financial assistance. My signature below acknowledges that I fully understand the District's position absolutely prohibiting the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises, or as a part of the school's activities as herein above described and that compliance with these standards is mandatory. Any non-compliance with these standards can and will result in punitive measure being taken against any student failing to comply with these standards.

Parent/Guardian Consent for Participation in School Public Relations Activities

Students who attend school in Holdrege Public Schools are occasionally asked to be a part of their school and the District's public relations activities. Some examples: student art work is sometimes displayed to the public and photographs of students at school are used in school publications including the school webpage.

I consent to the Student (named above) participating in the Holdrege Public Schools public relations activities. The District may use the Student's name, image (photograph or video), statements, works or performances (such as art work, musical recordings and writings) and other such information in its public relations activities. This can be done in the current school year or in the future.

I understand that this means that such information will be made available to the public, including but not limited to, in school buildings and at school functions, in public places in the community, in school publications and in local, state, and national publications, and on the school's web page. I waive any claims of copyright or ownership to the information that is used and waive any right to be paid or otherwise compensated for use of the information. I release the District and its employees or agents from any liability related to using the Student's information in the public relations activities.

This consent is given freely and voluntarily. If I wish to rescind this consent I may do so at any time with written notice.

Parent/Guardian Insurance Waiver

As parent/guardian of the student named above, I have determined that my student has adequate insurance protection and choose to waive the optional insurance coverage available through Student Assurance Services, Inc.

Parent/Guardian Liability Release for Student Bus Route/Shuttle Service

**Online form must be submitted for each student in addition to this liability release.*

I hereby authorize my child to use the school's bus route or courtesy shuttle service and understand that supervision is not provided at the shuttle pick-up/drop-off sites and accept all responsibility for the safety and behavior of the student before getting on the school bus and after getting off the school bus. As parent/guardian, I agree to hold harmless Holdrege Public Schools or its employees or agents for any injuries of any kind, or death of any student that might happen because of the alternative transportation pick-up or drop-off.

Parent/Guardian Permission for High School Student to Drive

I authorize my student to drive to or ride with others to Holdrege locations for academic or school activity purposes with administrative approval.

☐ Driving Permission

☐ Permission to Ride w/Others

Student Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

APPENDIX

1. School Calendar
2. Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program
3. Board Policies (*All Board Policies are available on the District website*)
 - 1240 ADA and Section 504 Grievance Procedure & ADA Coordinator
 - 1250 Notice of Designation of Coordinator
 - 3570 Title I Funds – ESSA
 - 3571 Meal Charge Policy
 - 5004 Full-Time & Part-Time Enrollment
 - 5008 Attendance
 - 5101 Student Discipline
 - 5102 Alternative Education
 - 5103 Extracurricular Activity
 - 5104 Drug and Substance Abuse Prevention
 - 5202 Student Records & Notice
 - 5205 Graduation Requirements
 - 5208 Directory Information
 - 5305 Student Fees
 - 5401 Anti-discrimination, Anti-harassment, and Anti-retaliation & Notice
 - 5406 Search and Seizure
 - 5413 Requests to Contact Students and Student Interviews by Non-School Personnel
 - 5415 Anti-Bullying
 - 5417 School Wellness Policy
 - 5418 Homeless Students
 - 5419 Student Privacy Protection
 - 6284 Initiations, Secret Clubs and Outside Organizations
 - 6400 Parent & Family Involvement
 - 6800 Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy
 - 6930 Behavioral Points of Contact

2026-27 Holdrege Public Schools - Approved 11-17-25

Aug 2026						
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Sep 2026						
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Oct 2026						
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Nov 2026						
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Dec 2026						
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Jan 2027						
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31						

See PK-12 Student-Parent Handbook for Daily Schedules

August

5 HHS Activities Meeting for Parents 7:00pm

10 Teacher Work/Inservice Day
HHS Orientation for New Students 7:00pm

11 Teacher Work/Inservice Day
PK/HES Back to School Night
A-E 3:00-3:30pm; F-J 3:30-4:00pm; K-O
4:00-4:30pm; P-T 4:30-5:00pm; U-Z 5:00-5:30pm
HMS Back to School Night Gr 5-8 M-Z 3:30-4:15pm;
A-L 4:15-5:00pm

12 Teacher Work/Inservice Day

13 First Day K-12
Friday Schedule

14 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

17 First Day PK

21 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

28 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

September

4 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

7 Labor Day - No School

11 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

18 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

25 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

October

2 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

5 Inservice - No School

9 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

16 End 1st Quarter
Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

21 Friday Schedule: PK-12 Parent-Tchr Conferences
3-7pm

22 Friday Schedule: PK-12 Parent-Tchr Conferences
2-6pm

23 Fall Break - No School

30 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

November

6 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

13 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

20 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

25 Friday Schedule

26 Thanksgiving Break

27 Thanksgiving Break

December

4 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

11 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

18 End 2nd Quarter;
Begin Semester Break
Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

23 NSAA 5-Day Moratorium Begins

January

4 Teacher Work/Inservice Day - No School

5 School/Classes Resume PK-12

8 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

15 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

22 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

29 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

February

5 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

10 Friday Schedule: PK-12 Parent-Tchr Conferences
3-7pm

11 Friday Schedule: PK-12 Parent-Tchr Conferences
2-6pm

12 Break - No School

19 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

26 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

March

5 End 3rd Quarter
Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

8 Spring Break - No School

9 Spring Break - No School

10 Spring Break - No School

11 Spring Break - No School

12 Spring Break - No School

19 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

25 HHS Noon Dismissal for Track Meet
HHS Staff @ Track Meet

26 Easter Break - No School

29 Easter Break - No School

April

2 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

9 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

16 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

23 HMS Noon Dismissal for Track Meet
HMS Staff @ Track Meet
HES/HHS Friday Schedule;
FACT 1:45-2:30

30 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

May

7 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

14 Friday Schedule; FACT 1:45-2:30

16 2:00pm Graduation

20 Last Day PK

21 12:00pm Noon Dismissal; End 4th Quarter;
Teacher Work Day K-12 PM; PK AM-PM

Feb 2027						
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May 2027						
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Jul 2027						
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Subject to change due to inclement weather and other cancellations.

Holdrege Public Schools Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program

With respect to the parameters of this program, please understand that should a direct conflict occur, state or federal law and Board policies/regulations will control.

Statement of Need and Purpose

Recognizing that observed and suspected use of alcohol and/or illicit drugs by Holdrege High School students is a serious concern, this program of deterrence is a proactive approach to a truly drug free school. Likewise, students using alcohol and/or illicit drugs pose a threat to their own safety, as well as to the safety of other students. The purpose of this program is as follows:

- to provide for the safety of all students;
- to undermine the effects of peer pressure by providing a legitimate reason for students to refuse to use alcohol and/or illicit drugs;
- to encourage and assist students who use alcohol and/or illicit drugs to seek help and participate in substance abuse programs;
- and to prevent the impact alcohol and illicit drugs have on the learning centers of the brain, allowing students to achieve their full academic potential.

Supporting Data

Random urine drug testing of students is legal as determined by the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Vernonia School District 47J (Oregon) v. Wayne and Judy Acton and Pottawatomie v. Earls*.

Definitions

Extracurricular Activities – Includes sports and activities offered by Holdrege Public Schools.

Vendor – The medical office or company selected by the administration to carry out toxicology lab work.

Designated Official – The individual(s) that oversees the HPS drug testing program.

Illicit Substance – A drug classified by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) as being available only by prescription from a physician or classified as being controlled and having no therapeutic use.

Banned Substance – A substance defined by school policy as being banned from use by students.

Illicit or Banned Substances – For the purpose of this program, the following drug classes, substances, or their metabolites that can be tested for are considered illicit or banned for students: Amphetamine, Barbiturates, Buprenorphine, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Ethyl Glucuronide (Alcohol), Fentanyl, Methadone, Methamphetamine, Methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA/Ecstasy), Nicotine, Opiates, Oxycodone, Phencyclidine, Propoxyphene, Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC/Marijuana), and Tricyclic Antidepressant.

Student Participant – Any Holdrege High School student (Grades 9-12) participating in a sport or activity offered by HPS that is sanctioned by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA).

SAMHSA – The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; a governmental agency that certifies toxicology laboratories that perform drug testing following strict guidelines and constant quality assurance programs.

Quantitative Levels – The measurement levels of a specific chemical in the urine reported usually in nanograms per milliliter (ng/ml).

Adulterant/Adulteration – Any attempt to alter the outcome of a urine drug test by adding a substance to the sample, attempting to switch the sample, or otherwise interfere with the detection of illicit or banned substances in the urine, or purposefully over hydrating oneself in an attempt to dilute the urine to decrease possible detection of illicit or banned substances.

Procedures

The procedures for initial, random, and follow up drug testing of Holdrege High School students (Grades 9-12) participating in Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) sanctioned extracurricular sports and activities is accomplished in conjunction with an independent drug testing vendor selected by the administration.

Eligibility for Random Testing – Holdrege High School students (Grades 9-12) participating in a sport or activity offered by HPS that is sanctioned by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) are eligible for random testing.

To maintain confidentiality and to maintain the integrity of the randomness of this program, students eligible for testing will be identified by a unique personal identifier (number) that does not make the student known to persons other than school officials who are directly involved in the testing program. The number will be known only to the Activities Director.

Informed Consent for Testing – At the time the student becomes a sport/activity participant, whether at the beginning of the school year or upon later enrollment (if after the beginning of the school year), the student and parent/guardian will complete and sign the *Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program Informed Consent Agreement*. No student may participate in a sport/activity until this form is properly executed and on file with the school.

Urine Drug Testing Frequency – Student sport/activity participants shall be subject to random monthly urine testing for alcohol and/or illicit drugs for the entire school year once the informed consent for testing has been submitted.

Testing Pool – Student sport/activity participants will remain in the testing pool through the entire school year subject to submission of a *Revocation of Participation in Drug Testing Program and Withdrawal from Sports/Activities Participation*. A student electing to drop out of the testing pool is ineligible for participation in any and all sport or activity offered by HPS that is sanctioned by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) for the remainder of the school year.

Urine Specimen Collection – Any student in the testing pool selected randomly for urine drug testing who is not in school on the day of testing will be tested at the next available testing time. Any student selected for urine drug testing that does not provide an adequate urine specimen at the testing time will be unable to participate until the proper specimen is provided.

Confidentiality of Results

The testing collection process will be conducted in a manner that protect student privacy, guards against tampered specimens, and ensures an accurate chain of custody of the specimen. All urine specimen test results are considered confidential information and will be handled accordingly.

Selection of Students in Testing Pool – Any student(s) involved in an extracurricular activity may be selected for testing. The selected student(s) will be given to the designated official, who will arrange for the student(s) to report to the collection area.

Collection of Urine Specimens – The designated official will oversee the collection of urine specimens as outline in the procedures. Students will be given as much privacy as possible in the obtaining of the specimen.

Testing of Urine Specimens - The specimens tested for the specified illicit or banned substances will give results within 5 minutes. Tests will be collected in a Tox Cup. Tests performed by Holdrege Public Schools will provide results for illicit and banned substances as defined.

In the event a cup tests with a non-negative, there are 3 options after notification to parents:

1. The results can be accepted and the applicable suspension can begin immediately.
2. Another cup can be administered the same day at the request of parents/guardian. The cost shall be the responsibility of the parents/guardian. If results confirm the first test, the applicable suspension will begin.
3. Results can be sent in for toxicology laboratory testing at the request of parents/guardian. The cost shall be the responsibility of the parents/guardian unless the results come back negative. The applicable suspension will begin upon receiving the results of the labs plus the processing time of receiving results.

Reporting of Urine Test Results by Vendor – The vendor will certify all urine drug screens as negative or positive. Positive findings will be reported by telephone or email in a confidential manner to the designated official.

Statistical Reporting and Confidentiality of Urine Drug Test Results – The vendor may not release any statistics on the rate of positive drug tests to any person, organization, news publication, or media without expressed written consent of Holdrege Public Schools. However, upon request by the designated official, the vendor will provide an annual report showing the number of tests performed, rate of positive and negative tests, and what substances were found in the positive urine specimens.

Procedures in the Event of a Positive Urine Drug Test Result

Whenever a student's test result indicates the presence of illegal drugs or banned substances or adulteration, the following will occur after notification of the parent:

1. The designated official will notify a parent/guardian first, then the student of any positive results. The designated official may keep all test results for a period up to one year.
2. If the parent/guardian wishes to contest the results, they may request that the designated official immediately issue another cup to confirm results at the expense of the parent/guardian. Alternatively, the parent/guardian may request that the designated official arrange for the split portion of the specimen to be submitted to a laboratory for reconfirmation at the expense of the parent/guardian. Such a request must be made at the time of the notification.
3. After a positive result, the student of the positive result will be put into the testing pool for the remainder of that school year. The student will provide a sample each month along with the random testing group.
4. Violations defined in Board Policy 5103 Extracurricular Activity will be combined in total with positive test results, for example, if a student has a drug and alcohol violation prior to a first positive result, it will be considered as a second violation/second positive result.

First Positive Result – The student may not attend any school activities for two weeks. The student will miss two weeks of contests, including practices/rehearsals, beginning on the day of the positive result, when the student admits to guilt, or when an investigation by the Principal, Activities Director, and/or Coach determines the student's guilt. The penalty of missing two weeks of contests, including practices/rehearsals, carries over from sport/activity to sport/activity and from year to year, for example, if a student participating in a fall sport has a positive test result after the season has ended, he/she will miss the first two weeks of competition, including practices/rehearsals, in the next sport/activity they go out for, or the first two weeks of competition in the subsequent school year if they are a one-sport athlete.

Second Positive Result – The student may not attend any school sport/activity for five weeks. The student misses five weeks of contests, including practices/rehearsals, before being eligible to participate (may overlap into the next activity), for example, if a student has a positive test result as a freshman and has another positive test result as a senior, it will be a second offense suspension.

Third Positive Result – The student will be suspended from all school sports/activities for the remainder of their high school career. Students may regain eligibility after a minimum eight week suspension in addition to successful completion of an HPS approved substance abuse treatment program. The student will remain on the testing schedule each month for the remainder of their high school career.

Self-Report – A student who self-reports, prior to providing a urine sample will comply with the requirements for a First Positive Result, except that there will be only one week of forfeiture of all sports/activities. The week forfeiture begins on the day of self-report. Self-reports may be used as a first offense only, subsequent positives following a self-report will continue to actions stated in Second/Third Positive Result. A student may only self-report one time as a Holdrege High School student, regardless of any lapses in enrollment.

Prescription Drug Positive – A parent/guardian must submit the legal prescription for any prescription drug for which their student tests positive. Upon receipt and recognition of this document, the suspension from sports/activities will be lifted and no assessment or intervention will be required. A student that is determined to have used a prescription drug without provision of a legal prescription in his/her name will be given a positive test result.

Non-Punitive Nature of Program

Students enrolled in curricular classes related to a specific sport or activity will not be penalized in grading, but will miss competitive events if suspended from sports/activities. An alternative assignment will be substituted for participation in the competitive event if such event results in a grade.

The results of drug tests pursuant to this program will not be documented in any student's academic records.

**Holdrege Public Schools
Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program
Informed Consent Agreement**

Student Name:	Grade:
Parent/Guardian Name:	
Parent/Guardian Primary Contact #	
We have read and understand the following with respect to student participation in sports or activities offered by HPS that are sanctioned by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA): - Student-Parent Handbook - Board Policy 5103 Extracurricular Activity - Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program We further understand and agree that the student named above, as a participant in sports or activities offered by HPS that are sanctioned by the NSAA, will be subjected to initial, random, and follow up drug testing via urine specimen, under the parameters of the Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program. We hereby consent to allow the student to undergo urinalysis testing for the presence of illicit drugs or banned substances in accordance with the HPS Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program. We understand that the collection process will be overseen by a qualified vendor. We understand that any urine specimen requiring further toxicology laboratory testing be sent only to a certified medical laboratory for actual testing, and that the samples will be coded to provide confidentiality. We hereby give our consent to the vendor selected by the administration, their laboratory, doctors, employees, or agents, together with any clinic, hospital, or laboratory designated by the selected vendor to perform urinalysis testing for the detection of illicit drugs or banned substances. We further give permission to the vendor selected by the administration, its doctors, employees, or agents, to release all results of these tests to the Medical Review Officer (MRO) working for the vendor. We understand these results will be forwarded to the HPS designated official and will also be made available to us. We understand that consent pursuant to this Informed Consent Agreement will be effective for the student's participation in any and all sports and activities offered by HPS that are sanctioned by the NSAA during the current school year, and release Holdrege Public Schools, and its employees, from any legal responsibility or liability for the release of such information and records.	
Student Signature	Parent/Guardian Signature
Date	Date

*****Sign below only if revoking participation in the drug testing program and all NSAA sanctioned sports/activities.*****

**Revocation of Participation in Drug Testing Program and
Withdrawal from Sports/Activities Participation**

By completing this form, the student, with acknowledgment of a parent/guardian, hereby revokes participation in the Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program and withdraws from further participation in any and all sports or activities offered by HPS that are sanctioned by the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA), effective from the date signed for one calendar year. The student acknowledges that no recognition will be received from participation in any such sports or activities for the applicable school year.	
Student Signature	Parent/Guardian Signature
Date	Date

**Holdrege Public Schools
Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program
Parent/Guardian Request for Further Testing by Laboratory
& Authorization to Release Test Results**

Student Name:	Date of Birth:
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Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent/Guardian Primary Contact #

Procedures in the Event of a Positive Urine Drug Test Result

Whenever a student's test result indicates the presence of illegal drugs or banned substances or adulteration, the following will occur after notification of the parent:

1. The designated official will notify a parent/guardian first, then the student of any positive results. The designated official may keep all test results for a period up to one year.
2. If the parent/guardian wishes to contest the results, they may request that the designated official immediately issue another cup to confirm results at the expense of the parent/guardian. Alternatively, the parent/guardian may request that the designated official arrange for the split portion of the specimen to be submitted to a laboratory for reconfirmation at the expense of the parent/guardian. Such a request must be made at the time of the notification.
3. After a positive result, the student of the positive result will be put into the testing pool for the remainder of that school year. The student will provide a sample each month along with the random testing group.
4. Violations defined in Board Policy 5103 Extracurricular Activity will be combined in total with positive test results, for example, if a student has a drug and alcohol violation prior to a first positive result, it will be considered as a second violation/second positive result.

As parent/guardian, I acknowledge being informed that the above named student's urine test result indicates the presence of illegal drugs or banned substances or adulteration, and I request to have the split portion of the specimen submitted to a laboratory for reconfirmation at my expense, as specified above.

I further authorize that the laboratory results for the specimen be released to the HPS designated official and acknowledge that such laboratory results will be considered final.

Parent/Guardian Signature:	Parent/Guardian Date of Birth:	Date:
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HPS hereby acknowledges the request of parent/guardian for submission of the specimen to a laboratory and that such results shall be shared only with the HPS designated official.

Laboratory Name/Location:

HPS Designated Official Signature:	Date:
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Community RelationsADA And Section 504 Grievance Procedure

The following grievance procedure shall be used for resolution of complaints of alleged violations by Holdrege Public Schools of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973:

- A. Complaints shall be filed with the ADA and Section 504 Coordinator. Complaints shall be made in writing, unless the Complainant's disability prevents such, in which event the Complaint can be made verbally.
- B. Complaints shall set forth: (1) the name of the Complainant, (2) the address and telephone number or other such information sufficient to enable the Coordinator to contact the Complainant, (3) a brief description of the alleged violation, and (4) the relief requested by the Complainant.
- C. Complaints shall be investigated by the Coordinator or the Coordinator's designee. Investigations shall be thorough, but informal, and the Complainant shall be given a full opportunity to submit evidence relevant to the complaint.
- D. The Coordinator shall make a decision on the Complaint within thirty (30) days of the filing of the Complaint, unless such time period is extended by agreement of the Complainant. The decision shall be made in writing, shall set forth the Coordinator's proposed resolution of the Complaint, and shall be forwarded to the Complainant.
- E. The Complainant shall have ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's decision is sent to the Complainant to accept or reject the Coordinator's proposed resolution, and shall be deemed to have accepted the proposed resolution, unless the Complainant rejects the proposed resolution within such time period. In the event the Complainant rejects the proposed resolution, the Complainant shall be given the opportunity to file a request for reconsideration within ten (10) days from the date the Coordinator's decision is sent to the Complainant. The request for reconsideration shall be filed with the Coordinator. Upon receipt of the request for reconsideration, the Coordinator shall promptly forward the request for reconsideration and all evidence received by the Coordinator in connection with the Complaint to a third person for review (either an administrator or other employee of the District, or members of the Board of Education or Committee of the Board). A decision on the request for reconsideration within ten (10) days after the request for reconsideration was filed unless the Board of Committee of the Board is the reviewer, in which event the decision shall be made within thirty (30) days of the filing of the request for reconsideration.

Legal Authorities: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)
Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504)

Date of Adoption: March 14, 2005

Community RelationsNotice of Designation of Coordinator

Holdrege Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs or activities.

The Superintendent has been designated to coordinate Holdrege Public Schools' compliance with the non-discrimination requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Information concerning such Acts and the applicability of such Acts to the services, programs, or activities of Holdrege Public Schools, may be obtained from the Superintendent and any complaints alleging non-compliance by the Holdrege Public Schools with such Acts should be communicated to the Superintendent.

Legal Authority: Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA)

Date of Adoption: March 14, 2005

Business OperationsESSA

It is the policy of the District to comply with the Every Student Succeeds Act (“ESSA”) and federal grant programs in which the District participates.

1. Authority to Sign Applications. The Superintendent is authorized to sign applications for any of the ESSA formula grants on behalf of the District and may delegate such authority to other administrators in the Superintendent’s discretion. The Superintendent shall submit such applications as determined appropriate so long as acceptance of the funds does not include conditions contrary to the policies of the Board of Education.
2. Supplement not Supplant. Federal funds shall be used to supplement, not supplant the amount of funds or services available from non-federal sources, in compliance with the requirements of federal law. ESSA funds shall not be used to provide services otherwise required by law to be made available.
3. Equitable Allocation. Federal funds shall be used in a manner to ensure equitable allocation of resources. Staff are to be assigned and curriculum materials and instructional supplies are to be distributed to the schools in such a way that equivalence of personnel and materials is ensured among the schools in compliance with the requirements of federal law.
4. Maintenance of Effort. The District shall maintain fiscal effort related to ESSA programs in compliance with the requirements of federal law.
5. Resources. The procurement of resources related to the ESSA programs, including contracts and purchase or service agreements for such program, shall be in accordance with the District’s written procedures for purchasing and contracting. Purchase orders and invoices shall indicate an appropriate record of expenditures. All equipment purchased with federal funds, including those used in nonpublic and other facilities, shall be appropriately identified, inventoried, and when no longer useful to the program, properly disposed. Resources such as staff, materials and equipment funded by Title I and IDEA shall be used only for children participating in the program.
6. Maintenance of Records. Records of all federal financial and program information shall be kept for a minimum of 5 years after the start date of the project.
7. Identification of Eligible Children. The Superintendent and the designees shall implement an appropriate process to identify children eligible for services provided under federal programs.
8. Coordination of Services. Title I and IDEA services shall be coordinated and integrated with the regular classroom, with other agencies providing services and with other federal, state and local programs.

9. Standards and Expectations. Students receiving services in Title I are held to the same standards and expectations as all other students.
10. Assessments. Students receiving services in Title I are assessed with the regular population without accommodations.
11. Parents Right to Know. At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that the parents may request, and the District will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:
 - (A) Whether the student's teacher—
 - (i) has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
 - (ii) is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
 - (iii) is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
 - (B) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.
12. Testing Opt-Out. At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving Title I funds that the parents may request, and the District will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding any State or District policy regarding student participation in any State or District assessments, including the District's policy and procedure on the parental right to opt the child out of such assessment(s). The District shall also make widely available through public means (including by posting in a clear and easily accessible manner on the District's website) information on each State or District assessment, including:
 - (A) the subject matter assessed;
 - (B) the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
 - (C) the source of the requirement for the assessment;
 - (D) the amount of time students will spend taking the assessment, and the schedule for the assessment; and
 - (E) the time and format for disseminating results.
13. Language Instruction Programs. At the beginning of each school year, if the District receives Title I funding, the District will implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners to inform the parents regarding how the parents can—
 - (A) be involved in the education of their children; and
 - (B) be active participants in assisting their children to—
 - (i) attain English proficiency;
 - (ii) achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education; and
 - (iii) meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students.

The District will also inform parents of an English learner identified student of opportunities to participate in various school programs, as set forth in ESSA.

14. Other Requirements. The Superintendent shall take or cause other staff to take such action as required by law for the District to maintain compliance with ESSA and specific ESSA grant programs in which the District participates.
15. Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension and Ineligibility. The District will endeavor to ensure that all contracts and purchase orders reimbursed using federal funds will include the following “suspension and disbarment” language:

To the best of its knowledge and belief, the contractor or any of its principals are not presently debarred, suspended, proposed for debarment or otherwise declared ineligible for the award of contracts by any Federal agency by the inclusion of the contractor or its principals in the current “LIST OF PARTIES EXCLUDED FROM FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OR NONPROCUREMENT PROGRAMS” published by the U.S. General Services Administration Office of Acquisition Policy.

The prospective lower tier participant shall provide immediate written notice to the District if at any time the prospective lower tier participant learns that its certification was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. Should the prospective lower tier participant enter into a covered transaction with another person at the next lower tier, the prospective lower tier participant agrees by accepting this agreement that it will verify that the person with whom it intends to do business is not excluded or disqualified.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, all persons or entities contracting with the District with any reimbursement using federal funds shall be bound by this certification and shall fully abide by and comply with the same.

Legal Reference: ESSA

Date of Adoption: 12/13/2010

Revised: 7/11/2016; 6/12/2017; 6/18/2018

Meal Charge Policy

It is the policy of Holdrege Public Schools to participate in the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. It is the goal of the District to assure that each child has a nutritious breakfast and lunch.

Student Eligibility

Families of students who may be eligible for free or reduced price school meals should submit an application to determine their eligibility. Applications are mailed to each student household at the start of the school year and are available at each school office and Central Office. As long as an application is submitted on or after July 1, the application will be considered current for the new school year. A student may become eligible for free or reduced meals at any time during the school year if the household experiences a change in financial circumstances or household size and a new application is approved.

Meal Account Balances

The District uses an automated system which requires each student to have a pin number. This system requires money to be in the account in order to purchase a meal or ala carte items. Families whose applications are not approved for free meals, or who would like to be able to purchase ala carte items, will need to send money to the school or log into the student information system to deposit money into the account.

The parent/guardian may contact the school office to create a parent portal account within the student information system. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to keep a positive balance in the account. Automatic notices, such as calls, texts, emails, for low balances can be set by each household within the student information system.

The District will provide notice, such as calls, texts, emails, or notes, when an account reaches zero. If the balance becomes negative, no further regular breakfast or lunch will be offered to the student or students in the household associated with the account. Subsequently, an alternate meal will be provided to the student and charges for the alternate meal will continue to accrue to the account, or a nutritious sack lunch may be brought from home. Sack lunches may not contain soda pop or energy drinks.

The District will ensure that families can check their meal account balances online or contact the school directly or Central Office. Payments may be made in the following manner:

- Cash or check payable to Holdrege Public Schools may be presented to the school office.
- Online payments may be made through the student information system parent portal via ACH (bank account) withdrawal with no processing fee. Acknowledgment of the payment will be transmitted via email.
- Online payments may be made through the student information system parent portal via credit card or debit card and an additional processing fee will be assessed. Acknowledgment of the payment will be transmitted via email.

The District encourages families to prepay for meals. Students and families may also add funds during the school day. Any balance remaining in an account shall carry over into the next month. Households with funds remaining in their account at the end of the school year may request a refund or carry over funds to the next school year. When a student leaves the District or graduates, the District shall attempt to contact the student's household to return any funds remaining in the student's meal account.

Collection of Delinquent Meal Charge Debt

Unpaid meal charges may be carried over at the end of the school year as a delinquent debt and the District shall undertake reasonable collection efforts to collect unpaid meal charges classified as delinquent debt, pursuant to and in compliance with state and federal law.

Student Confidentiality

The District will disclose individual student eligibility information only to those persons (and organizations) that require the information in order to carry out an activity specifically authorized by the National School Lunch Act, subject to applicable legal exceptions.

The District shall not use or implement any colored or coded meal cards, tickets, tokens, or other methods of payment that would overtly identify a student as being eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Distribution Annually

This policy shall be provided in writing to all students' households at the start of each school year and to households transferring to the District during the school year.

This policy shall also be provided annually to District staff members responsible for the enforcement of this policy, including food service professionals.

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall maintain documentation of the annual distribution of this policy to students' households and District staff.

Legal Reference: Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. § 1751); U.S.D.A. Memorandum SP 57-2016.

Adoption: 6/12/2017

Revision: 6/17/2024

StudentsFull-Time and Part-Time EnrollmentFull-Time Enrollment

Students must be enrolled in Holdrege Public Schools on a full-time basis. Full-time basis is defined as attending classes for the full instructional day within the public school system.

Exceptions are permitted only for:

1. enrolled students attending another state accredited institution such as a vocational-technical school or a college or university for school credit;
2. enrolled students taking the limited number of credits needed to stay on pace for graduation with the assigned cohort group;
3. enrolled students in need of modified school attendance as an accommodation for a disability or similar unique circumstance;
4. enrolled students receiving special education services where the student's IEP requires a modified schedule, or non-enrolled students receiving special education services or other legally mandated services required to be provided to eligible resident children under state and federal laws and regulations;
5. students from other school districts participating in programs offered by the District pursuant to an interlocal agreement or other arrangement approved by the School Board; and
6. non-public school students in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth in this policy.

Part-Time Enrollment of Non-Public School Students

The School Board shall allow the part-time enrollment of students who are residents of the school district, or admitted to the District pursuant to state law, and who are also enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school or in a school which elects pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet accreditation or approval requirements. Such students are referred to herein as "non-public school students."

The School Board establishes the following guiding principles for enrollment of non-public school students:

1. The primary school for a non-public school student is the student's private, denominational, parochial or home school.
2. Enrollment of a non-public school student in Holdrege Public Schools is allowed for the purpose of providing enhanced educational opportunities not otherwise available to the non-public school student. It is not to supplant programming of the student's primary school.
3. Non-public school students are not to be given priority over full-time students.
4. Non-public school students are to be enrolled only in programs or courses that are educationally appropriate for the student.
5. Enrollment of non-public school students is not to negatively affect the educational services to be provided to full-time students.

The School Board establishes the following specific policies and procedures for enrollment of non-public school students. In the event the specific policies and procedures require interpretation or do not fully resolve an issue, the above established guiding principles are to be considered.

A. Non-Public School Student Enrollment Request Procedures.

1. Request to Enroll. Parent or guardian must contact the Superintendent's office during regular office hours and provide information regarding the request to enroll.
2. Deadline for Requests to Enroll. The request must be received by August 1st preceding the school year the student wishes to enroll.
 - a. Change of Residence Exception: The request deadline for a student who becomes a resident of the District after the school year has commenced is: 20 calendar days after the student becomes a resident of the District. The Superintendent may delay enrollment until the next following quarter or semester starts, or at such other time as determined to be educationally appropriate.
 - b. High School Course Exception: The request deadline for a student who desires to enroll in a second semester high school course is December 1st.
3. Action on Requests to Enroll. The Superintendent will review the request and will notify the parent of the approval or denial of the request within 2 weeks.
4. Annual Request to Enroll. Part-time enrollment is determined annually. There will be no guarantee that enrollment will be continued from one year to the next.

B. Non-Public School Student Admission

1. Admission Requirements. Students must meet the normal admission requirements. This include the requirements that the student: be a resident of the District, be of school attendance age and not have graduated or have received a GED.
2. Admission Process. Students must complete the normal enrollment process and forms required by the District and/or the building for enrollment of all children. This includes the requirements relating to: birth certificates, immunizations, physical examinations, and visual evaluations.

C. Non-Public School Student Enrollment Standards

1. Maximum Enrollment. Subject to Paragraph D.8. of this policy, students may not enroll in more than 4 middle school or high school courses during any one semester. Elementary students may not enroll in programming of greater than 90 minutes of instruction each day.
2. Capacity Limits. Enrollment will be subject to capacity limits. Any grade level, program, or course which has been determined to be at capacity for option enrollment purposes will not ordinarily be available for non-public school students.
3. Integrated Courses. Students must meet prerequisite requirements to be enrolled in a course by appropriate credits earned through an accredited program. The principal may on a discretionary basis allow prerequisite requirements to be satisfied where the student provides reasonable indications that the academic criteria have been met, such as results from achievement tests or other indications of adequate preparation.

4. Educationally Appropriate Programs and Courses. Students will not be allowed to enroll in programs or courses, which the school administration determines to not be educationally appropriate for the student. Determination of whether a program or course is educationally appropriate will be made based on the standards the District uses for making academic placement decisions.
5. Selection of Courses. Subject to Paragraphs 1 through 4 of this Paragraph C, and all other applicable provisions of this Policy, non-public school students may select their courses.

D. Non-Public School Student Policies

1. General Standard. Non-public school students who are enrolled part-time are to be subject to the same standards as full-time enrolled students except where appropriate to reflect their part-time status.
2. No Partial Part-Time Enrollment. Students enrolling based on an approved request must attend the entire school year for which enrollment is made or, for high school courses, for the full length of the course. Once enrolled, part-time students will be required to participate in all activities, programs, and tests related to the program or course for which the student is enrolled.
3. Student Conduct Policies. Students enrolled on a part-time basis shall be required to follow all school policies that apply to other students at any time the part-time student is present on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This includes the District's student conduct policies. Students enrolled on a part-time basis shall be subject to discipline, including suspension or expulsion, for violation of student conduct rules.
4. Attendance. Students enrolled on a part-time basis are not exempt from the compulsory attendance laws or from the District's attendance policies. Students who engage in excessive absenteeism as defined in Board policy are to be reported under the truancy laws.
5. Presence on School Grounds. Students enrolled on a part-time basis are to be present on school grounds during the school day only at the times required for their attendance in the program or course in which they are enrolled. Exceptions may be made in the discretion of the principal or the principal's designee. Students must sign in and out of the school by following the building level procedure. Students are responsible for being aware of any changes in the school schedule during inclement weather or for other reasons.
6. Transportation. Students enrolled on a part-time basis are not entitled to transportation or transportation reimbursement, unless otherwise required by law. Full-time students will be given first consideration for parking on the high school campus.
7. Academic Honors. Students enrolled on a part-time basis will not be eligible to graduate or receive a diploma from the District or receive academic honors (for example, class rank and honor roll) except to the extent the student meets all requirements of the District's policies for such, including attainment of minimum credits and semesters of attendance.
8. Extracurricular Activities. Any student who is a resident of the District and who is enrolled in a school which elects pursuant to section 79-1601 not to meet accreditation or approval requirements may participate in any of the District's

extracurricular activity programs to the same extent and subject to the same requirements, conditions, and procedures as a full-time student in the District. Non-resident students may only be admitted on a part-time basis or permitted to participate in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity when required by law. The District's Activities Director will coordinate with the student's parent or guardian to secure assurances of compliance with these expectations. There shall be no preference given to any student participating in any extracurricular activity based off their status as a full-time or part-time student. Part-time students will be expected to comply with the same or similar expectations as full-time students to participate in any activity, including team rules. Participation in activities that are subject to the bylaws of the Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) will be limited to those students who meet the NSAA bylaws.

Part-time students participating in extracurricular activities shall meet the following enrollment requirements, consistent with state law:

- a. For activities regulated by an athletics or activities association (including the Nebraska School Activities Association), the student shall be enrolled in five credit hours offered by the District during each semester of participation. The student may elect to enroll in more than five credit hours.
- b. For activities governed by a national or state organization other than the NSAA, the student shall be enrolled in the minimum number of credit hours required by such organization. The student may elect to enroll in more than five credit hours.
- c. For activities not governed by the NSAA or a national or state organization, the student must enroll in at least five credit hours or the equivalent for middle school students.

Legal Source: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-215, 79-2,136 and 79-526
Title 92, Nebraska Administrative Code, Chapter 10

Date of Adoption: 8/14/06

Revised: 5/11/15; 6/12/17; 2/20/23; 7/17/23; 7/21/25; 6/15/26

StudentsStudent AttendanceAttendance Policy and Excessive Absenteeism

Regular and punctual student attendance is required. The administration is responsible for developing further attendance rules and regulations, and all staff are expected to implement this policy and administrative rules and regulations to encourage regular and punctual student attendance. The Principals and teachers are required to maintain an accurate record of student attendance.

A. Attendance and Absences.

1. Circumstances of Absences – Definitions. The circumstances for all absences from school will be identified as School Excused or Not School Excused. Absences should be cleared through the Principal's office in advance whenever possible. All absences, except for illness and/or death in the family, require advance approval.
 - a. **School Excused.** Any of the following circumstances that lead to an absence will be identified as a *School Excused* absence, provided the required attendance procedures have been followed:
 - (1) Impossible or impracticable barriers outside the control of the parent or child prevent a student from attending school. The parent must provide the school with documentation to demonstrate the absence was beyond the control of the parent or child. This could include, but is not limited to documented illness or medical appointments, court, death of a family member, or suspension.
 - (2) Other absences as determined by the principal or the principal's designee.
 - b. Not School Excused. Absences that are not school excused may result in a report to the county attorney and may be classified as follows:
 - (1) Parent acknowledged absences are those in which the parent communicated with the school in the prescribed manner that the child is absent and is the parent's responsibility for the extent of the school day. This includes, but is not limited to, illness and vacations.
 - (2) Other absences are those in which the parent has not communicated a reason for the student's absence.

2. Absence Procedure. In its Student Information System, the District may identify many different codes that provide greater definition to the circumstances of a child's absence, but all of the codes need to be identified to parents and students as fitting into one of the above defined absence circumstances.

A student will not be allowed to enter class after an absence until an admit slip, based upon a written or verbal parental excuse, is issued by the Principal's office.

Two school days will be allowed to make up work for each day missed, with a maximum of 10 days allowed to make up work.

3. Mandatory Ages of Attendance. A child is of mandatory age if the child will reach age 6 prior to January 1 of the then-current school year and has not reached 18 years of age.

Exceptions for Younger Students. Attendance is not mandatory for a child who has reached 6 years of age prior to January 1 of the then-current school year, but will not reach age 7 prior to January 1 of such school year, if the child's parent or guardian has signed and filed with the school district in which the child resides an affidavit stating either: (1) that the child is participating in an education program that the parent or guardian believes will prepare the child to enter grade one for the following school year; or (2) that the parent or guardian intends for the child to participate in a school which has elected or will elect pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements and the parent or guardian intends to provide the Commissioner of Education with a statement pursuant to section 79-1601(3) on or before the child's seventh birthday.

Exceptions for Older Students. Attendance is also not mandatory for a child who: (1) has obtained a high school diploma by meeting statutory graduation requirements; (2) has completed the program of instruction offered by a school which elects pursuant to law not to meet accreditation or approval requirements; or (3) has reached the age of 16 years and has been withdrawn from school in the manner prescribed by law.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in Accredited or Approved Schools. A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if an exit interview is conducted and a withdrawal form is signed.

Exit Interview. The process is initiated by a person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child submitting a withdrawal form. The form is to be as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education. Upon submission of the form, the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall set a time and place for an exit interview if the child is enrolled in Holdrege Public Schools or resides in the

Holdrege Public School District and is enrolled in a private, denominational, or parochial school.

The exit interview shall be personally attended by:

- The child, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable;
- the person who has legal or actual charge or control of the child who requested the exit interview;
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee;
- the child's principal or the principal's designee if the child at the time of the exit interview is enrolled in a school operated by the school district; and
- any other person requested by any of the required parties who agrees to attend the exit interview and is available at the time designated for the exit interview which may include, for example, other school personnel or the child's principal if the child is enrolled in a private school.

At the exit interview, the person making the written request must present evidence that (a) the person has legal or actual charge or control of the child and (b) the child would be withdrawing due to either:

- financial hardships requiring the child to be employed to support the child's family or one or more dependents of the child, or
- an illness of the child making attendance impossible or impracticable.

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall identify all known alternative educational opportunities, including vocational courses of study, that are available to the child in the school district and how withdrawing from school is likely to reduce potential future earnings for the child and increase the likelihood of the child being unemployed in the future. Any other relevant information may be presented and discussed by any of the parties in attendance.

At the conclusion of the exit interview, the person making the written request may sign a withdrawal form provided by the school district agreeing to the withdrawal of the child OR may rescind the written request for the withdrawal.

Withdrawal Form. Any withdrawal form signed by the person making the written request shall be valid only if:

- the child also signs the form, unless the withdrawal is being requested due to an illness of the child making attendance at the exit interview impossible or impracticable, and
- the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee signs the form acknowledging that the interview was held, the required information was provided and discussed at the interview, and, in the opinion of the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, the person making the written request does in fact have legal or actual charge or control of the

child and the child is experiencing either (i) financial hardship, or (ii) an illness making attendance impossible or impracticable.

Early Withdrawal for Students Enrolled in an Exempt School (Home Schools). A person who has legal or actual charge or control of a child who is at least 16 but less than 18 years of age may withdraw such child from school before graduation and be exempt from the mandatory attendance requirements if such child has been enrolled in a school that elects not to meet the accreditation or approval requirements by filing with the State Department of Education a signed notarized release on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

4. Reporting and Responding to Excessive Absenteeism. Any administrator, teacher, or member of the board of education who knows of any failure on the part of any child of mandatory school attendance age to attend school regularly without lawful reason, shall within three days report such violation to the superintendent or such person(s) who the superintendent designates to be the attendance officer (hereafter, "attendance officer"). The attendance officer shall immediately cause an investigation into any such report to be made. The attendance officer shall also investigate any case when of his or her personal knowledge, or by report or complaint from any resident of the district, the attendance officer believes there is a violation of the compulsory attendance laws. The school shall render all services in its power to compel such child to attend some public, private, denominational, or parochial school, which the person having control of the child shall designate, in an attempt to address the problem of excessive absenteeism. Such services shall include, as appropriate, the services listed below under "Excessive Absenteeism" and "Reporting Excessive Absenteeism."
5. Excessive Absenteeism. Students who accumulate five (5) unexcused absences in a quarter shall be deemed to have "excessive absences." Such absences shall be determined on a per day basis for elementary students and on a per class basis for secondary students. When a student has excessive absences, the following procedures shall be implemented:
 - a. Verbal or written communication by school officials with the person or persons who have legal or actual charge or control of any child; and
 - b. One or more meetings between the school (a school attendance officer, a school administrator or his or her designee, and/or a social worker), the child's parent or guardian, and the child, when appropriate, to address the barriers to attendance. The result of the meeting or meetings shall be to develop a collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance. The plan shall consider, but not be limited to:
 - (i) Illness related to physical or behavioral health of the child.
 - (ii) Educational counseling;
 - (iii) Educational evaluation;

- (iv) Referral to community agencies for economic services;
- (v) Family or individual counseling; and
- (vi) Assisting the family in working with other community services;
- (vii) Utilization of Strategic Targeted Attendance Reporting System (STARS) for students with habitual absenteeism.

If the parent/guardian refuses to participate in such meeting, the principal shall place documentation of such refusal in the child's attendance records.

6. Reporting Excessive Absenteeism to the County Attorney.

The school may report to the county attorney of the county in which the person resides when the school has documented the efforts to address excessive absences, the collaborative plan to reduce barriers identified to improve regular attendance has not been successful, and the student has accumulated more than twenty (20) unexcused absences per year. The school shall notify the child's family in writing prior to referring the child to the county attorney. Absences due to illness, including physical or mental illness, that make attendance impossible or impracticable, and that are documented by a credentialed health professional, shall not be the basis for referral to the county attorney. In cases of chronic illness, such documentation will be reviewed each semester.

Date of Adoption: 4/11/2005

Revised: 12/12/05; 8/8/11; 6/11/12; 7/14/14; 7/17/23; 7/20/26

Reaffirmed: 7/13/2015; 7/11/16; 7/17/17; 7/16/18; 7/15/19; 7/20/20; 7/19/21; 7/18/22; 7/15/24; 7/21/25

StudentsStudent Discipline

- A. Development of Uniform Discipline System. It shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent to develop and maintain a system of uniform discipline. The discipline which may be imposed includes actions which are determined to be reasonably necessary to aid the student, to further school purposes, or to prevent interference with the educational process, such as (without limitation) counseling and warning students, parent contacts and parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling upon written consent of the parent or guardian, or in-school suspension. The discipline may also include out-of-school suspension (short-term or long-term) and expulsion.

1. Short-Term Suspension. Students may be excluded by the Principal or the Principal's designee from school or any school function for a period of up to five school days (short-term suspension) on the following grounds:

- a. Conduct that constitutes grounds for expulsion, whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds; or
- b. Other violations of rules and standards of behavior adopted by the Board of Education or the administrative or teaching staff of the school, which occur on or off school grounds, if such conduct interferes with school purposes or there is a nexus between such conduct and school.

The following process will apply to short-term suspensions:

- a. The Principal or the Principal's designee will make a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances. A short-term suspension will be made upon a determination that the suspension is necessary to help any student, to further school purposes, or to prevent an interference with school purposes.
- b. Prior to commencement of the short-term suspension, the student will be given oral and written notice of the charges against the student. The student will be advised of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the authorities have, and be afforded an opportunity to explain the student's version of the facts.
- c. Within 24 hours or such additional time as is reasonably necessary, not to exceed an additional 48 hours, following the suspension, the Principal or administrator will send a written statement to the student and the student's parent or guardian describing (i) the student's conduct, misconduct or violation of the rule or standard; (ii) the reasons for the action taken; (iii) the actions taken by the school to attempt to address or alleviate the behavior prior to suspension; (iv) resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the students; and (v) how the school plans to address the behavior moving forward, including strategies to maximize the student's continued participation in school.
- d. An opportunity will be given to the student, and the student's parent or guardian, to have a conference with the Principal or administrator ordering the short-term suspension before or at the time the student returns to school. The Principal or administrator shall determine who in addition to the parent or guardian is to attend the conference. The Principal shall document their attempt to make a reasonable effort to hold a conference with the parent or guardian.

- e. A student who on a short-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal.
- 2. Long-Term Suspension. A long-term suspension means an exclusion from school and any school functions for a period of more than five school days but less than twenty school days. A student who on a long-term suspension shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. A notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends a long-term suspension. The notice will include a description of (i) the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; (ii) the reasons for the action taken; (iii) the actions taken by the school to attempt to address or alleviate the behavior prior to suspension; (iv) resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and (v) how the school plans to address the behavior moving forward, including strategies to maximize the student's continued participation in school.
- 3. Expulsion.
 - a. Meaning of Expulsion. Expulsion means exclusion from attendance in all schools, grounds and activities of or within the system for a period not to exceed the remainder of the semester in which it took effect unless the misconduct occurred (a) within ten school days prior to the end of the first semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect through the second semester, or (b) within ten school days prior to the end of the second semester, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for summer school and the first semester of the following school year, or (c) unless the expulsion is for conduct specified in these rules or in law as permitting or requiring a longer removal, in which case the expulsion shall remain in effect for the period specified therein. Such action may be modified or terminated by the school district at any time during the expulsion period. A student who has been expelled shall not be permitted to be on school grounds without the express permission of the Principal. A notice will be given to the student and the parents/guardian when the Principal recommends an expulsion. The notice will include a description of: (i) the student's conduct, misconduct, or violation of the rule or standard; (ii) the reasons for the action taken; (iii) the actions taken by the school to attempt to address or alleviate the behavior prior to suspension; (iv) resources the school is able to provide or recommend to assist the student; and (v) how the school plans to address the behavior moving forward, including strategies to maximize the student's continued participation in school.
 - b. Suspensions Pending Hearing. When a notice of intent to discipline a student by long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment is filed with the superintendent, the student may be suspended by the principal until the date the long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment takes effect if the principal determines that the student must be suspended immediately to prevent or substantially reduce the risk of (a) interference with an educational function or school purpose or (b) a personal injury to the student himself or herself, other students, school employees, or school volunteers. If the student is suspended pending the outcome of the hearing, the student may complete classwork and homework, including, but not limited to, examinations missed during the period of suspension. During this period, the student will not be required to attend the alternative programs for expelled students in order to complete classwork or homework.

- c. Summer Review. Any expulsion that will remain in effect during the first semester of the following school year will be automatically scheduled for review before the beginning of the school year in accordance with law.
- d. Alternative Education. Students who are expelled may be offered an alternative education program that will enable the student to continue academic work for credit toward graduation. A student will not be required to attend the alternative education program in order to complete classwork and homework. In the event an alternative education program is not provided, a conference will be held with the parent, student, the Principal or another school representative assigned by the Principal, and a representative of a community organization that assists young people or that is involved with juvenile justice to develop a plan for the student in accordance with law.
- e. Suspension of Enforcement of an Expulsion. Enforcement of an expulsion action may be suspended (i.e., “stayed”) for a period of not more than one full semester in addition to the balance of the semester in which the expulsion takes effect. As a condition of such suspended action, the student and parents will be required to sign a discipline agreement.
- f. Students Subject to Juvenile or Court Probation. Prior to the readmission to school of any student who is less than nineteen years of age and who is subject to the supervision of a juvenile probation officer or an adult probation officer pursuant to the order of the District Court, County Court, or Juvenile Court, who chooses to meet conditions of probation by attending school, and who has previously been expelled from school, the Principal or the Principal’s designee shall meet with the student’s probation officer and assist in developing conditions of probation that will provide specific guidelines for behavior and consequences for misbehavior at school (including conduct on school grounds and conduct during an educational function or event off school grounds) as well as educational objectives that must be achieved. If the guidelines, consequences, and objectives provided by the Principal or the Principal’s designee are agreed to by the probation officer and the student, and the court permits the student to return to school under the agreed-to conditions, the student may be permitted to return to school. The student may with proper consent, upon such return, be evaluated by the school for possible disabilities and may be referred for evaluation for possible placement in a special education program. The student may be expelled or otherwise disciplined for subsequent conduct as provided in Board policy and state statute.
- g. Returning from Expulsion. At the conclusion of an expulsion, the District will reinstate the student and accept nonduplicative, grade-appropriate credits earned by the student during the term of expulsion from any Nebraska accredited institution or institution accredited by one of the six regional accrediting bodies in the United States.
- h. Exception for Pre-Kindergarten through Second Grade Students. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a pre-kindergarten through second grade student shall not be suspended unless the student (1) brings a deadly weapon to school grounds, a school vehicle, or a school activity or (2) engages in violent behavior capable of causing physical harm to another student or school employee. In all other circumstances, the Principal or designee shall implement appropriate alternative disciplinary measures on a case-by-case basis. A student who brings a deadly weapon may be expelled in accordance with this Policy’s disciplinary procedures.

- i. Religious Freedom. The District will not substantially burden a student's right to religious exercise unless the student's religious exercise is disruptive to the school environment, not permitted by staff, may pose a safety risk, or would otherwise interfere with the school day.
4. Emergency Exclusion. A student may be excluded from school in the following circumstances:
 - a. If the student has a dangerous communicable disease transmissible through normal school contacts and poses an imminent threat to the health or safety of the school community; or
 - b. If the student's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself, herself, or others, or is so extremely disruptive as to make temporary removal necessary to preserve the rights of other students to pursue an education.

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

If the emergency exclusion will be for five school days or less, the procedures for a short-term suspension shall be followed. If the Superintendent or his or her designee determines that an emergency exclusion shall extend beyond five days, a hearing is to be held and a final determination made within ten school days after the initial date of exclusion. Such procedures shall substantially comply with the procedures set forth in this policy for a long-term suspension or expulsion, and be modified only to the extent necessary to accomplish the hearing and determination within this shorter time period.

5. Other Forms of Student Discipline. Administrative and teaching personnel may also take actions regarding student behavior, other than removal of students from school, which are reasonably necessary to aid the student, further school purposes, or prevent interference with the educational process. Such actions may include, but are not limited to, counseling of students, parent conferences, rearrangement of schedules, requirements that a student remain in school after regular hours to do additional work, restriction of extracurricular activity, or requirements that a student receive counseling, psychological evaluation, or psychiatric evaluation upon the written consent of a parent or guardian to such counseling or evaluation. The actions may also include in-school suspensions. When in-school suspensions, after-school assignments, or other disciplinary measures are assigned, the student is responsible for complying with such disciplinary measures. A failure to serve such assigned discipline as directed will serve as grounds for further discipline, up to expulsion from school.

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

- C. Grounds for Short-Term Suspension, Long-Term Suspension, Expulsion or Mandatory Reassignment. The following conduct has been determined by the Board of Education to have the potential to seriously affect the health, safety or welfare of students, staff and other persons or to otherwise seriously interfere with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment, and any other lesser forms of discipline. The conduct is subject to the consequence of long-term suspension, expulsion, or mandatory reassignment where it occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school and being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or an employee's designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or

athletic event. Mandatory reassignment shall be subject to the same procedural requirements and protections as long-term suspension and expulsion.

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, harassment, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or making any communication that a reasonable recipient would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property of substantial value, repeated damage or theft involving property, or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including any school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect some other person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision.
5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from such student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon or that has the appearance of a weapon or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks.
7. Engaging in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), electronic nicotine delivery systems, alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.
8. Public indecency or sexual conduct. This includes "deep fakes" or other computer-generated images of other students or staff intended to bully, harass, intimidate, or humiliate another student or staff member.
9. Engaging in bullying, which includes any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or a school employee's designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.
10. Sexually assaulting or attempting to sexually assault any person. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if a complaint alleging such conduct is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction.
11. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes. This conduct may result in an expulsion regardless of the time or location of the offense if the conduct creates or had the potential to create a

- substantial interference with school purposes, such as the use of the telephone or internet off-school grounds to threaten.
12. A repeated violation of any rules established by the school district or school officials if such violations constitute a substantial interference with school purposes, including (but not limited to) a violation of the District's dress code and electronic communication device rules.
 13. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
 14. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to students or staff members. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, disability, national origin, or religion.
 15. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for riding school buses or vehicles.

A student who engages in the following conduct shall be expelled for the remainder of the school year in which it took effect if the misconduct occurs during the first semester, and if the expulsion for such conduct takes place during the second semester, the expulsion shall remain in effect for the first semester of the following school year, with the condition that such action may be modified or terminated by the school district during the expulsion period on such terms as the administration may establish:

- a. The knowing and intentional use of force in causing or attempting to cause personal injury to a school employee, school volunteer, or student, except if caused by accident, self-defense, or on the reasonable belief that the force used was necessary to protect some other person and the extent of force used was reasonably believed to be necessary, or
- b. The knowing and intentional possession, use, or transmission of a dangerous weapon other than a firearm.

Knowingly and intentionally possessing, using, or transmitting a firearm on school grounds, in a school-owned or utilized vehicle, or during an educational function or event off school grounds, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event. This conduct shall result in an expulsion for one calendar year. "Firearm" means a firearm as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921, as that statute existed on January 1, 1995. That statute includes the following statement: "The term 'firearm' means (a) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (b) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (c) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (d) any destructive device." The Superintendent may modify such one year expulsion requirement on a case-by-case basis, provided that such modification is in writing. Bringing a firearm or other dangerous weapon to school for any reason is discouraged; however, a student will not be subject to disciplinary action if the item is brought or possessed under the following conditions:

- a. Prior written permission to bring the firearm or other dangerous weapon to school is obtained from the student's teacher, building administrator and parent.
- b. The purpose of having the firearm or other dangerous weapon in school is for a legitimate educational function.
- c. A plan for its transportation into and from the school, its storage while in the school building and how it will be displayed must be developed with the prior written approval by the teacher and building administrator. Such plan shall require that such item will be in the possession of an adult staff member at all times except for such limited time as is necessary to fulfill the educational function.
- d. The firearm or other dangerous weapon shall be in an inoperable condition while it is on school grounds.

For purposes of this policy, the term “dangerous weapon” includes any personal safety or security device (such as tasers, mace, and pepper spray). In the event that a student desires to carry or possess a personal safety or security device, the student must obtain prior approval from the building principal before bringing such device on school grounds. If a student obtains prior approval from the building principal, the student must store the device during the school day in the student’s locker, in the main office, or in another secure location designated by the building principal. A student shall not carry a personal safety or security device during the school day.

D. Additional Student Conduct Expectations and Grounds for Discipline. The following additional student conduct expectations are established. Failure to comply with such rules is grounds for disciplinary action. When such conduct occurs on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by a school being used for a school purpose or in a vehicle being driven for a school purpose by a school employee or by his or her designee, or at a school-sponsored activity or athletic event, the conduct is grounds for long-term suspension, expulsion or mandatory reassignment.

1. Student Appearance: Students are expected to dress in a way that is appropriate for the school setting. Students should not dress in a manner that is reasonably forecasted to interfere with the learning environment or teaching process in our school. Following is a list of examples of attire that will not be considered appropriate, such list is not exclusive and other forms of attire deemed inappropriate by the administration may be deemed inappropriate for the school setting:

- a. Clothing that shows an inappropriate amount of bare skin or underwear or clothing that is too tight, revealing or baggy, or tops and bottoms that do not overlap or any material that is sheer or lightweight enough to be seen through, or otherwise of an appropriate size and fit so as to be revealing or drag on the ground.
- b. Clothing or jewelry that advertises or promotes beer, alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs.
- c. Clothing or jewelry that could be used as a weapon (chains, spiked apparel) or that would encourage “horse-play” or that would damage property (e.g. cleats).
- d. Head wear including, but not limited to, hats, caps, hoods, bandanas, and scarves.
- e. Clothing or jewelry which exhibits nudity, makes sexual references or carries lewd, indecent, or vulgar double meaning.
- f. Clothing or jewelry that is gang related.

A student who is a member of an indigenous tribe of the United States or another country may wear tribal regalia in any location where the student is authorized to be on such school grounds or at any school function, as long as the tribal regalia does not interfere with the educational process and does not endanger another person, as determined by the administration. Further, students will also be permitted to wear attire, including religious attire, natural and protective hairstyles, adornments or other characteristics associated with race, national origin, or religion, as long as the attire does not interfere with the educational process and does not endanger another person, as determined by the administration.

No student shall be disproportionately affected by a dress code or grooming policy enforcement because of the student's gender, race, color, religion, disability, or national origin.

No school staff shall permanently or temporarily alter or cut a student's hair.

The final decision regarding attire and grooming will be made by the Principal or Superintendent. In the event a student is uncertain as to whether a particular item or method of grooming is consistent with the school’s guidelines, the student should contact the

Principal for approval, and may also review such additional posting of prohibited items or grooming which may be available in the Principal's office.

A student dress code violation will be treated as a minor rule violation and may not require the student to miss substantial classroom time, instructional time, or school activities. However, a repeated violation of school rules may subject the student to further discipline, as outlined in this Policy.

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

2. Academic Integrity.

- a. Policy Statement. Students are expected to abide by the standards of academic integrity established by their teachers and school administration. Standards of academic integrity are established in order for students to learn as much as possible from instruction, for students to be given grades which accurately reflect the student's level of learning and progress, to provide a level playing field for all students, and to develop appropriate values.

Cheating and plagiarism violate the standards of academic integrity. Sanctions will be imposed against students who engage in such conduct.

- b. Definitions. The following definitions provide a guide to the standards of academic integrity:

- (1) "Cheating" means intentionally misrepresenting the source, nature, or other conditions of academic work so as to accrue undeserved credit, or to cooperate with someone else in such misrepresentation. Such misrepresentations may, but need not necessarily, involve the work of others. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Tests (includes tests, quizzes and other examinations or academic performances):

- (i) Advance Information. Obtaining, reviewing or sharing copies of tests or information about a test before these are distributed for student use by the instructor. For example, a student engages in cheating if, after having taken a test, the student informs other students in a later section of the questions that appear on the test.

- (ii) Use of Unauthorized Materials. Using notes, textbooks, pre-programmed formulae in calculators, or other unauthorized material, devices or information while taking a test except as expressly permitted. For example, except for "open book" tests, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at personal notes or the textbook during the test.

- (iii) Use of Other Student Answers: Copying or looking at another student's answers or work, or sharing answers or work with another student, when taking a test, except as expressly permitted. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student looks at another student's paper during a test. A student also engages in cheating if the student tells another student answers during a test or while exiting the testing room, or knowingly allows another student to look at the student's answers on the test paper.

- (iv) Use of Other Student to Take Test. Having another person take one's place for a test, or taking a test for another student, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
- (v) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Test. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid the taking of a test. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day of a test, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student was not prepared for the test.
- (b) Papers (includes papers, essays, lab projects, and other similar academic work):
 - i) Use of Another's Paper. Copying another student's paper, using a paper from an essay writing service, or allowing another student to copy a paper, without the specific knowledge and permission of the instructor.
 - (ii) Re-use of One's Own Papers Using a substantial portion of a piece of work previously submitted for another course or program to meet the requirements of the present course or program without notifying the instructor to whom the work is presented.
 - (iii) Assistance from Others. Having another person assist with the paper to such an extent that the work does not truly reflect the student's work. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student has a draft essay reviewed by the student's parent or sibling, and the essay is substantially re-written by the student's parent or sibling. Assistance from home is encouraged, but the work must remain the student's.
 - (iv) Failure to Contribute to Group Projects. Accepting credit for a group project in which the student failed to contribute a fair share of the work.
 - (v) Misrepresenting Need to Delay Paper. Presenting false or incomplete information in order to postpone or avoid turning in a paper when due. For example, a student engages in cheating if the student misses class on the day a paper is due, claiming to be sick, when the student's real reason for missing class was because the student had not finished the paper.
- (c) Alteration of Assigned Grades. Any unauthorized alteration of assigned grades by a student in the teacher's grade book or the school records is a serious form of cheating.
- (2) "Plagiarism" means to take and present as one's own a material portion of the ideas or words of another or to present as one's own an idea or work derived from an existing source without full and proper credit to the source of the ideas, words, or works. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to:
 - (a) Failure to Credit Sources. Copying work (words, sentences, and paragraphs or illustrations or models) directly from the work of another without proper credit. Academic work frequently involves use

of outside sources. To avoid plagiarism, the student must either place the work in quotations or give a citation to the outside source.

- (b) Falsely Presenting Work as One's Own. Presenting work prepared by another in final or draft form as one's own without citing the source, such as the use of purchased research papers or use of another student's paper.

- (3) "Contributing" to academic integrity violations means to participate in or assist another in cheating or plagiarism. It includes but is not limited to allowing another student to look at your test answers, to copy your papers or lab projects, and to fail to report a known act of cheating or plagiarism to the instructor or administration.

- c. Sanctions: The following sanctions will occur when a student engages in cheating, plagiarism, or contributing to an academic integrity offense:

- (1) Academic Sanction. The instructor will refuse to accept the student's work in which the academic integrity offense took place, assign a grade of "F" or zero for the work, and require the student to complete a test or project in place of the work within such time and under such conditions as the instructor may determine appropriate. In the event the student completes the replacement test or project at a level meeting minimum performance standards, the instructor will assign a grade which the instructor determines to be appropriate for the work.
- (2) Report to Parents and Administration. The instructor will notify the Principal of the offense and the instructor or Principal will notify the student's parents or guardian.
- (3) Student Discipline Sanctions. Academic integrity offenses are a violation of school rules. The Principal may recommend sanctions in addition to those assigned by the instructor, up to and including suspension or expulsion. Such additional sanctions will be given strong consideration where a student has engaged in serious or repeated academic integrity offense or other rule violations, and where the academic sanction is otherwise not a sufficient remedy, such as for offenses involving altering assigned grades or contributing to academic integrity violations.

3. Electronic Devices

- a. Philosophy and Purpose. The District strongly discourages students from bringing and/or using electronic devices at school. The use of electronic devices can be disruptive to the educational process and are items that are frequently lost or stolen. In order to maintain a secure and orderly learning environment, and to promote respect and courtesy regarding the use of electronic devices, the District hereby establishes the following rules and regulations governing student use of electronic devices, and procedures to address student misuse of electronic devices.

- b. Definitions.

- (1) "Electronic devices" include, but are not limited to, cell phones, Mp3 players, iPods, personal digital assistants (PDAs), compact disc players, portable game consoles, cameras, digital scanners, lap top computers, and other electronic or battery powered instruments which transmit voice, text, or data from one person to another.

- (2) “Sexting” means generating, sending or receiving, encouraging others to send or receive, or showing others, through an electronic device, a text message, photograph, video or other medium that:
 - (i) Displays sexual content, including erotic nudity, any display of genitalia, unclothed female breasts, or unclothed buttocks, or any sexually explicit conduct as defined at Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1463.02; or
 - (ii) Sexually exploits a person, whether or not such person has given consent to creation or distribution of the message, photograph or video by permitting, allowing, encouraging, disseminating, distributing, or forcing such student or other person to engage in sexually explicit, obscene or pornographic photography, films, or depictions; or,
 - (iii) Displays a sexually explicit message for sexual gratification, flirtation or provocation, or to request or arrange a sexual encounter.
- c. Possession and Use of Electronic Devices.
 - (1) Students are not permitted to possess or use any electronic devices during class time or during passing time except as otherwise provided by this policy. Cell phone usage is strictly prohibited during any class period; including voice usage, digital imaging, or text messaging.
 - (2) Students are permitted to possess and use electronic devices before school hours, at lunch time, and after school hours, provided that the student not commit any abusive use of the device (see paragraph (d)(1). Administrators have the discretion to prohibit student possession or use of electronic devices on school grounds during these times in the event the administration determines such further restrictions are appropriate; an announcement will be given in the event of such a change in permitted use.
 - (3) Electronic devices may be used during class time when specifically approved by the teacher or a school administrator in conjunction with appropriate and authorized class or school activities or events (i.e., student use of a camera during a photography class; student use of a lap top computer for a class presentation).
 - (4) Students may use electronic devices during class time when authorized pursuant to an Individual Education Plan (IEP), a Section 504 Accommodation Plan, or a Health Care Plan, or pursuant to a plan developed with the student’s parent when the student has a compelling need to have the device (e.g., a student whose parent is in the hospital could be allowed limited use of the cell phone for family contacts, so the family can give the student updates on the parent’s condition).
- d. Violations
 - (1) Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices. Students shall not use electronic devices for: (a) activities which disrupt the educational environment; (b) illegal activities in violation of state or federal laws or regulations; (c) unethical activities, such as cheating on assignments or tests; (d) immoral or pornographic activities; (e) activities in violation of Board or school policies and procedures relating to student conduct and harassment; (f) recording others (photographs, videotaping, sound recording, etc.) or otherwise transmitting images and/or sounds of another person or persons without direct administrative approval and consent of the person(s) being recorded, other

than recording of persons participating in school activities that are open to the public; (g) “sexting;” or (h) activities which invade the privacy of others. Such student misuses will be dealt with as serious school violations, and immediate and appropriate disciplinary action will be imposed, including, but not limited to, suspension and expulsion from school.

- (2) Disposition of Confiscated Electronic Devices. Electronic devices possessed or used in violation of this policy may be confiscated by school personnel and returned to the student or parent/guardian at an appropriate time. If an electronic device is confiscated, the electronic device shall be taken to the school’s main office to be identified, placed in a secure area, and returned to the student and/or the student’s parent/guardian in a consistent and orderly way.
- (i) First Violation. Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and a conference between the student and school principal or assistant principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student personally comes to the school’s main office and retrieves the electronic device.
 - (ii) Second Violation Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration and a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal or assistant principal. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student’s parent/guardian personally comes to the school’s main office and retrieves the electronic device.
 - (iii) Third Violation. Depending upon the nature of the violation and the imposition of other appropriate disciplinary action, consequences at a minimum may include a relinquishment of the electronic device to the school administration, a conference between the student and his/her parent/guardian and the school principal or assistant principal, and possible suspension of the student from school. The electronic device shall remain in the possession of the school administration until such time as the student’s parent/guardian personally comes to the school’s main office and retrieves the electronic device. Subsequently, the student must leave the electronic device at the school office daily while in attendance for the remainder of the school year.
- (3) Penalties for Prohibited Use of Electronic Devices. Students who receive a “sexting” message are to report the matter to a school administrator and then delete such message from their electronic device. Students shall not participate in sexting or have any “sexting” message on their electronic devices regardless of when the message was received while on school grounds or at a school activity. Students who violate the prohibitions of this policy shall be subject to the imposition of appropriate disciplinary action, up to and

including expulsion, provided that at a minimum the following penalties shall be imposed:

- (i) Students found in possession of a “sexting” message shall be subject to a one (1) day suspension from school.
- (ii) Students who send or encourage another to send a “sexting” message shall be subject to a five (5) day suspension from school.
- (4) Reporting to Law Enforcement. Violations of this policy regarding the prohibited use of electronic devices that may constitute a violation of federal or state laws and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Nebraska Child Protection Act or the Nebraska Child Pornography Prevention Act shall be reported to appropriate legal authorities and law enforcement.
- e. Responsibility for Electronic Devices. Students or their parents/guardians are expected to claim a confiscated electronic device within ten (10) days of the date it was relinquished. The school shall not be responsible, financially or otherwise, for any unclaimed electronic devices. By bringing such devices to school, students and parents authorize the school to dispose of unclaimed devices at the end of each semester. The District is not responsible for the security and safekeeping of students’ electronic devices and is not financially responsible for any damage, destruction, or loss of electronic devices.

E. Inappropriate Public Displays of Affection (IPDA). Students are not to engage in inappropriate public displays of affection on school property or at school activities. Such conduct includes kissing, touching, fondling or other displays of affection that would be reasonably considered to be embarrassing or a distraction to others. Students will face the following consequences for IPDA:

- 1. 1st Offense: Student will be confronted and directed to cease.
- 2. 2nd Offense: Student will be confronted, directed to cease, and parents will be notified.
- 3. 3rd Offense: Student will be suspended from school for a minimum of 1 day, and parents and student will need to meet with Administrator(s) and/or counselor.

If this type of behavior continues, or if the IPDA is lewd or constitutes sexual conduct, the student could face long-term suspension or expulsion.

F. Specific Rule Items. The following conduct may result in disciplinary action which, in the repeated violations, may result in discipline up to expulsion:

- 1. Students are not given locker passes, restroom passes or telephone passes to leave a classroom or study hall unless special circumstances arise.
- 2. Students in the hallway during class time must have a pass with them.
- 3. Gum, candy, seeds, etc. are not allowed in the school building or classrooms. The pop machine is closed until after school and pop is to be drunk outside.
- 4. Students are expected to bring all books and necessary materials to class. This includes study halls.
- 5. Assignments for all classes are due as assigned by the teacher.
- 6. Students are not to operate the mini-blinds or the windows.
- 7. Classes are ended by the teacher. Students are not to begin to pack up or leave the class until the dismissal bell has rung or the teacher has dismissed the class.
- 8. Students are to be in their seats and ready for class on the tardy bell.
- 9. Special classes such as Industrial Technology, Art, P.E., and computer courses will have other safety or clean-up rules that will be explained to students by that teacher which must be followed.

10. Students are not to bring “nuisance items” to school. A nuisance item is something that is not required for educational purposes and which would cause a distraction to the student or others.
11. Students are to stand back from the entry steps and doors in the mornings before school and at noon before the bell so that others may pass in and out of the entry doors.
12. Snow handling is prohibited.

G. Law Violations

1. Any act of a student which is a basis for expulsion and which the principal or designee knows or suspects is a violation of the Nebraska Criminal Code will be reported to law enforcement as soon as possible. Conduct to be reported for law enforcement referral includes conduct that may constitute a felony, conduct which may constitute a threat to the safety or well-being of students or others in school programs and activities, and conduct that the legal system is better equipped to address than school officials. Conduct that does not need to be reported for law enforcement referral includes typical adolescent behavior that can be addressed by school administrators without the involvement of law enforcement. In making the decision of whether to report, consideration should be given to the student’s maturity, mental capacity, and behavioral disorders, where applicable. When appropriate, it shall be the responsibility of the referring administrator to contact the student’s parent of the fact that the referral to legal authorities has been or will be made.
The foregoing reporting standards shall be reviewed annually by the school board on or before August 1 of each year, be annually reviewed in collaboration with the County Attorney each year, be distributed to each student and his or her parent or guardian at the beginning of each school year, or at the time of enrollment if during the school year, and shall be posted in conspicuous places in each school during the school year.
2. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer (e.g., police officer, sheriff, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests) for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor to the officer and regarding the place to which the minor is reportedly being taken, except when a minor has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, in which case the principal or other school official shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor's parents or guardian.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-254 to 79-296; Neb. Rev. Stat. Section 79-2,160

Date of Adoption: 8/14/06

Revised: 05/12/14; 6/18/18; 7/15/19; 6/15/20; 7/17/23; 6/17/24; 7/21/25; 7/20/26

StudentsAlternative Education Programs or Plans For Expelled Students

In the event action is being taken to expel a student from this school district, the Administration may offer the student an alternative school, class, or educational program (hereinafter referred to as an "alternative program"); or (2) the development of a plan of behavior modification, educational objects, and financial resources and community programs available to meet the behavioral and educational objects, and monthly reviews to assess the student's progress toward meeting the specified goals and objects. An expelled student may not be required to attend the alternative program.

A. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAM:

The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee is hereby granted the authority to arrange and plan for a student's alternative educational program, based on the available resources and student's individual circumstances.

B. EDUCATION PLAN PROGRAM:

If the administration elects not to provide an alternative education program, or if a student declines to participate in the alternative education program, the following procedures shall be followed:

- (1) A conference shall be called by a school administrator and held to assist the district in the development of a plan with the participation of a parent or a legal guardian, the student, a school representative, and a representative of either a community organization with a mission of assisting young people or a representative of an agency involved with juvenile justice.
- (2) The plan shall be in writing and adopted by a school administrator and presented to the student and the parent or legal guardian.
- (3) The plan shall:
 - (a) Specify guidelines and consequences for behaviors which have been identified as preventing the student from achieving the desired benefits from the educational opportunities provided,
 - (b) Identify educational objectives that must be achieved in order to receive credits toward graduation,
 - (c) Specify the financial resources of the community programs available to meet both the educational and behavioral objects identified, and
 - d) Require the student to attend monthly reviews in order to assess the student's progress toward meeting the specified goals and objectives.

The school district shall submit such plan on the form "Section 79-266(2) Plan" attached to this policy as Appendix "1".

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-266

Date of Adoption: May 9, 2005

Revised: 7/17/2023

SECTION 79-266(2) PLAN

Student: _____

Date & Participants: _____

(List parent or legal guardian, school rep., & community or agency rep.)

(a) Guidelines and Consequences for Behaviors

The student has been recommended for expulsion for conduct as specified in correspondence and memoranda recently provided to the student and the student's parents. This conduct has had the effect of preventing the student from achieving the desired benefits from the educational opportunities provided. The student is expected to conform his conduct to the school rules for which he has been recommended for expulsion and all other established school rules. Further disciplinary measures, including possible future expulsions, can result from future violations of such behavioral guidelines and expectations.

(b) Educational Objectives

In order to graduate, the student needs to receive the credits listed in Attachment "A", subject to future modifications in graduation requirements.

(c) Financial Resources and Community Programs Available

The financial resources and community programs available to meet the educational and behavioral objectives identified in this plan include school resources (e.g., upon return from the recommended expulsion, counseling with the school counselor, and meetings with the school administration and teachers) and community organizations which assist young people (e.g., civic organizations, local college and university programs, and community college programs).

(d) Monthly Reviews & Other

During the period of the expulsion, the student shall be required to attend monthly reviews with the Principal or designee to assess the student's progress toward meeting the specified goals and objectives. The student shall be responsible for contacting the named school official to schedule the monthly meetings. (Attach separate sheet for any additional information or terms of plan).

Dated this _____ day of _____, 200__, adopted by the school administrator after a conference held to assist the district in the development of the plan with the participation of a parent or legal guardian, the student, a school representative, and a representative of either a community organization with a mission of assisting young people or a representative of an agency involved in juvenile justice, and presented to the student and parent or legal guardian at the conference prior to the student being expelled in accordance with law.

Adopted by _____

[Administrator]

Attachments: Attachment "A" (academic credits needed to graduate or other, if applicable)

StudentsExtracurricular Activity**Section 1 Extracurricular Activity Philosophy**

Extracurricular activity programs enrich the curriculum of the school by making available a wide variety of activities in which a student can participate. Extracurricular activity programs are considered an integral part of the school's program of education that provide experiences that will help students physically, mentally and emotionally.

The element of competition and winning, though it exists, is controlled to the point it does not determine the nature or success of the program. This is considered to be educationally and psychologically sound because of the training it offers for living in a competitive society. Students are stimulated to want to win and excel, but the principles of good sportsmanship prevail at all times to enhance the educational values of contests. Participation in activities, both as a competitor and as a student spectator, is an integral part of the students' educational experiences. Such participation is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, community and the students themselves. In their play and their conduct, students are representing all of these groups. Such experiences contribute to the knowledge, skill and emotional patterns that they possess, thereby making them better individuals and citizens.

Safety

The District's philosophy is to maintain an activities program which recognizes the importance of the safety of the participants. To ensure safety, participants are required to become fully familiar with the dangers and safety measures established for the activity in which they participate, to adhere to all safety instructions for the activity in which they participate, to inform their coach or sponsor when they are injured or have health problems that require their activities be restricted, and to exercise common-sense.

Warning for Participants and Parents

The purpose of this warning is to bring your attention to the existence of potential dangers associated with athletic injuries. Participation in any intramural or athletic activity may involve injury of some type. The severity of such injury can range from minor cuts, bruises, sprains and muscle strains to more serious injuries to the body's bones, joints, ligaments, tendons, or muscles, to catastrophic injuries to the head, neck and spinal cord. On rare occasions, injuries can be so severe as to result in total disability, paralysis or death. Even with appropriate coaching, appropriate safety instruction, appropriate protective equipment and strict observance of the rules, injuries are still a possibility.

Section 2 Extracurricular Activity Code of Conduct

Purpose of the Code of Conduct. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege. The privilege carries with it responsibilities to the school, team, student body, and the community. Participants are not only representing themselves, but also their school and community in all of

their actions. Others judge our school on the student participants' conduct and attitudes, and how they contribute to our school spirit and community image.

The student participants' performance and devotion to high ideals and values make their school and community proud. Consequently, participation is dependent upon adherence to this Code of Conduct and the school district's policies, procedures and rules.

Scope of the Code of Conduct.

Activities Subject to the Code of Conduct: The Code of Conduct applies to all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the school district which do not count toward graduation or grade advancement and in which participation is not otherwise required by the school.

Extracurricular activities include but are not limited to: all sports, cheerleading, dance team, Pep Club, Pep Band, vocal, band, speech, and drama, One-Act, FBLA, FCCLA, Spanish Club, Art Club, Student Council, Student Advisory Board, National Honor Society, and other school sponsored organizations and activities. The Code of Conduct also applies to participation in school sponsored activities such as school dances and royalty for such activities.

A participant means a student who participates in, has participated in, or will participate in an extracurricular activity.

When: The Code of Conduct rules apply to conduct which occurs at any time during the school year, and also includes the time frame which begins with the official starting day of the fall sport season established by the NSAA and extends to the last day of the spring sport season established by the NSAA, whether or not the student is a participant in an activity at the time of such conduct.

The rules also apply when a student is participating or scheduled to participate in an extracurricular activity that is held outside the school year or the NSAA season. For example, if an FBLA or FCCLA student plans to participate in a conference in July and commits a Code of Conduct infraction in June, the student may be suspended from participating in the conference. Conduct during the summer months may also affect a student's participation under the team selection and playing time guidelines.

Where: The Code of Conduct rules apply regardless of whether the conduct occurs on or off school grounds. If the conduct occurs on school grounds, at a school function or event, or in a school vehicle, the student may also be subject to further discipline under the general student code of conduct. A student who is suspended or expelled from school shall not be permitted to participate in activities during the period of the suspension or expulsion, and may also receive an extended activity suspension.

Grounds for Extracurricular Activity Discipline. Students who participate in extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate cooperation, patience, pride, character, self respect, self-discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and respect for authority. The following conduct rules have been determined by the Board of Education to be reasonably necessary to aid students, further school purposes, and prevent interference with the educational process. Such conduct constitutes grounds for suspension from participation in extracurricular activities and grounds for other restrictions or disciplinary measures related to extracurricular activity participation:

1. Willfully disobeying any reasonable written or oral request of a school staff member, or the voicing of disrespect to those in authority.
2. Use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, bullying, harassment or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school or extracurricular activity purposes or making any communication that a reasonable person would interpret as a serious expression of an intent to harm or cause injury to another.
3. Willfully causing or attempting to cause substantial damage to property, stealing or attempting to steal property, repeated damage or theft involving property or setting or attempting to set a fire of any magnitude.
4. Causing or attempting to cause personal injury to any person, including a school employee, school volunteer, or student. Personal injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect another person shall not constitute a violation.
5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of, or with the intent of, obtaining money or anything of value from a student or making a threat which causes or may be expected to cause a disruption to school operations.
6. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transmitting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon (including personal safety or security devices, such as tasers, mace, and pepper spray) or that has the appearance of a weapon, or bringing or possessing any explosive device, including fireworks, on school grounds or at a school function or event, or in an manner that is unlawful or contrary to school activity rules.
7. Engaging in selling, using, possessing or dispensing of alcohol, tobacco, narcotics, drugs, controlled substance, or an inhalant; being under the influence of any of the above; possession of drug paraphernalia, or the selling, using, possessing, or dispensing of an imitation controlled substance as defined in section 28-401 of the Nebraska statutes, or material represented to be alcohol, narcotics, drugs, a controlled substance or inhalant. Tobacco means any tobacco product (including but not limited to cigarettes, cigars, and chewing tobacco), vapor products (such as e-cigarettes), electronic nicotine delivery systems, alternative nicotine products, tobacco product look-alikes, and products intended to replicate tobacco products either by appearance or effect. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation. The term "under the influence" has a less strict meaning than it does under criminal law; for school purposes, the term means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol or illegal substances on the

- breath or person of a student; also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.
8. Public indecency.
 9. Sexual assault or attempting to sexually assault any person. Engaging in sexual conduct, even if consensual, on school grounds or at a school function or event.
 10. Engaging in any activity forbidden by law which constitutes a danger to other students, interferes with school purposes or an extracurricular activity, or reflects a lack of high ideals.
 11. Repeated violation of any of the school rules.
 12. Truancy or failure to attend assigned classes or assigned activities; or tardiness to school, assigned classes or assigned activities.
 13. The use of language, written or oral, or conduct, including gestures, which is profane or abusive to a school employee, school volunteer, or student. Profane or abusive language or conduct includes, but is not limited to, that which is commonly understood and intended to be derogatory toward a group or individual based upon race, gender, national origin, or religion.
 14. Willfully violating the behavioral expectations for those students riding Holdrege Public Schools buses or vehicles used for activity purposes.
 15. Failure to report for the activity at the beginning of the season. Reporting for one activity may count as reporting on time if there is a change in activity within the season approved by the coach or the supervisor.
 16. Failure to participate in regularly scheduled classes on the day of an extracurricular activity or event.
 17. Failure to attend scheduled practices and meetings. If circumstances arise to prevent the participant's attendance, the validity of the reason will be determined by the coach or sponsor. Every reasonable effort should be made to notify the coach or sponsor prior to any missed practice or meeting.
 18. All other reasonable rules or regulations adopted by the coach or sponsor of an extracurricular activity shall be followed, provided that participants shall be advised by the coach or sponsor of such rules and regulations in writing.
 19. Failure to comply with any rule established by the Nebraska School Activities Association, including, but not limited to, the rules relating to eligibility.

All terms used in the Code of Conduct have a less strict meaning than under criminal law and are subject to reasonable interpretation by school officials.

Drug and Alcohol Violations.

Meaning of Terms.

Use or consume includes any level of consumption or use. Use of a controlled substance in the manner prescribed for the student by the student's physician is not a violation.

Under the influence means any level of impairment and includes even the odor of alcohol on the breath or person of a student, or the odor of an illicit drug on the student. Also, it includes being impaired by reason of the abuse of any material used as a stimulant.

Possession includes having control of the substance and also includes being in the same area where the substance is present and no responsible adult present and responsible for the substance. Possession includes situations where, for example:

- (1) Alcohol is in a vehicle in which the student is present. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that the alcohol is in the vehicle, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol; and
- (2) Alcohol is present at a party attended by the student. The student is considered to be in possession if the student is aware that alcohol is at the party and fails to immediately leave the party, even though the student has not touched or consumed the alcohol.

In these situations, a violation would not exist if the alcohol is in the control of a parent or guardian or other responsible adult (age 21 or older) such that students are not allowed to access the alcohol. A violation would also not exist if the student did not know or have a reasonable basis to know that alcohol would be present, and the student leaves the location where the alcohol is present as soon the student could safely do so. (Students are expected to leave immediately, but are not to do so in a manner that would endanger them. For example, you are not to leave in a car being driven by a person who has been drinking just to get away from the alcohol party immediately when there is no other way to get home. Instead, you should call for a safe ride home and, while waiting, clearly distance yourself from the alcohol).

- (3) The student has a positive urine drug test result under the parameters of the Extracurricular Activities Participant Drug Testing Program.

Consequences.

Students may be suspended from practices or participation in interscholastic competition or participation in co-curricular activities for violations of the Code of Conduct. The period of suspension or other discipline for such offenses shall be determined by the school administration.

The disciplinary consequence will be determined based on consideration of the seriousness of the offense, any prior violations, the student's compliance with the self-reporting obligations, the student's level of cooperation and willingness to resolve the matter, and the student's demonstration of a commitment to not commit future violations.

Because of the significance of drug and alcohol violations on the student participants, other students and the school, the following consequences are established for such violations:

Drugs and Alcohol.

An activity participant who violates the drug or alcohol rules (other than steroids) shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. First Violation: The student may not attend any school activities for two weeks. The student will miss two weeks of contests, including practices/rehearsals,

beginning on the day of the positive result, when the student admits to guilt, or when an investigation by the Principal, Activities Director, and/or Coach determines the student's guilt. The penalty of missing two weeks of contests, including practices/rehearsals, carries over from sport/activity to sport/activity and from year to year, for example, if a student participating in a fall sport has a positive test result/violation after the season has ended, he/she will miss the first two weeks of competition, including practices/rehearsals, in the next sport/activity they go out for, or the first two weeks of competition in the subsequent school year if they are a one-sport athlete.

2. Second Violation: The student may not attend any school sport/activity for five weeks. The student misses five weeks of contests, including practices/rehearsals, before being eligible to participate (may overlap into the next activity), for example, if a student has a positive test result/violation as a freshman and has another positive test result/violation as a senior, it will be a second offense suspension.
3. Third Violation: The student will be suspended from all school sports/activities for the remainder of their high school career. Students may regain eligibility after a minimum eight week suspension in addition to successful completion of an HPS approved substance abuse treatment program. The student will remain on the testing schedule each month for the remainder of their high school career.
4. Reduction for Self-Reporting: A student who self-reports, prior to providing a urine sample or other violation will comply with the requirements for a First Positive Result/Violation, except that there will be only one week of forfeiture of all sports/activities. The week forfeiture begins on the day of self-report. Self-reports may be used as a first offense only, subsequent positives following a self-report will continue to actions stated in Second/Third Positive Result/Violation. A student may only self-report one time as a Holdrege High School student, regardless of any lapses in enrollment.
5. Reduction for Participation in Chemical Dependency Program: If the student and parents agree to participate in a school-approved program for chemical dependency, the consequence will be reduced to only the next activity in which the student was to participate (including at least one contest) in the case of a first violation, and to a commensurate reduction (approximately 80%, as determined by the administration, for a second or subsequent violation).
The program must be administered by a certified alcohol and drug abuse counselor and be approved by the school authorities. The student will need to successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program. Proof of successful completion of program must be submitted in writing to the Activities Director. Failure to participate and successfully complete the approved chemical dependency program may cause the participating student to be suspended from extracurricular activities for one calendar year. All costs associated with the program are to be borne by the student/parent or guardian.
6. More Serious Violations: In the event of more serious drug or alcohol violations, such as students engaging in use of especially serious drug offenses (cocaine, meth, etc.) or procuring alcohol for minors, the consequence of the violation is not

limited by the foregoing, and may be established in the good discretion of the administration.

Steroid Offenses. A student who possesses, dispenses, delivers, or administers anabolic steroids shall be prohibited from participating in any extracurricular activity for the following minimum periods:

1. First Violation: 30 consecutive days.
2. Second or Any Subsequent Offense: One calendar year.

When Suspensions Begin. All suspensions begin with the next scheduled activity in which the student is a participant, after the determination by school officials of the sanction to be imposed; provided that the school officials shall have the discretion to establish a time period for the suspension that makes the suspension have a real consequence for the student. During a suspension, participants may be required or permitted to practice at the sole discretion of the coach or activity sponsor. Suspensions in the Spring will be carried over to the Fall when the suspension has not been fully served or when determined appropriate for the suspension to have a real consequence for the student.

Letters and Post-Season Honors. A student who commits a Code of Conduct violation is:

1. Eligible to letter, provided the student meets the criteria of the coach or sponsor.
2. Not eligible to receive honors during the sport or activity in which they are participating at the time of the offense and/or in sports or activities in which they have been suspended due to a code violation. The coach/sponsor, with the Athletic Director's approval, may make an exception where the student has self-reported or otherwise demonstrated excellence in character allowing for such honors.

Self-Reporting. A student who violates the Code of Conduct must self-report. The self-report must be made to: the principal, athletic director, or the head coach or sponsor of an activity in which the student participates. The student's parent or guardian may initiate the self-reporting process, but the student will be later required to give a written statement of the self-report. The self-report must be made the earlier of: (1) before the end of the next school day after the conduct occurred and (2) before participation in an extracurricular or co-curricular activity.

In making a self-report, the student must identify the events that took place, what conduct the student engaged in, and any witnesses to the student's conduct, and will be required to put this information in a written statement. In the event the student has received a criminal citation, charge, or ticket, and proclaims innocence of a violation, the student will be required to self-report such offense and provide information as to why they should be found innocent, not as it relates to the criminal offense, but as it relates to the Code of Conduct.

All students are expected to be honest and forthright with school officials. In the event the coach or activity sponsor or any school administrator asks a student participant for information

pertaining to compliance (or lack of compliance) by the student or other student participants with the Code of Conduct or eligibility conditions for participation in activities, the student is expected to fully, completely, and honestly provide the information. Students may be disciplined for a failure to be honest and forthright.

Determining a Violation Has Occurred. A violation of the Code of Conduct will be determined to have occurred based on any of the following criteria:

1. When a student is cited by law enforcement and school officials have a reasonable basis for determining that grounds for the issuance of the citation exist.
2. When a student is convicted of a criminal offense. Conviction includes, without limitation, a plea of no contest and an adjudication of delinquency by the juvenile court.
3. When a student admits to violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct.
4. When a student is accused by another person of violating one of the standards of the Code of Conduct and school officials determine that such information is reliable.
5. When school officials otherwise find sufficient evidence to support a determination that a violation has occurred.

Procedures for Extracurricular Discipline. The following procedures are established for suspensions from participation in extracurricular activities:

1. Investigation. The school official(s) considering the suspension will conduct a reasonable investigation of the facts and circumstances and determine whether the suspension will help the student or other students, further school purposes, or prevent an interference with a school purpose.
2. Meeting. Prior to commencement of the suspension, the school official considering the suspension or their designee will provide the student an opportunity to give the student's side of the story. The meeting for this purpose may be held in person or via a telephone conference.
 - a. The student will be given oral or written notice of what the student is accused of having done, an explanation of the evidence the school has, and the opportunity to explain the student's version. Detail is not required where the activity participant has made a self-report or otherwise admits the conduct. Names of informants may be kept confidential where determined to be appropriate.
 - b. The suspension may be imposed prior to the meeting if the meeting can not reasonably be held before the suspension is to begin. In that case the meeting will occur as soon as reasonably practicable. The student is responsible for cooperating in the scheduling of the meeting.
3. Notice Letter. Within two school days (two business days if school is not in session), or such additional time as is reasonably necessary following the suspension, the Athletic Director or the Athletic Director's designee will send a written statement to the student and the student's parents or guardian. The statement will describe the student's conduct violation and the discipline imposed.

The student and parents or guardian will be informed of the opportunity to request a hearing.

4. Informal Hearing Before Superintendent. The student or student's parent/guardian may request an informal hearing before the Superintendent. The Superintendent may designate the Athletic Director or another administrator not responsible for the suspension decision as the Superintendent's designee to conduct the hearing and make a decision.
 - a. A form to request such a hearing must be signed by the parent or guardian. A form will be provided with the notice letter or otherwise be made available by request from the Principal's office.
 - b. The request for a hearing must be received by the Superintendent's office within five days of receipt of the notice letter.
 - c. If a hearing is requested:
 - i. The hearing will be held within ten calendar days of receipt of the request; subject to extension for good cause as determined by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.
 - ii. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee will notify the participants of the time and place of the hearing a reasonable time in advance to allow preparation for the hearing.
 - iii. Upon conclusion of the hearing, a written decision will be rendered within five school days (ten calendar days if school is not in session). The written decision will be mailed or otherwise delivered to the participant, parents or guardian.
 - iv. A record of the hearing (copies of documents provided at the hearing and a tape recording or other recordation of the informal hearing) will be kept by the school if requested sufficiently in advance of the hearing by the parent/guardian.
5. No Stay of Penalty. There will be no stay of the penalty imposed pending completion of the due process procedures
6. Opportunity for Informal Resolution. These due process procedures do not prevent the student or parent/guardian from discussing and settling the matter with the appropriate school officials at any stage.

Section 3 Attendance

Student participants are expected to meet the following attendance expectations:

1. Attend school regularly. Students who have "excessive absences" as determined under the school's attendance policy are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances.
2. Be on time for all scheduled practices, contests and departure for contests. In the event a participant is unable to attend a practice or contests the participant should contact the coach or sponsor in advance.

3. On the day of a contest, performance or other activity, be in attendance for the full day. A student who is not in attendance the full day is ineligible for the contest, performance, or activity.

Exceptions may be made for extenuating circumstances, such as doctor/dentist appointments or family emergencies. The exception must be approved by the Principal or Athletic Director.

Every attempt should be made to be in attendance the day of a contest. Sleeping in to rest up for the game will not be considered an extenuating circumstance, nor will going home ill and then returning to play in the contest later that day.

Section 4 Academic Standards

Participation in extracurricular school activities is encouraged and desirable for all students. At the same time, the primary mission and responsibility for each student is to establish a firm academic foundation. A student participating in extracurricular school activities must show evidence of sincere effort towards scholastic achievement. To be eligible for participation in extracurricular activities, students must:

1. Be enrolled in at least 5 credit hours in the semester of participation.
2. Maintain passing grades in all courses. A student who is not passing one or more classes at progress reporting times will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activity contests or performances if the grade remains below passing one week after progress reporting time. The student will remain ineligible until the student is passing all classes.
3. Maintain an overall "C" average the previous semester to participate in extracurricular games, contests, or performances.
4. Academic requirements do not apply to:
 - (A) Instructional field trips which are a part of the scheduled course learning experience; or
 - (B) Activities or events which are a part of the student's grade requirements.

Eligibility criteria for part-time students is governed by Policy 5004, NSAA bylaws, and state law.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-254 to 79-296

Date of Adoption: 2/13/2006

Revised: 8/14/06; 7/15/19; 6/15/20; 2/20/23; 7/17/23; 7/15/24; 7/21/25

StudentsDrug and Substance Use and Prevention**Drug-Free Schools**

The District shall implement regulations and practices which will ensure compliance with the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act and all regulations and rules promulgated pursuant thereto. The District's safe and drug-free schools program is established in accordance with principles of effectiveness as required by law to respond to such harmful effects.

Education and Prevention

The District promotes comprehensive, age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention programs, which will include in the curriculum the teaching of both proper and incorrect use of drugs and alcohol for all students in all grades of this School District. Further, the District will have proper in-service orientation and training for all employed staff.

Standards of Conduct; Notice to Students and Parents

Students are to be provided a copy of the standards of conduct for student behavior in the District which prohibit the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol on school premises or as a part of any of the school's activities. It shall be the further policy of the District to keep a file showing receipt of standards of conduct and a statement of disciplinary sanctions that may be taken for violations of such standards of conduct. The receipt shall be signed by both student and parent or guardian and returned to the respective Principal. It shall contain in prominent letters the following language:

"RECEIPT SHALL SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT YOU AS PARENT OR GUARDIAN OF A STUDENT ATTENDING HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT OF THIS DISTRICT EXPECTED OF STUDENTS CONCERNING THE ABSOLUTE PROHIBITION AGAINST THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF ANY OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS DESCRIBED IN BOARD POLICY OR ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION. THIS NOTICE IS BEING PROVIDED TO YOU PURSUANT TO P.L. 101-226 AND 34 C.F.R. PART 86, BOTH FEDERAL LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DISTRICT TO OBTAIN ANY FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. YOUR SIGNATURE ON THIS RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU AND YOUR CHILD OR CHILDREN WHO ARE STUDENTS ATTENDING THIS DISTRICT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE DISTRICT'S POSITION ABSOLUTELY PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, USE, OR DISTRIBUTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ON SCHOOL PREMISES OR AS A PART OF THE SCHOOL'S ACTIVITIES AS HEREIN ABOVE DESCRIBED AND THAT COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS IS MANDATORY. ANY NON-COMPLIANCE WITH THESE STANDARDS CAN AND WILL RESULT IN PUNITIVE MEASURES BEING TAKEN AGAINST ANY STUDENT FAILING TO COMPLY WITH THESE STANDARDS."

Drug and Alcohol Education and Prevention Program of the District Pursuant to the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Laws and Regulations

Students are to be provided an age appropriate, developmentally based drug and alcohol education and prevention program. The program educates on the adverse effects of the use of illicit drugs and alcohol, with the primary objective being the prevention of illicit drug and alcohol use by students.

Drug and Alcohol Counseling, Rehabilitation and Re-entry Programs

Students are to be provided information concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs within sixty miles of the administrative offices of the District or, where no such services are found, within the State of Nebraska. Information concerning such resources shall be presented to all of the students of the District upon request by the counselor.

In the event of disciplinary proceedings against any student for any District policy pertaining to the prohibition against the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol, appropriate school personnel shall confer with any such student and his or her parents or guardian concerning available drug and alcohol counseling, rehabilitation, and re-entry programs that appropriate school personnel shall consider to be of benefit to any such student and his or her parent or parents or guardian.

Safe and Drug-Free Schools-- Parental Notice of Right to Withdraw

Parents will be notified that, if upon receipt of information regarding the content of safe and drug free school programs and activities other than classroom instruction a parent objects to the participation of their child in such programs and activities, the parent may notify the School District of such objection in writing. Upon the receipt of such notice the student will be withdrawn from the program or activity to which parental objection has been made.

Standards of Student Conduct Pertaining to the Possession, Use, or Distribution of Illicit Drugs, Alcohol or Tobacco.

These standards are in addition to standards of student conduct elsewhere adopted by board policy or administrative regulation. The District's standards prohibit the possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs, alcohol or tobacco (including electronic nicotine delivery systems) on school premises, in school vehicles, or as a part of any of the school's activities on or off school premises. Conduct prohibited at places and activities as hereinabove described shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Possession, use distribution or being under the influence of any controlled substance, including but not limited to marijuana, any narcotic drug, any hallucinogen, any stimulant, or any depressant.
2. Possession of any prescription drug in an unlawful fashion.
3. Possession, use, distribution or being under the influence of alcohol.
4. Possession, use, distribution, or being under the influence of any abusable glue or aerosol paint or any other chemical substance for inhalation, including but not limited to lighter fluid, whiteout, and reproduction fluid, when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
5. Possession, use, or distribution of any look-alike drug or look-alike controlled

substance when such activity constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.

6. Possession, use or distribution of any tobacco product (including electronic nicotine delivery systems).

Disciplinary Sanctions

Violation of any of the above prohibited acts will result in disciplinary sanction being taken within the bounds of applicable law, up to and including short term suspension, long term suspension, expulsion, and referral to appropriate authorities for criminal prosecution. In particular, students should be aware that:

1. Violation of these standards may result in suspension or expulsion.
2. Prohibited substances will be confiscated and turned over to law enforcement authorities.
3. The student may be referred for counseling or treatment.
4. Parents or legal guardian will be notified.
5. Law enforcement will be notified.
6. If it appears there is imminent danger to the student, other students, school personnel, or students involved, emergency medical services will be contacted.

Intervention

The Holdrege Public School District does not have the authority or responsibility to make medical or health determinations regarding chemical dependency. However, when observed behavior indicates that a problem exists which may affect the student's ability to learn or function in the educational climate or activity, the school then has the right and responsibility to refer the student for a formal chemical dependency diagnosis based on behavior observed by school staff. The school will issue a statement to all students and employed staff that the use of illicit drugs and the unlawful possession and use of alcohol is wrong and harmful. The school shall make available to students and employed staff information about any drug and alcohol counseling, and rehabilitation and re-entry programs, which are available to students.

Administration

The administration is authorized to adopt such administrative rules, regulations or practices necessary to properly implement this policy. Such regulations, rules or practices may vary the procedures set forth herein to the extent necessary to fit the circumstances of an individual situation.

Such rules, regulations and practices may include administrative forms, such as checklists to be used by staff to record observed behavior and to determine the proper plan of action.

Date of Adoption: 5/9/2005

Revised: 7/11/2016; 7/15/2019

StudentsStudent Records

School staff shall maintain appropriate student files and records. All files and records shall be maintained in compliance with state and federal law.

Confidentiality of Student Records

Information from a student file shall not be released or divulged except in compliance with state and federal law. School personnel who have a "legitimate educational interest" in access to student records, in order to prepare for, assist in, or carry out the education of the student or compile or maintain school records (e.g., the superintendent, principals, teachers, school psychologist, speech therapist and assistants such as secretaries, clerks and typists) are authorized to have access to student records to the extent necessary to perform such responsibilities. Release of records or contents shall not be made to non-authorized persons or agencies without a court order, lawfully issued subpoena, or written consent of the parent or the written consent of the student when the student is 18 years of age or older.

Student and Parent Access to Student Records

A parent or guardian of a student or former student, and a student or former student who is 18 years of age or older, shall be given the opportunity upon request to inspect and review the education records of the student or former student. A non-custodial parent is entitled to access to student records except in the case of a court order to the contrary.

Maintenance and Destruction

Student files or records shall be so maintained as to separate academic and disciplinary matters and all disciplinary material shall be removed and destroyed upon the student's graduation or after the student's continuous absence from the school for a period of three years, and after authorization is given the State Records Board pursuant to law.

Amendment of Student Records

Parents and students older than 18 years of age have the right to challenge any information contained in the records that they believe is inaccurate or misleading or violates the privacy or rights of the student by making a request, in writing, to the principal to amend the records. If a decision is made not to amend the education records of the student in accordance with the request, the principal shall so inform the parents of the student and the superintendent of the refusal, and advise the parent of the right to a hearing. A hearing shall be made available in conformance with applicable law.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §42-364(4) & 42-381; Neb. Rev. Stat. ' 43-3001
Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-2,104 & 79-2,105; Neb. Rev. Stat. ' 79-539
Neb. Rev. Stat. §84-1201 to 84-1220
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-380)

Date of Adoption: May 9, 2005

Notification of Rights Under FERPA

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age (“eligible students”) certain rights with respect to the student’s education records. They are:

- 1) The right to inspect and review the student’s education records within 45 days of the day the District receives a request for access.

Parents or eligible students should submit to the school principal (or appropriate school official) a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.

- 2) The right to request the amendment of the student’s education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading at the time the record was created.

Parents or eligible students may ask the School District to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the school principal, clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the District decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the District will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

- 3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student’s education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

One exception which permits disclosure without consent is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests or otherwise allowed by law. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the District has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks.

A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another School District in which a student seeks or intends to enroll.

- 4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the office that administers FERPA is:

Office of the Chief Privacy Officer
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20202

Notice Concerning Directory Information

The District may disclose directory information. The primary purpose of directory information is to allow the District to include information from your child's education records in certain school publications. Examples may include:

- A playbill, showing your student's role in a drama production;
- The annual yearbook;
- Honor roll or other recognition lists;
- Graduation programs; and
- Sports activity sheets, such as for wrestling, showing weight and height of team members.

Under FERPA, "directory information" is generally not considered harmful or an invasion of privacy if released, can also be disclosed to outside organizations without a parent's prior written consent. Outside organizations include, but are not limited to, companies that manufacture class rings or publish yearbooks. The types of personally identifiable information that the District has designated as directory information are as follows:

1. Student's Name, address, telephone number, and the name, address, telephone number, e-mail address and other contact information of the student's parent/guardian or other adult acting in loco parentis or with authority to act as parent or guardian in educational matters for the student;
2. School and dates of attendance;
3. Student's current grade;
4. Student's enrollment status (e.g. full-time or part-time);
5. Student's extra-curricular participation;
6. Student's achievement awards or honors;
7. Student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team; and
8. Student's photograph.
- 9.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the District does not designate as directory information personally identifiable information from students' education records where the District

determines that the disclosure to the potential recipient poses a risk to student safety or well-being, including but not limited to circumstances where the potential recipient is a registered sex offender and the personally identifiable information would permit the potential recipient to communicate with or otherwise contact the student, or would otherwise not be in a student's best interests.

A parent or eligible student has the right to refuse to let the District designate information about the student as directory information. Parents or guardians may refuse to allow their student's information to be designated as "directory information" at any time during the school year, so long as the parent or guardian notifies the Superintendent in writing.

Notice Concerning Designation of Law Enforcement Unit:

The District designates the [Name] Police Department as the District's "law enforcement unit" for purposes of (1) enforcing any and all federal, state or local law, (2) maintaining the physical security and safety of the schools in the District, and (3) maintaining safe and drug free schools.

StudentsGraduation

To participate in commencement exercises or receive a traditional Holdrege Public Schools diploma, a student must fully complete all requirements for graduation prior to the official commencement exercises, and complete other administrative requirements or conditions, except as otherwise required by state law. The total graduation requirements must include the following core curriculum and elective areas with a total accumulation of 250 credits.

Language Arts 4 years of English 1 semester of Speech	45 credits
Science 1 year of Physical Science 1 year of Biology	30 credits
Mathematics	30 credits
Information Technology (Computer Applications)	5 credits
Financial Literacy	5 credits
Social Science 1 year of American History 1 year of American Government	30 credits
Physical Education	15 credits
Electives Minimum Practical Arts 10* Minimum Fine Arts 10*	90 credits
*Courses that meet criteria for Practical Arts & Fine Arts curriculum are available in the yearly HHS Course Description Handbooks	

Each student shall also complete and submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid prior to graduation, unless the required opt-out form is completed by either: (1) the student's parent or legal guardian; (2) the Principal, if the Principal determines that good cause exists not to require the student to complete the FAFSA; or (3) an emancipated student or student of at least 19 years of age.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this policy, a student who is or was under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court and placed in out-of-home care at any time during the student's high school enrollment shall be eligible to graduate from the District if (1) the student, at any point in time, was enrolled in high

school in the District, and (2) the student has met the minimum graduation requirements established by state law.

Ref: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-279; Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-3003; NDE Rule 10

Date of Adoption: 5/9/05

Revised: 12/12/05; 7/13/09; 3/21/22; 7/17/23; 6/17/24; 6/15/26

StudentsDirectory Information

The Holdrege Board of Education reserves the right to distribute directory information. Directory information is defined by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare as: the student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, major field of study, participation in school activities, height, weight and membership on athletic teams, date of attendance, and degree and awards received. Parents who do not wish the District to distribute such information should make such request in writing to the principal in charge of their student. The request is valid for the current school year. A new request must be made each school year.

Date of Adoption: May 9, 2005

STUDENT FEES

The Board of Education of Holdrege Public Schools adopts the following student fees policy in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act.

The District's general policy is to provide for the free instruction in school in accordance with the Nebraska Constitution. This generally means that the District's policy is to provide free instruction for courses which are required by state law or regulation and to provide the staff, facility, equipment, and materials necessary for such instruction, without charge or fee to the students.

The District does provide activities, programs, and services to children which extend beyond the minimum level of constitutionally required free instruction. Students and their parents have historically contributed to the District's efforts to provide such activities, programs, and services. The District's general policy is to continue to encourage and, to the extent permitted by law, to require such student and parent contributions to enhance the educational program provided by the District.

Under the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act, the District is required to set forth in a policy its guidelines or policies for specific categories of student fees. The District does so by setting forth the following guidelines and policies. This policy is subject to further interpretation or guidance by administrative or Board regulations which may be adopted from time to time. The Policy includes a Student Fee Schedule, which provides further specifics of student fees and materials required of students for the 2026-27 school year. Parents, guardians, and students are encouraged to contact their building administration or their teachers or activity coaches and sponsors for further specifics.

(1) Guidelines for Non-Specialized Attire Required for Specified Courses and Activities

Students have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire meeting general District grooming and attire guidelines, as well as grooming and attire guidelines established for the building or programs attended by the students or in which the students participate. Students also have the responsibility to furnish and wear non-specialized attire reasonably related to the programs, courses and activities in which the students participate where the required attire is specified in writing by the administrator or teacher responsible for the program, course or activity.

The District will provide or make available to students such safety equipment and attire as may be required by law, specifically including appropriate industrial-quality eye protective devices for courses of instruction in vocational, technical, industrial arts, chemical or chemical-physical classes which involve exposure to hot molten metals or other molten materials, milling, sawing, turning, shaping, cutting, grinding, or stamping of any solid materials, heat treatment, tempering, or kiln

firing of any metal or other materials, gas or electric arc welding or other forms of welding processes, repair or servicing of any vehicle, or caustic or explosive materials, or for laboratory classes involving caustic or explosive materials, hot liquids or solids, injurious radiations, or other similar hazards. Building administrators are directed to assure that such equipment is available in the appropriate classes and areas of the school buildings, teachers are directed to instruct students in the usage of such devices and to assure that students use the devices as required, and students have the responsibility to follow such instructions and use the devices as instructed.

(2) Personal or Consumable Items & Miscellaneous

(a) Extracurricular Activities

Students have the responsibility to furnish any personal or consumable items for participation in extracurricular activities.

(b) Courses

(i) General Course Materials

Items necessary for students to benefit from courses will be made available by the District for the use of students during the school day. Students may be encouraged, but not required, to bring items needed to benefit from courses including, but not limited to, pencils, paper, pens, erasers, notebooks, trappers, protractors and math calculators. Supply lists will be made available, as appropriate. The list may include refundable damage or loss deposits required for usage of certain District property.

(ii) Damaged or Lost Items

Students are responsible for the careful and appropriate use of school property. Students and their parents or guardian will be held responsible for damages to school property where such damages is caused or aided by the student and will also be held responsible for the reasonable replacement costs of school property which is placed in the care of and lost by the student.

(iii) Materials Required for Course Projects

Students are permitted to and may be encouraged to supply materials for course projects. Some course projects (such as projects in art and shop classes) may be kept by the student upon completion. In the event the completed project has more than minimal value, the student may be required, as a condition of the student keeping the completed project, to reimburse the District for the reasonable value of the materials used in the project. Standard project materials will be made available by the District. If a student wants to create a project other than the standard course project, or to use materials other than standard project materials, the student will be responsible for furnishing or paying the reasonable cost of any such materials for the project.

(iv) Music Course Materials

Students will be required to furnish musical instruments for participation in optional music courses. Use of a musical instrument without charge is available under the District's fee waiver policy. The District is not

required to provide for the use of a particular type of musical instrument for any student.

(3) Extracurricular Activities – Specialized Equipment or Attire

Extracurricular activities means student activities or organizations which are supervised or administered by the District, which do not count toward graduation or advancement between grades, and in which participation is not otherwise required by the District. The District will generally furnish students with specialized equipment and attire for participation in extracurricular activities. The District is not required to provide for the use of any particular type of equipment or attire. Equipment or attire fitted for the student and which the student generally wears exclusively, such as dance squad, cheerleading, and music/dance activity (e.g. choir or show choir) uniforms and outfits, along with T-shirts for teams or activities, will be required to be provided by the participating student. The cost of maintaining any equipment or attire, including uniforms, which the student purchases or uses exclusively, shall be the responsibility of the participating student. Equipment which is ordinarily exclusively used by an individual student participant throughout the year, such as golf clubs, softball gloves, and the like, are required to be provided by the student participant. Items for the personal medical use or enhancement of the student (braces, mouth pieces, and the like) are the responsibility of the student participant. Students have the responsibility to furnish personal or consumable equipment or attire for participation in extracurricular activities or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire. Costs to students can be waived through the District's fee waiver policy.

Students have the responsibility to pay for dues to belong to any extracurricular club or organization and to pay for attendance at any of their related activities. Fees to attend conferences and/or conventions of these organizations where participation is voluntary, will be the responsibility of the student. For musical extracurricular activities, students may be required to provide specialized equipment, such as musical instruments, or specialized attire, or for paying a reasonable usage cost for such equipment or attire.

(4) Extracurricular Activities–Fees for Participation

Any fees for participation in extracurricular activities for the 2026-27 school year are further specified in the Student Fee Schedule. Admission fees are charged for extracurricular activities and events.

(5) Postsecondary Education Costs

Students are responsible for postsecondary education costs. The phrase "postsecondary education costs" means tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credit from a postsecondary educational institution. For a course in which students receive high school credit and for which the student may also receive postsecondary education credit, the course shall be offered without charge for tuition, transportation, books, or other fees, except tuition and other fees associated with obtaining credits from a postsecondary educational institution.

(6) Copies of Student Files or Records

The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee may establish a schedule of fees representing a reasonable cost of reproduction for copies of a student's files or records for the parents or guardians of such student. A parent, guardian or students who requests copies of files or records shall be responsible for the cost of copies reproduced in accordance with such fee schedule. The imposition of a fee shall not be used to prevent parents of students from exercising their right to inspect and review the students' files or records and no fee shall be charged to search for or retrieve any student's files or records. The fee schedule shall permit one copy of the requested records be provided for or on behalf of the student without charge and shall allow duplicate copies to be provided without charge to the extent required by federal or state laws or regulations.

- (7) Participation in Before-and-After-School or Prekindergarten Services
Students are responsible for fees required for participation in before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services offered by the District, except to the extent such services are required to be provided without cost.
- (8) Participation in Summer School or Night School
Students are responsible for fees required for participation in summer school or night school. Students are also responsible for correspondence courses.
- (9) Breakfast and Lunch Programs
Students shall be responsible for items which students purchase from the District's breakfast and lunch programs. The cost of items to be sold to students shall be consistent with applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Students are also responsible for the cost of food, beverages, and personal or consumable items which the students purchase from the District or at school, whether from a "school store," a vending machine, a booster club or parent group sale, a book order club, or the like. Students may be required to bring money or food for field trip lunches and similar activities.
- (10) Waiver Policy
The District's policy is to provide fee waivers in accordance with the Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act. Students who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches under United States Department of Agriculture child nutrition programs shall be provided a fee waiver or be provided the necessary materials or equipment without charge for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities and (2) use of a musical instrument in optional music courses that are not extracurricular activities. Participation in a free-lunch program or reduced-price lunch program is not required to qualify for free or reduced-price lunches for purposes of this section. Students or their parents must request a fee waiver prior to participating in or attending the activity, and prior to purchase of the materials. Materials for course projects to be provided to free or reduced-price lunch eligible students shall be required to be approved by the administration.
- (11) Distribution of Policy
The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall publish the District's student fee policy in the Student Handbook or the equivalent (for example, publication may be made in an addendum or a supplement to the student

handbook). The Student Handbook or the equivalent shall be provided to students of the District at no cost.

(12) Student Fee Fund

The School Board hereby establishes a Student Fee Fund. The Student Fee Fund shall be a separate school district fund not funded by tax revenue, into which all money collected from students and subject to the Student Fee Fund shall be deposited and from which money shall be expended for the purposes for which it was collected from students. Funds subject to the Student Fee Fund consist of money collected from students for: (1) participation in extracurricular activities, (2) postsecondary education costs, and (3) summer school or night school.

CERTIFICATION

On the 20th day of July, 2026, the school board held a public hearing at a meeting of the school board on a proposed student fee policy. Such public hearing followed a review of the amount of money collected from students pursuant to, and the use of waivers provided in, the student fee policy for the 2026-27 school year. The foregoing student fee policy was adopted after such public hearing by a majority vote of the school board at an open public meeting in compliance with the public meetings laws.

Sandy Dunaway, Board Secretary

Authorized School Official

Legal References:

- Neb. Rev. Stat. §§79-2,125 to 79-2,135 and Laws 2003, LB 249 (The Public Elementary and Secondary Student Fee Authorization Act)
- Neb. Constitution, Article VII, section 1.
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §§79-241, 79-605, and 79-611 (transportation)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-2,104 (student files or records)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-715 (eye-protective devices)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-737 (liability of students for damages to school books)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-1104 (before-and-after-school or prekindergarten services)
- Neb. Rev. Stat. §§79-1106 to 79-1108.03 (accelerated or differentiated curriculum program)

Adopted 7/15/2002

Revised 7/14/20; 7/12/20; 7/11/20; 7/10/20; 7/14/08; 7/13/09; 7/12/10; 7/11/11; 7/16/12; 7/15/13; 7/14/14; 7/13/15; 7/11/16; 7/17/17; 7/16/18; 7/15/19; 7/20/20; 7/19/21; 7/18/22; 7/17/23; 7/15/24; 7/21/25; 7/20/26

HOLDREGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

2026-27 Student Fees Schedule
Additional Specification of Required Materials and Fees¹

Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum)² or Specific Material Required
Grades K-4 Program		
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and socks, athletic shorts, T-shirt
Art classes and special projects or events	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged
Music—Optional band courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, drum sticks, lyres, flip folders, slide grease, reed guards, cleaning swabs, mouthpiece brushes, pad savers, ligatures, and a "gig bag", etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student. Refundable damage deposit of \$20 may be required for use of school owned instrument.
Classroom supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None – necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Field Trips	Transportation and admission costs of field trips	None—costs of school sponsored, class-related field trips will be paid for by the school. Parents may be encouraged but not required to pay for field trip costs of up to \$10 per student for each field trip to defray costs. (With administrative approval, the requested donation may be up to \$100 for special field trips). Meals on field trips will be at the expense of the student. School lunches will be provided as needed for free-reduced lunch eligible students.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	\$150 per class maximum
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Fifteen cents (\$.15) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Food service program prices are approved annually by Board of Education. Actual daily cost to individual student will vary depending on available meal and ala carte choices.
Technology	Use of school technology , such as laptop/notebook computers	Laptop Annual Use Fee \$30

¹ This listing is a part of the Student Fees Policy and is intended to provide supplemental information. For additional specifications, refer to the Policy.

² Generally, dollar amounts are stated in terms of “maximums.” The actual fee or charge may be less during the current school year.

Grades 5-12 Program	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required
Physical Education classes	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Tennis shoes and socks, athletic shorts, T-shirt
Art and shop classes and special projects	Appropriate clothing (non-specialized attire)	Old shirt for painting; other clothing which may get paint on it or otherwise be damaged; brushes, pencils, specialized materials may be up to \$20; protective clothing for shop classes
Family & Consumer Science	Project Supplies (including food for cooking classes)	Specialized project materials costs and cooking lab fee up to \$20
Music—Optional band courses	Musical instruments	Musical instruments and accessories (reeds, valve oil, etc.) Limited instruments available for use by any student. Damage deposit of \$20 may be required for use of school owned instrument.
Classroom Supplies	General supplies, such as writing instruments (pens, pencils, crayons, markers), notebooks, etc.	None--necessary classroom supplies will be made available by the school. Students will be responsible for the replacement cost of damaged or lost supplies. Students are encouraged but not required to bring items from class supply lists which may be handed out by the office or individual teachers.
Advanced math or science classes	Specialized calculators	Refundable damage deposit of \$25 per semester may be required for students who wish to use school calculators outside the classroom. Students are encouraged but not required to purchase such equipment for their personal use.
Copies	Use of school copiers (except for one copy of the student file, which will be provided without charge)	Fifteen cents (\$.15) per page when charges apply.
School Meals		Food service program prices are approved annually by Board of Education. Actual daily cost to individual student will vary depending on available meal and ala carte choices.
Technology	Use of school technology , such as laptop/notebook computers	Laptop Annual Use Fee \$30
Post-secondary education classes	Tuition and fees for college courses taken for credit. Specialized books or supplies	Any postsecondary education costs for tuition or fees are to be paid directly by students to the college. Books or supplies may be up to \$125.
College entrance tests and preparation	Prep programs & tests	Costs of individual college entrance tests or prep courses, such as ACT preparation tutoring, PSAT test, and ACT test, are optional and to be paid directly to the private companies involved or to the school if subscription based.
Summer school courses	Classes offered during the summer, or at night, if any	Driver education course offered through University of Nebraska Kearney, fees established by UNK. Other classes: \$150 per class maximum

Extracurricular activities and other programs	General Description of Fee or Material	\$ Amount of Fee (Anticipated or Maximum) or Specific Material Required																											
Extracurricular Activities Program																													
1. Admission	Spectator fees for admission to events	\$10 per event maximum. Students may purchase an Activity Ticket at a fee not to exceed \$60 per year. For District and Conference events hosted by the School, cost to be set by NSAA but not to exceed \$20 per event.																											
2. Activities/Athletics Physicals	NSAA required athletic physicals	Cost varies; payable directly to student’s physician or clinic.																											
3. Equipment and attire	Students are responsible for required equipment and attire appropriate to the sport or activity which are not provided by the school, and are responsible for any optional clothing, equipment, or other items associated with the sport or activity.	Required items include athletic undergarments (supporter, bra, socks and undershirts), practice attire, including shorts, shirts, socks and shoes suitable for the activity, and dress attire suitable for team travel. Optional items for which students are responsible include: personal athletic bags, hair ties, sweat bands, non-required gloves, towels, forearm pads and personal medical devices (braces, orthopedic inserts, etc.). Additional required items for particular sports or activities include: <table><tr><td>Baseball</td><td>Helmet and glove</td></tr><tr><td>Basketball</td><td>No additional</td></tr><tr><td>Tennis</td><td>Tennis racquet</td></tr><tr><td>Cross County</td><td>No additional</td></tr><tr><td>Football</td><td>Mouthpiece</td></tr><tr><td>Golf</td><td>Golf bag & clubs</td></tr><tr><td>Soccer</td><td>Soccer shin guards</td></tr><tr><td>Softball</td><td>Softball glove</td></tr><tr><td>Speech/Debate</td><td>Dress attire; copies of research</td></tr><tr><td>Track</td><td>No additional</td></tr><tr><td>Volleyball</td><td>Volleyball knee pads</td></tr><tr><td>Wrestling</td><td>Wrestling head gear</td></tr><tr><td>Cheerleading and Dance Team</td><td>Shoes, approved uniforms (top & skirt; jacket), poms and other accessories Dance Team and Cheerleading uniforms.</td></tr></table>		Baseball	Helmet and glove	Basketball	No additional	Tennis	Tennis racquet	Cross County	No additional	Football	Mouthpiece	Golf	Golf bag & clubs	Soccer	Soccer shin guards	Softball	Softball glove	Speech/Debate	Dress attire; copies of research	Track	No additional	Volleyball	Volleyball knee pads	Wrestling	Wrestling head gear	Cheerleading and Dance Team	Shoes, approved uniforms (top & skirt; jacket), poms and other accessories Dance Team and Cheerleading uniforms.
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Wrestling	Wrestling head gear																												
Cheerleading and Dance Team	Shoes, approved uniforms (top & skirt; jacket), poms and other accessories Dance Team and Cheerleading uniforms.																												
4. Travel meals	Meals	Students are responsible for their own meals while traveling.																											
5. Camps and clinics	Registration and other costs of camps or clinics	Students are responsible for the cost of all clinics, camps and conditioning programs. Any personal items purchased at camps or clinics, such as t-shirts, shall be at the student’s expense.																											
6. Marching Band and Musical Groups	Equipment and attire.	Students will be responsible for the same costs as are set out for the athletic program. Students will be responsible for supplying their own musical instruments and accessories and for their own uniforms. Uniforms for the marching band will be supplied by the school; students may be required to pay a refundable band uniform rental fee of up to \$50.																											

Clubs/Organizations		
Band Chorus Flag Corp. Speech Thespians Play Production Skills USA FFA Cheerleading Dance Student Council National Art Honor Society National Honor Society FCCLA Future Educators of America E-Sports Bowling Fishing	State & national dues, meals and activities	Club and organization membership is optional. Dues vary depending on the club or organization. FFA members are required to purchase a jacket. Vocal music group outfits.
Social & Recognition Activities		
1. School plays, musicals and social activities	Admission to events	\$10 per play or activity
2. School dances	Admission to prom, homecoming, etc.	\$60 per event
3. Class dues		Class dues are determined by each class. Each of the classes may assess its members an amount not to exceed \$50 annually for rental and decoration of dance facilities, punch and snacks at social activities, memorials and recognition plaques, flowers, and cards, and similar class activities. The payment of such an assessment shall be strictly voluntary, but students who do not pay may be denied admission to extracurricular activities supported by the class dues.
4. Senior recognition assessment	Optional graduation activities	Participation in class activities attendant to graduation (such as being part of the composite picture, special yearbook pages, etc.) is not required in order for students to receive their high school diploma. Students who choose to participate will be required to pay the cost of the items involved in the graduation ceremony and attendant class activities. These may include the rental of graduation robes, caps, tassels, class flowers, class gift, yearbook picture page, and class composite picture. A single Senior Class Recognition Assessment, not to exceed \$50, will be assessed to those Seniors who elect to participate in such activities.
5. Trips	Transportation, lodging, meals, admission to events, etc.	Students are responsible for costs of school sponsored trips where the trip is an extracurricular activity. The maximum costs of such trips will be \$2,000 per student. If the trip is not school sponsored, the costs of the trip are not subject to this policy and no fee waivers will apply. A trip is not school sponsored if: it is not supervised or administered by the school, attendance on the trip does not count towards graduation credit or grade advancement, and participation on the trip is voluntary for students.

Students (& Employees)Anti-discrimination, Anti-harassment, and Anti-retaliation**A. Elimination of Discrimination.**

Holdrege Public Schools hereby gives this statement of compliance and intends to comply with all state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. This school district intends to take any necessary measures to assure compliance with such laws against any prohibited form of discrimination.

Holdrege Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race race (including skin color, hair texture, and protective hairstyles), color, religion, military or veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Todd Hilyard, Superintendent, Holdrege Public Schools, 505 14th Avenue, Holdrege, Nebraska 68949, Phone (308) 995-8663, Email Todd.Hilyard@dusters.org.

Employees and Others: Todd Hilyard, Superintendent, Holdrege Public Schools, 505 14th Avenue, Holdrege, Nebraska 68949, Phone (308) 995-8663, Email Todd.Hilyard@dusters.org.

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education (OCR), please contact OCR at One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (816) 268-0550 (voice), Fax (816) 268-0599, (800) 877-8339 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

B. Prohibited Harassment, Discrimination, and Retaliation of Employees, Students and Others.**1. Purpose:**

Holdrege Public Schools is committed to offering employment and educational opportunity to its employees and students in a climate free of discrimination. Accordingly, unlawful discrimination, harassment and retaliation of any kind by District employees, including, co-workers, non-employees (such as volunteers), third parties, and others is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.

Harassment is a form of discrimination and includes verbal, non-verbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct relating to a person's sex, disability, race race (including skin color, hair texture, and protective hairstyles), color, religion, military or veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status, that is sufficiently serious

to deny, interfere with, or limit a person's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational or work program or activity, including, but not limited to:

- a. Conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or abusive educational or work environment, or
- b. Requiring an individual to endure the offensive conduct as a condition of continued employment or educational programs or activities, including the receipt of aids, benefits, and services.

Educational programs and activities include all academic, educational, extracurricular, athletic, and other programs of the school, whether those programs take place in a school's facilities, on a school bus, at a class or training program sponsored by the school at another location, or elsewhere.

Discriminatory harassment because of a person's sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture, and protective hairstyles), color, religion, veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status, may include, but is not limited to:

- a. Name-calling,
- b. Teasing or taunting,
- c. Insults, slurs, or derogatory names or remarks,
- d. Demeaning jokes,
- e. Inappropriate gestures,
- f. Graffiti or inappropriate written or electronic material,
- g. Visual displays, such as cartoons, posters, or electronic images,
- h. Threats or intimidating or hostile conduct,
- i. Physical acts of aggression, assault, or violence, or
- j. Criminal offenses

The following examples are additional or more specific examples of conduct that may constitute sexual harassment:

- a. Unwelcome sexual advances or propositions,
- b. Requests or pressure for sexual favors,
- c. Comments about an individual's body, sexual activity, or sexual attractiveness,
- d. Physical contact or touching of a sexual nature, including touching intimate body parts and inappropriate patting, pinching, rubbing, or brushing against another's body,
- e. Physical sexual acts of aggression, assault, or violence, including criminal offenses (such as rape, sexual assault or battery, and sexually motivated stalking), against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent due to the victim's age, intellectual disability, or use of drugs or alcohol,
- f. Requiring sexual favors or contact in exchange for aids, benefits, or services, such as grades, awards, privileges, promotions, etc., or
- g. Gender-based harassment; acts of verbal, nonverbal, written, graphic, or physical conduct based on sex or sex-stereotyping, but not involving conduct of a sexual nature.

If the District knows or reasonably should know about possible harassment, including violence, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable, thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred (see section entitled “Grievance Procedures,” below), and take appropriate interim measures, if necessary. If the District determines that unlawful harassment occurred, the District will take prompt and effective action to eliminate the harassment, prevent its recurrence, and remedy its effects, if appropriate. If harassment or violence that occurs off school property creates a hostile environment at school, the District will follow this policy and grievance procedure, within the scope of its authority.

All District employees are expected to take prompt and appropriate actions to report and prevent discrimination, harassment, and retaliation by others. Employees who witness or become aware of possible discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, must immediately report the conduct to his or her supervisor or the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated compliance coordinator).

2. Anti-retaliation:

The District prohibits retaliation, intimidation, threats, coercion, or discrimination against any person for opposing discrimination, including harassment, or for participating in the District's discrimination complaint process or making a complaint, testifying, assisting, or participating in any manner, in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing. Retaliation is a form of discrimination.

The District will take immediate steps to stop retaliation and prevent its recurrence against the alleged victim and any person associated with the alleged victim. These steps will include, but are not limited to, notifying students, employees, and others, that they are protected from retaliation, ensuring that they know how to report future complaints, and initiating follow-up contact with the complainant to determine if any additional acts of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation have occurred. If retaliation occurs, the District will take prompt and strong responsive action, including possible discipline, including expulsion or termination, if applicable.

3. Grievance (or Complaint) Procedures:

Employees or students should initially report all instances of discrimination, harassment or retaliation to their immediate supervisor or teacher or to the compliance coordinator designated to handle complaints of discrimination (designated coordinator). If the employee or student is uncomfortable in presenting the problem to the supervisor or teacher, or if the supervisor or teacher is the problem, the employee or student may report the alleged discrimination, harassment or retaliation (“discrimination”) to the designated coordinator, or in the case of students, to another staff person (such as a counselor or principal).

Other individuals may report alleged discrimination to the designated coordinator. If the designated coordinator is the person alleged to have committed the discriminatory act, then the complaint should be submitted to the Superintendent for assignment. A discrimination complaint form is attached to this grievance procedure and is available in

the office of each District building, on the District's website, and from the designated coordinators.

Under no circumstances will a person filing a complaint or grievance involving discrimination be retaliated against for filing the complaint or grievance.

i. Level 1 (Investigation and Findings):

Once the District receives a grievance, complaint or report alleging discrimination, harassment, or retaliation, or becomes aware of possible discriminatory conduct, the District will conduct a prompt, adequate, reliable, thorough, and impartial investigation to determine whether unlawful harassment occurred. If necessary, the District will take immediate, interim action or measures to protect the alleged victim and prevent further potential discrimination, harassment, or retaliation during the pending investigation. The alleged victim will be notified of his or her options to avoid contact with the alleged harasser, such as changing a class or prohibiting the alleged harasser from having any contact with the alleged victim pending the result of the District's investigation. The District will minimize any burden on the alleged victim when taking interim measures to protect the alleged victim.

The District will promptly investigate all complaints of discrimination, even if an outside entity or law enforcement agency is investigating a complaint involving the same facts and allegations. The District will not wait for the conclusion or outcome of a criminal investigation or proceeding to begin an investigation required by this grievance procedure. If the allegation(s) involve possible criminal conduct, the District will notify the complainant of his or her right to file a criminal complaint, and District employees will not dissuade the complainant from filing a criminal complaint either during or after the District's investigation.

The District will aim to complete its investigation within **ten (10) working days** after receiving a complaint or report, unless extenuating circumstances exist as determined by the investigator. Extenuating circumstances may include the unavailability of witnesses due to illness or incapacitation, or additional time needed because of the complexity of the investigation, the need for outside experts to evaluate the evidence (such as forensic evidence), or multiple complainants or victims. If extenuating circumstances exist, the extended timeframe to complete the investigation will be determined by the investigator and in compliance with any legal requirements. Periodic status updates will be given to the parties, when appropriate.

The District's investigation will include, but is not limited to:

- a. Providing the parties with the opportunity to present witnesses and provide evidence.
- b. An evaluation of all relevant information and documentation relating to the alleged discriminatory conduct.
- c. For allegations involving harassment, some of the factors the District will consider include: 1) the nature of the conduct and whether the conduct was unwelcome, 2) the surrounding circumstances, expectations, and relationships, 3) the degree to which the conduct affected one or more students' education, 4) the type, frequency, and duration of the conduct, 5)

the identity of and relationship between the alleged harasser and the suspect or suspects of the harassment, 6) the number of individuals involved, 7) the age (and sex, if applicable) of the alleged harasser and the alleged victim(s) of the harassment, 8) the location of the incidents and the context in which they occurred, 9) the totality of the circumstances, and 10) other relevant evidence.

- d. A review of the evidence using a “preponderance of the evidence” standard (based on the evidence, is it more likely than not that discrimination, harassment, or retaliation occurred?)

The designated compliance coordinator (or designated investigator) will complete an investigative report, which will include:

- a. A summary of the facts,
- b. Findings regarding whether discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate conduct occurred, and
- c. If a finding is made that discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate conduct occurred, the recommended remedy or remedies necessary to eliminate discrimination, harassment or other inappropriate conduct.

If someone other than the designated compliance coordinator conducted the investigation, the compliance coordinator will review, approve, and sign the investigative report. The District will ensure that prompt, appropriate, and effective remedies are provided if a finding of discrimination, harassment, or retaliation is made. The District will maintain relevant documentation obtained during the investigation and documentation supportive of the findings and any subsequent determinations, including the investigative report, witness statements, interview summaries, and any transcripts or audio recordings, pertaining to the investigative and appeal proceedings.

The District may, when appropriate or when legally required, send concurrently to the parties written notification of the decision (findings and any remedy) regarding the complaint within **one (1) week** after the investigation is completed. The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), 20 U.S.C. § 11232g; 34 C.F.R. Part 99, permits the District to disclose relevant information to a student who was discriminated against or harassed.

ii. Level 2 (Appeal to the Superintendent):

If a party is not satisfied with the findings or remedies (or both) set forth in the decision, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Superintendent within **five (5) working days** after receiving the decision. The Superintendent will review the appeal and the investigative documentation and decision, conduct additional investigation, if necessary, and issue a written determination about the appeal **within ten (10) working days** after receiving the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Superintendent’s determination at the time it is issued, and a copy will be sent to the designated compliance coordinator. [If the Superintendent is the subject of the complaint, the party will file the appeal directly with the Board.]

iii. Level 3 (Appeal to the Board):

If the party is not satisfied with the Superintendent's determination, he or she may file an appeal in writing with the Board of Education **within five (5) working days** after receiving the Superintendent's determination. The Board of Education will review the appeal, the Superintendent's determination, the investigative documentation and decision, and allow the party to address the Board or a Committee of the Board of Education. The Board or a Committee of the Board of Education may, in its discretion, issue a written determination about the appeal. The party who filed the appeal will be sent the Board's determination. The Board's determination, and any actions taken, will be final on behalf of the District.

4. Confidentiality:

The identity of the complainant will be kept confidential to the extent permitted by state and federal law. The District will notify the complainant of the anti-retaliation provisions of applicable laws and that the District will take steps to prevent retaliation and will take prompt and strong responsive actions if retaliation occurs.

If a complainant requests confidentiality or asks that the complaint not be pursued, the District will take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with the request for confidentiality or the request not to pursue an investigation, as long as doing so does not prevent the District from responding effectively to the harassment and preventing harassment of other students. If a complainant insists that his or her name or other identifiable information not be disclosed to the alleged perpetrator, the District will inform the complainant that its ability to respond may be limited. Even if the District cannot take disciplinary action against the alleged harasser, the District will pursue other steps to limit the effects of the alleged harassment and prevent its recurrence, if warranted,

5. Training:

The District will ensure that relevant District employees, including but not limited to officials, administrators, teachers, substitute teachers, counselors, nurses and other health personnel, coaches, assistant coaches, paraprofessionals, aides, bus drivers, and school law enforcement officers, are adequately trained so they understand and know how to identify acts of discrimination, harassment, and retaliation, and how to report it to appropriate District officials or employees.

6. Designated Compliance Coordinators:

Designated compliance coordinators will be responsible for:

- a. Coordinating efforts to comply with anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation laws and regulations.
- b. Coordinating and implementing training for students and employees pertaining to anti-discrimination, anti-harassment and anti-retaliation laws and regulations, including the training areas listed above.
- c. Investigating complaints of discrimination (unless the coordinator designates other trained individuals to investigate).
- d. Monitoring substantiated complaints or reports of discrimination, as needed (and with the assistance of other District employees, if necessary), to ensure discrimination or harassment does not recur, and that retaliation conduct does not occur or recur.

- e. Overseeing discrimination complaints, including identifying and addressing any patterns or systemic problems, and reporting such patterns or systemic problems to the Superintendent and the Board of Education.
- f. Communicating regularly with the District's law enforcement unit investigating cases and providing current information to them pertaining to anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation standards and compliance requirements.
- g. Reviewing all evidence in harassment or violence cases brought before the District's disciplinary committee or administrator to determine whether the complainants are entitled to a remedy under anti-discrimination laws and regulations that was not available in the disciplinary process.
- h. Ensuring that investigations address whether other students or employees may have been subjected to discrimination, including harassment and retaliation.
- i. Determining whether District employees with knowledge of allegations of discrimination, including harassment and retaliation, failed to carry out their duties in reporting the allegations to the designated compliance coordinator and responding to the allegations.
- j. Recommending changes to this policy and grievance procedure.
- k. Performing other duties as assigned.

The designated compliance coordinators will not have other job responsibilities that may create a conflict of interest with their coordinator responsibilities.

7. Preventive Measures:

The District will publish and widely distribute on an ongoing basis a notice of nondiscrimination (notice) in electronic and printed formats, including prominently displaying the notice on the District's website and posting the notice at each building in the District. The District also will designate an employee to coordinate compliance with anti-discrimination laws (see Designated Compliance Coordinator section, above, for further information on compliance coordinator), and widely publish and disseminate this grievance procedure, including prominently posting it on the District's website, at each building in the District, reprinting it in District publications, such as handbooks, and sending it electronically to members of the school community. The District will provide training to employees and students at the beginning of each academic year in the areas (B.6.a-g) identified in the Training section, above.

The District also may distribute specific harassment and violence materials (such as sexual violence), including a summary of the District's anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-retaliation policy and grievance procedure, and a list of victim resources, during events such as school assemblies and back to school nights, if recent incidents or allegations warrant additional education to the school community.

Date of Adoption: 5/9/2005

Revised: 6/13/2011; 7/13/2015; 6/18/2018; 7/20/2020; 6/21/2021; 6/16/2025

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Holdrege Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, disability, race (including skin color, hair texture, and protective hairstyles), color, religion, military or veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity, or other protected status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following persons have been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies:

Students: Todd Hilyard, Superintendent, Holdrege Public Schools, 505 14th Avenue, Holdrege, Nebraska 68949, Phone (308) 995-8663, Email Todd.Hilyard@dusters.org

Employees and Others: Todd Hilyard, Superintendent, Holdrege Public Schools, 505 14th Avenue, Holdrege, Nebraska 68949, Phone (308) 995-8663, Email Todd.Hilyard@dusters.org

Complaints or concerns involving discrimination or needs for accommodation or access should be addressed to the appropriate Coordinator. For further information about anti-discrimination laws and regulations, or to file a complaint of discrimination with the OCR at One Petticoat Lane, 1010 Walnut Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 320, Kansas City, Missouri 64106, (816) 268-0550 (voice), Fax (816) 268-0599, (800) 877-8339 (telecommunications device for the deaf), or ocr.kansascity@ed.gov.

StudentsSearch and Seizure

When it is determined based on searches that a person has violated a Board policy, administrative regulation, building rule, student conduct rule or personnel expectation, or the law, the person shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action and a report to law enforcement may be made.

Student lockers, desks and other such property are owned by the school. The school exercises exclusive control over school property. Students should not expect privacy regarding items placed in or on school property because school property is subject to search at any time by school officials. Periodic, random searches of student lockers may be conducted in the discretion of the administration.

The following procedures will be used for conducting searches:

1. School officials may conduct a search if there is a reasonable basis to believe that the search will uncover evidence of a crime or rule violation. The search must be conducted in a reasonable manner under the circumstances.
2. Random searches of student lockers, desks, and other similar school property provided for use by students may be conducted in the discretion of the administration.
3. Drug or alcohol tests may be conducted on students based on reasonable suspicion.
4. Drug or alcohol tests may be conducted on a random basis for students participating in extracurricular activities, provided that: a) the student gave consent for testing in advance (attendance at or participation in the extracurricular activity may be withheld in the absence of consent), b) the testing actually be random, c) that the testing procedures limit any intrusion on student privacy, and provide for an appropriate level of confidentiality and accuracy, and d) that the response to positive tests take into consideration student safety and compliance with laws related to reporting and releasing students to law enforcement.
5. School officials may search offices and storage devices provided to or used by employees where permitted by law, such as where reasonable grounds exist for suspecting that a search will turn up evidence that the employee has committed work-related misconduct, or that a search is necessary for a non-investigatory work-related purpose, such as to retrieve a file.
6. Searches of the District's computer system may be conducted in the discretion of the administration at any time.

The following procedures will be used for the removal of personal property:

1. Illegal items or other items reasonably determined to be a threat to the safety of others or a threat to educational purposes may be seized by school officials. Any illegal drugs, firearm or dangerous weapon shall be confiscated and delivered to law enforcement as soon as practicable. A personal safety or security device (such as a taser, mace, or pepper spray) not previously approved by the administration constitutes a “dangerous weapon.”
2. Items which have been or are reasonably expected to be used to disrupt or interfere with the educational process may be removed from student possession.

The District is not responsible for the security or safety of personal property which employees, students, or other building users may bring to school.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1204.04 (firearms)

Date of Adoption: 5/9/2005

Revised: 6/18/2018; 6/15/2020

StudentsRequests to Contact Students and Student Interviews by Non-School PersonnelA. Removals of Students and Interviews of Students

In dealing with law enforcement officials, Holdrege Public Schools' employees are not to obstruct government operations or unreasonably refuse or fail to aid a peace officer, but are also to attempt to prevent undue interference with District operations or educational programming.

1. Removals of Students by Law Enforcement Officials

Law enforcement officers should not be permitted to remove a child from school while the child is properly in attendance, without permission of the child's parent or guardian, except when legally authorized to do so. For purposes of this policy, a law enforcement officer is defined as: sheriffs, coroners, jailers, marshals, police officers, state highway patrol officers, members of the National Guard on active service by direction of the Governor during periods of emergency, and all other persons with similar authority to make arrests. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §49-801).

Law enforcement officers may in the line of duty require a student to accompany him or her for questioning or detention either with or without an arrest warrant. A peace officer has the lawful authority to take immediate temporary custody of children under the age of 18 with an arrest warrant, or without a warrant or order of the court when:

- (a) the child has violated a state law or municipal ordinance and such child was eleven years of age or older at the time of the violation, and the officer has reasonable grounds to believe such child committed such violation and was eleven years of age or older at the time of the violation;
- (b) the child is seriously endangered in his or her surroundings and immediate removal appears to be necessary for the child's protection;
- (c) the officer believes the child to be mentally ill and dangerous as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. §71-908 and that the harm described in that section is likely to occur before proceedings may be instituted before the juvenile court;
- (d) the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the juvenile has run away from his or her parent, guardian, or custodian;
- (e) a probation officer has reasonable cause to believe that a juvenile is in violation of probation and that the juvenile will attempt to leave the jurisdiction or place lives or property in danger;
- (f) the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the juvenile is truant from school. (Neb. Rev. Stat. §§43-418 and 43-248).

- (g) the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the child is immune from prosecution for prostitution under subsection (5) of section 28-801; or
- (h) the child has committed an act or engaged in behavior described in subdivision (1), (2), (3)(b), or (4) of section 43-247 and such child was under eleven years of age at the time of such act or behavior, and the officer has reasonable cause to believe such child committed such act or engaged in such behavior and was under eleven years of age at such time.

If a peace officer or probation officer requests to take custody of a student who is at that time under the control and jurisdiction of Holdrege Public Schools, the following action is to be taken:

- (a) Establish Authority to Remove. The student should be released after appropriate measures are taken and documented to ensure that the officer has the authority to take the student. The form attached as Exhibit “A” to this Policy may be used for this purpose.
- (b) Notify Local Law Enforcement. In some instances there may be orders for custody of a student served by the officers with authority to arrest from outside the jurisdiction of Holdrege Public Schools. Local law enforcement should be contacted and requested to participate in or monitor the removal.
- (c) Notify Parent of Removal. When a principal or other school official releases a minor student to a peace officer for the purpose of removing the minor from the school premises, the principal or other school official shall take immediate steps to notify the parent, guardian, or responsible relative of the minor regarding the release of the minor student to the officer and the place to which the student is reportedly being taken. Provided, however, when a minor student has been taken into custody as a victim of suspected child abuse, the principal or other school official is not required to notify the parent or guardian, but shall provide the peace officer with the address and telephone number of the minor student’s parents or guardian.

A student should not be released to a private detective or “special police officer” who is not an officer of a Nebraska political subdivision or an officer of an agency of the federal government without consent of the student’s parent, guardian or custodian.

2. Interviews of Students by Law Enforcement Officials

Law enforcement officers and other law authorities should be urged to contact students for questioning outside the instructional day and off school premises whenever possible. When it is appropriate that such questioning occur, the following guidelines are to be followed:

- (a) Interviews not related to District Events. If an interview of a student is requested during school hours concerning an ongoing investigation of a crime not related to Holdrege Public Schools, questioning should not take place until the student's parent, guardian or custodian has been contacted and permission is given for such interview. The consent should be documented. The presence of a school employee during the interview is not necessary.
- (b) Interviews Related to District Events. If the investigation relates to an incident which took place on school premises or during instructional time, it is not necessary to obtain consent of the student's parent, guardian or custodian. In these situations, an employee of the District should be present during the interview to ensure that the interview relates only to the incident which took place on school premises or during instructional time or something which is directly related thereto.
- (c) Child Abuse or Neglect. If an investigator represents that an interview is necessary to collect information concerning an allegation of child abuse or neglect or an offense involving a family relation and it is clear that obtaining parental consent for the interview would be impossible or counter-productive, the interview may be conducted without consent of the student's parent, guardian or custodian. In these situations, an employee of Holdrege Public Schools should be present during the interview to ensure that the interview relates only to those matters.
- (d) Probation Officer Interview. A probation officer assigned to a student by a court may be allowed the opportunity, on request, to interview a student on school premises. In such situations, it is neither necessary nor desirable that a District employee be present during the interview. It also is not necessary to obtain the consent of the parent, guardian, or custodian.

3. Disclosure of Student Records

School employees shall not, in the course of dealing with a peace officer or probation officer, disclose any confidential student records or information from such student records other than in response to a court order or subpoena or as otherwise authorized by state law and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

4. Removals and Interviews by Persons other than Law Enforcement Officials

A person who comes to school premises to interview a student or remove a student prior to the end of the student's instructional day must obtain permission of an administrator or designee.

Permission to remove is not to be granted without consent of the student's parent, guardian or custodian, or a person authorized by the student's parent, guardian or custodian to give such permission.

Permission to interview on subjects not related to school matters is not to be granted unless there is a clearly valid and proper reason for the interview and such is not disruptive to school operations or the student's educational program. Ordinarily such contacts shall be restricted to the student's parent, guardian or custodian or a friend of the family when an emergency or other similar circumstance exists.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§43-248; 43-418; 79-294; 79-2104
20 U.S.C. §1232g (FERPA)

Date of Adoption: 6/12/2017

AR-5413--Exhibit A

Affidavit and Release to Remove Student**Date:** _____

The undersigned hereby states and affirms to the [Name] Public Schools as follows:

1. That I am duly-appointed and acting peace officer employed by _____ and am currently acting within the scope of such employment.
2. That request is hereby made of the [Name] Public Schools to deliver to me the following named student: _____.
3. That I am entitled to immediate physical custody of said student by virtue of:

() Neb. Rev. Stat. 43-248 for the reason that said student (1) violated a state or municipal law in my presence, (2) is believed by me to have committed a felony, (3) is seriously endangered in his or her surroundings and immediate removal appears to be necessary for the student's protection, or (4) is believed to have run away from his or her parent, guardian, or custodian.

() There having been issued a valid warrant for such student's arrest, a true copy of which is attached hereto.

() There being reasonable grounds for me to arrest such student without a warrant, such grounds being that: _____

() Other (specify) the student being placed under arrest due to following authority: _____

4. That the undersigned will take immediate action to notify the parent(s), custodian, or legal guardian of said student that said student has been taken into custody and the reason or reasons for said custody.

5. That the undersigned has the legal right to take custody of the student without the consent of said student's parent(s), guardian, custodian, or the [Name] Public Schools.

6. That any facts or circumstances set out on the back of this affidavit and release are true and correct and are incorporated herein by reference.

(Give complete description of officer's name and position, including badge number)

AR-5413--Exhibit B
Affidavit to Interview or Question Student

Date: _____

The undersigned requests the right to interview or question _____, a student of the [Name] Public Schools, and hereby states and affirms to the [Name] Public Schools as follows:

() That the undersigned is a duly appointed probation officer acting pursuant to a valid appointment by the _____ Court of _____ County, Nebraska.

() That the undersigned is duly authorized by law to investigate allegations of criminal activity and this request is made to facilitate such an investigation.

() That the undersigned is duly authorized by law to investigate allegations of criminal activity and this request is made to facilitate an investigation of criminal activity which occurred on the school premises.

() That the undersigned is duly authorized by law to investigate allegations of abuse or neglect as defined in Neb. Rev. Stat. 28-710(3) and this request is made to facilitate an investigation where a family member is alleged to have committed acts of abuse or neglect against the above-named student.

() That requesting consent to the interview from the child's parent or guardian and notification of child's parent or guardian of the interview would be counter productive, and request is hereby made that the same be kept confidential.

That the additional information, if any, set out on the back of this affidavit is true and correct and is incorporated herein by reference.

(Give complete description of officer's
name and position including badge number)

StudentsAnti-Bullying Policy

One of the missions of the District is to provide a physically safe and emotionally secure environment for students and staff.

The administration and staff are to implement strategies and practices to reinforce and encourage positive behaviors by students. Positive behaviors include non-violence, cooperation, teamwork, understanding, and acceptance of others.

The administration and staff are to implement strategies and practices to identify and prevent inappropriate behaviors by all students, including anti-bullying education for all students. Inappropriate behaviors include bullying, intimidation, and harassment. Bullying means any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal, or electronic abuse on school grounds, in a vehicle owned, leased, or contracted by the school being used for a school purpose by a school employee or designee, or at school-sponsored activities or school-sponsored athletic events.

The school district shall review the anti-bullying policy annually.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-2137
 Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-254 to 79-296
 NDE February 2003 State Board Action; Reaffirmed December 2005

Date of Adoption: 7/14/2008

Revised: 7/14/2014

Recodified from 5417 to 5415 7/14/2014

Reaffirmed: 7/13/2015; 7/11/16; 7/17/17; 7/16/18; 7/15/19; 7/20/20; 7/19/21; 7/18/22; 7/17/23;
7/15/24; 7/21/25; 7/20/26

School Wellness Policy

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

* These strategies include, but are not necessarily limited to, those cited in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Model Wellness Policy (Updated 9/2016 to reflect the USDA Final Rule) found at https://www.healthiergeneration.org/_asset/wtqdwu/14-6372_ModelWellnessPolicy.doc. The district also participated in the WellSAT:3.0 assessment tool in January 2023.

1. Goals for Nutrition Promotion and Education

- a. The district will promote healthy food and beverage choices for all students, as well as encourage participation in school meal programs to promote the foods and beverages that meet or exceed the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards via various methods such as implementing evidence-based healthy food promotion techniques through the school meal programs, nutrition education posters, and social media.
- b. Posted menus will include the nutrition facts for menu items.
- c. Locally grown fruits and vegetables will be included as part of the nutrition program whenever feasible.
- d. The health curriculum will include information on good nutrition and healthy living habits.
- e. Teachers will incorporate information on nutrition and wellness into the classroom curriculum as appropriate.
- f. The district will collaborate with public and private entities to promote student wellness.
- g. Water will be made available to students throughout the school day, as well as during meal times via drinking fountains or water jugs/pitchers with cups.

2. Goals for Physical Activity

- a. The district's curriculum shall include instruction on physical activity and habits for healthy living according to NDE standards. Curriculum is provided on the district website.
- b. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activities throughout the school day and will be provided with opportunities to do so. Kindergarten through 8th grade students are provided with recess time daily. Information on additional optional activities such as running clubs and community based sports and recreation is provided when available.
- c. The district encourages parents and guardians to support their children's participation in physical activity, to be physically active role models, and to include physical activity in family events.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6. Food and Beverage Marketing

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

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

7. Public Participation

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

8. Competitive Foods (Includes Food and Beverages Sold in Vending Machines, School Stores, Fundraisers or in Competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs)

- a. Except as otherwise allowed by the Nebraska Department of Education (NDE), all foods and beverages sold during the school day as part of a fundraiser or for any other purpose in competition with the National School Lunch and Breakfast Programs must meet the nutrition standards of those programs.
- b. Fundraiser food or beverages are NOT exempt from the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition standards. Therefore, if food is sold as a fundraiser:
 - 1) It shall not be sold in competition with school meals in the food service area during the meal service.
 - 2) It shall not be sold or otherwise made available to students anywhere on school premises during the period beginning one half hour prior to the serving period for breakfast and/or lunch and lasting until one half hour after the serving of breakfast and/or lunch.
 - 3) The sale of food items during the school day shall meet the USDA Smart Snacks in School nutrition requirements.
 - 4) This restriction does not apply to food sold during non-school hours, weekends, and off-campus fundraising events such as concessions during after-school sporting events, school plays or concerts; or to bulk food items that are sold for consumption at home. (Ex: frozen pizzas, cookie

dough tubs, etc.)

9. Triennial Assessment

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

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

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

10. Public Notice

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

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

Notice will be posted online for scheduled wellness policy committee meetings to encourage participation of parents, students, staff, and community members.

11. Recordkeeping

The district will retain records to document compliance with the requirements of the wellness policy at its central office.

12. Operational Responsibility

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

Legal Reference: Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, 42 U.S.C. section 1758b; 7 CFR sections 210.11 and 210.30; National School Lunch Program, 42 U.S.C sections 1751-1760, 1770; Regulations and Procedures for Accreditation of Schools, NDE Rule 10

Date of Adoption: 4/10/2006; Revised 5/9/2011

Recodified from 5416 to 5417 on 7/14/14

Revised: 6/12/17; 5/15/23

Reaffirmed: 6/15/20; 7/20/26

StudentsHomeless StudentsA. General Policy Statement

The District shall ensure that homeless children and youths shall have equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths.

B. Definitions

“School of Origin” shall mean the school that a child or youth attended when permanently housed or the school in which the child or youth was last enrolled, including preschool. School of origin shall also include any designated receiving school for the next grade level for all feeder schools when a student completes the final grade level served by the school of origin.

“Homeless children and youths” shall mean any individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; and includes:

1. Children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;
2. Children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
3. Children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
4. Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described in (1-3).

“Unaccompanied youth” shall mean a homeless child or youth not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

C. School Stability

1. School Selection: Each school shall presume that keeping a homeless child or youth enrolled in the child’s or youth’s school of origin is in the child’s or youth’s best interest, except when doing so is contrary to the request of the child’s or youth’s parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.

To overcome the presumption that a child or youth should remain in his/her school of origin, the school shall consider student-centered factors including: the impact of mobility on achievement, education, health, and safety of homeless children and youth, giving priority to the request of the child's or youth's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth.

2. Enrollment: Once the school is selected in accordance with the child's or youth's best interest, that child or youth shall be immediately enrolled even if the child or youth is unable to produce records normally required for enrollment including, but not limited to, previous academic records, immunization or other health records, proof of residency or has missed any application or enrollment deadlines during any period of homelessness.
3. Transportation: If the child or youth continues to attend his or her school of origin, transportation shall be provided promptly even if there is a dispute pending regarding which school is in the child's or youth's best interest to attend. Transportation will continue to be provided to and from the school of origin for the remainder of any academic year during which the child or youth becomes permanently housed.

D. Records

Any record ordinarily kept by the school, including immunization or medical records, academic records, birth certificates, guardianship records, and evaluations for special services or programs, regarding each homeless child or youth shall be maintained:

1. Such that all records are available, in a timely fashion, when a child or youth enrolls in a new school or school district;
2. Any information about a homeless child's or youth's living situation shall be treated as a confidential student education record, and shall not be deemed to be directory information; and
3. In a manner consistent with the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act.

E. Services

The Local Education Agency Liaison shall identify an appropriate staff person to be the Local Educational Liaison (LEL) for all homeless children and youth attending school in the District. The LEL responsibilities shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Ensure homeless children and youth are identified through outreach and coordination activities including coordination with the Nebraska Department of Education Homeless Education Liaison, community, and school personnel responsible for education and related services to homeless children and youths;

2. Receive appropriate time and training in order to carry out the duties required by law and this policy;
3. Ensure homeless families and homeless children and youths are referred to health care, dental, mental health, substance abuse, housing and any other appropriate services;
4. Ensure that homeless children and youths:
 - a. Are enrolled in school which includes attending classes and participating fully in school activities;
 - b. Have a full and equal opportunity to meet the same challenging State academic standards as other children and youths;
 - c. Receive individualized counseling from counselors to prepare and improve their readiness for college, including college selection, application, financial aid, and on-campus supports.
 - d. Unaccompanied youths are informed of their status as independent students under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and may obtain assistance from the LEL to receive verification of such status for purposes of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.
5. Ensure that public notice of the educational rights and available transportation services of the homeless children and youths is disseminated in locations frequented by parents or guardians of such youths and unaccompanied homeless youths, including schools, shelters, public libraries, and soup kitchens, in a manner and form that is easily understandable.
6. Ensure the dispute resolution process identified below is carried out in accordance with the law and district policy.

F. Dispute Resolution

1. The dispute procedure must be available for disputes over eligibility, as well as school selection or enrollment.
2. In the event of a dispute regarding where a child or youth should enroll, the child or youth shall be immediately enrolled in the school in which enrollment is sought pending final resolution of the dispute, including all available appeals. The district shall immediately provide the child's parent or guardian or, in the case of an unaccompanied youth, the youth a written explanation of the decision made regarding the school selection including the right to appeal such decision. Said writing shall be provided in a manner and form understandable to such parent, guardian, or unaccompanied youth and also include the LEL contact information.

The LEL shall carry out the dispute resolution process within 30 calendar days from the date of said writing pursuant to 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 19-005.02.

3. Appeals: Any parent, guardian or other person having legal or actual charge of a homeless child or youth that is dissatisfied with the decision of a school district after the dispute resolution process may file an appeal with the Commissioner within thirty calendar days of receipt of the decision by following the process in 92 Nebraska Administrative Code 19-005.03 and 19-005.03C.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-215
 Nebraska Department of Education Rule 19
 McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 USC §§11431, et seq.
 Every Student Succeeds Act

Date of Adoption: 11/12/2007
Revised: 7/11/2016; 6/12/2017

StudentsStudent Privacy Protection Policy

It is the policy of Holdrege Public Schools to develop and implement policies which protect the privacy of students in accordance with applicable laws. The District's policies in this regard include the following:

- A. Right of Parents to Inspect Surveys Funded or Administered by the United States Department of Education or Third Parties
Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon the parent's request, a survey created by and administered by either the United States Department of Education or a third party (a group or person other than the District) before the survey is administered or distributed by the school to the parent's child.
- B. Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive
The District will require, for any survey of students which contain one or more matters deemed to be sensitive (see section headed Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive), that suitable arrangements be made to protect student privacy (that is, the name or other identifying information about a particular student). For such surveys, the District will also follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.
- C. Right of Parents to Inspect Instructional Materials
Parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum for their child. Reasonable requests for inspection of instructional materials shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received. Parents shall not have the right to access academic tests or academic assessments, as such are not within the meaning of the term instructional materials for purposes of this policy.

The procedures for making and granting a request to inspect instructional materials are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal. The building principal, within five school days, shall consult with the teacher or other educator responsible for the curriculum materials. In the event the request can be accommodated, the building principal shall make the materials available for inspection or review by the parent, at such reasonable times and place as will not interfere with the educator's intended use of the materials. In the event there is a question as to the nature of the curriculum materials requested or as to whether the materials are required to be provided, the building principal shall notify the parent of such concern, and assist the parent with forming a request which can reasonably be accommodated. If the parent does not formulate such a request, and continues to desire certain curriculum materials, the parent shall be asked to make their request to the Superintendent.
- D. Rights of Parents to be Notified of and to Opt-Out of Certain Physical Examinations

or Screenings

The general policy and practice of the District is to not administer physical examinations or screenings of students which require advance notice or parent opt-out rights under the applicable federal laws, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law; and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. For physical examinations or screenings which do not fit into the applicable exceptions, the District will follow the procedures set forth in the section entitled: Notification of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events.

E. Protection of Student Privacy in Regard to Personal Information Collected from Students

The general policy and practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. The District will make reasonable arrangements to protect student privacy to the extent possible in the event of any such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information.

Personal information for purposes of this policy means individually identifiable information about a student including: (1) a student or parent=s first and last name, (2) home address, (3) telephone number, and (4) social security number. The term personal information, for purposes of this policy, does not include information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating, or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions. This exception includes the following examples: (i) college or postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment; (ii) book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products; (iii) curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools; (iv) tests and assessments used by elementary schools and secondary schools to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about student, or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments, and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments; (v) the sale by student of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities; (vi) student recognition programs.

F. Parent Access to Instruments used in the Collection of Personal Information

While the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information, parents shall have the right to inspect, upon reasonable request, any instrument which may be administered or distributed to a student for such purposes. Reasonable requests for inspection shall be granted within a reasonable period of time after the request is received.

The procedures for making and granting such a request are as follows: the parent shall make the request, with reasonable specificity, directly to the building principal and shall identify the specific act and the school staff member or program responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students for the purpose of marketing that information. The building principal, within five school days, shall consult with the school staff member or person responsible for the program which has been reported by the parent to be responsible for the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information from students. In the event such collection, disclosure, or use of personal information is occurring or there is a plan for such to occur, the building principal shall consult with the Superintendent for determination of whether the action shall be allowed to continue. If not, the instrument for the collection of personal information shall not be given to any students. If it is to be allowed, such instrument shall be provided to the requesting parent as soon as such instrument can be reasonably obtained.

Annual Parental Notification of Student Privacy Protection Policy

The District shall provide parents with reasonable notice of the adoption or continued use of this policy and other policies related to the student privacy. Such notice shall be given to parents of students enrolled in the District at least annually, at the beginning of the school year, and within a reasonable period of time after any substantive change in such policies.

Notification to Parents of Dates of and Right to Opt-Out of Specific Events

The District shall directly notify the parents of the affected children, at least annually at the beginning of the school year, of the specific or approximate dates during the school year when any of the following activities are scheduled, or are expected to be scheduled:

1. The collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in the collection, disclosure, or use of personal information collected from students for the purpose of marketing or for selling that information);
2. Surveys of students involving one or more matters deemed to be sensitive in accordance with the law and this policy; and
3. Any nonemergency, invasive physical examination or screening that is required as a condition of attendance; administered by the school and scheduled by the school in advance; and not necessary to protect the immediate health and safety of the student or of other students. (Note: the general practice of the District is to not engage in physical examinations or screenings which require advance notice, for the reason that the physical examinations or screenings to be conducted by the District will usually fit into one of the following exceptions to the advance notice requirement and parent opt-out right: (1) hearing, vision, or scoliosis screenings; (2) physical examinations or screenings that are permitted or required by an applicable State law, and (3) surveys administered to students in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act).

Parents shall be offered an opportunity in advance to opt their child out of participation in any of the above listed activities. In the case of a student of an appropriate age (that is, a student who has reached the age of 18, or a legally emancipated student), the notice and opt-out right shall belong to the student.

Definition of Surveys of Matters Deemed to be Sensitive

Any survey containing one or more of the following matters shall be deemed to be Asensitive@ for purposes of this policy:

1. political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent;
2. mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's parent;
3. sex behavior or attitudes;
4. illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating or demeaning behavior;
5. critical appraisals of other individuals with whom the student has close family relationships;
6. legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers; or
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the students or the student's parent;
8. income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Mental Health Assessment or Service

The District shall obtain informed consent from the parent of each child who is under 18 years of age to participate in any mental-health assessment or service that is funded under the Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA"). Before obtaining the consent, the District shall provide the parent written notice describing in detail such mental health assessment or service, including the purpose for such assessment or service, the provider of such assessment or service, when such assessment or service will begin, and how long such assessment or service may last.

Legal Authorities: Every Student Succeeds Act
Protection of Pupil Privacy Amendment, 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232h and 34 CFR Part 98;
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. Sec.1232g;
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-530 to 79-533

Date of Adoption: 7/11/2016

InstructionInitiations, Hazing, Secret Clubs and Outside Organizations

Initiations. Initiations by classes, clubs or athletic teams are prohibited except with the approval of the administration. Any student who engages in or encourages initiations that have not been approved by the administration is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including denial of any or all school privileges and expulsion.

The administration may only give consent to initiation activities that are consistent with student conduct expectations and that do not present a risk of physical or mental injury or belittlement.

Hazing. Hazing by classes, clubs, athletic teams or other student organizations are prohibited. Hazing means any activity by which a person intentionally or recklessly endangers the physical or mental health or safety of an individual for the purpose of initiation into, admission into, affiliation with, or continued membership with any school organization. Such prohibited hazing activity includes whipping, beating, branding, an act of sexual penetration, an exposure of the genitals of the body done with intent to affront or alarm any person, a lewd fondling or caressing of the body of another person, forced and prolonged calisthenics, prolonged exposure to the elements, forced consumption of any food, liquor, beverage, drug, or harmful substance not generally intended for human consumption, prolonged sleep deprivation, sexual conduct, nudity, or any brutal treatment or the performance of any act which endangers the physical or mental health or safety of any person or the coercing of any such activity. Hazing is prohibited even though the person who has been the subject of the hazing consents to the activity. Any student who engages in or encourages hazing is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including denial of any or all school privileges and expulsion.

Secret Organizations. It is unlawful for students to participate in or be members of any secret fraternity or secret organization that is in any degree a school organization. Any student who violates this restriction is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including denial of any or all school privileges and expulsion.

Outside Organizations. It is unlawful for any person, whether a student of the District or not, to enter upon the school grounds or any school building for the purpose of rushing or soliciting, while there, any student to join any fraternity, society, or association organized outside of the schools. Any person who violates this restriction is subject to criminal prosecution and removal and exclusion from school grounds.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-2,101 to 79-2,102
 Student Discipline Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-254 to 79-296
 Reference Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 28-311.06 to 28-311.07

Date of Adoption: 7/15/2013

Revised: 7/11/2016; 7/17/23

InstructionParental/Community Involvement in Schools

Phelps County School District 69-0044, the Holdrege Public Schools, after having conducted a public hearing concerning parental involvement and participation in the school district herewith declares that it shall be the policy of the District:

1. In the event any parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of a student has a complaint or objection to textbooks, tests, curriculum materials, activities, digital materials, websites or applications used for learning, training materials for teachers, administrators, or staff, and any other instructional materials, the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker may request a personal conference with appropriate school personnel to discuss such concerns. The Superintendent or designee shall prepare a complaint form which may be used by a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker to express objections to any such instructional material. Such complaint forms shall seek information including, but not limited to, the specific instructional material complained of, the reason for the complaint, and a proposed resolution of the complaint by the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker.
2. Upon reasonable advance request, a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker will be permitted to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions, and other instructional activities unless the school determines that such attendance would substantially interfere with a legitimate school interest, which includes the interests of the child, other students, and the educational staff.
3. Parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers are encouraged to communicate to school staff when the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker believes it to be appropriate for their child to be excused from testing, classroom instruction, learning materials, activities, guest speaker events, and other school experiences that the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker finds objectionable. The Superintendent or designee shall make a provision on the complaint form hereinabove referenced for receiving information from a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker concerning what specific testing, classroom instruction, or other school experience the parent finds objectionable, the basis for the objection, and a proposed solution for dealing with the objection that would be satisfactory to the parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker and consistent with the mission of the District and legitimate school interests. Parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers are encouraged to contact the building principal with any questions about any test, curriculum, or surveys.
4. Upon request of a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker the District will provide access to the education records of their child consistent with applicable law. Access will be provided during regular business hours of the school.
5. The District will notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers when their child may be subjected to a standard norm referenced or criterion referenced test or standardized

tests. When reasonable to do so or required by law, the parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers will be notified of where a sample of such test might be observed and the date upon which such test will be administered. As to all testing by the District, experimental evaluation methodologies, experimental testing instruments and any testing instrument which would tend to inquire into the values, beliefs, or privacy rights of any student, or parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker of such student shall be prohibited unless a parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker requests in writing that such tests be administered to their child.

6. Parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers will be notified in advance of any school-sponsored survey administered to students of the District when the survey concerns one or more of the following areas:
 - Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker;
 - Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family;
 - Sex behavior or attitudes;
 - Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior;
 - Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom respondents have close family relationships;
 - Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those of lawyers, physicians, and ministers;
 - Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or student's parent, guardian, or educational decisionmaker; or
 - Income (other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such program).

Any survey administered by the District that asks a student to disclose any of the aforementioned topics, including any non-anonymous survey requesting a student provide information relating to drug, vape, alcohol, or tobacco use, then the District will, at least fifteen days prior to the administration of the survey, notify parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers that their students will receive the survey. This notice must describe the nature and types of questions included in the survey, the purposes and age-appropriateness of the survey, how information collected by the survey will be used, who will have access to such information, the steps that will be taken to protect student privacy, and whether and how any findings or results of such survey will be disclosed. After receiving such notice, parents, guardians, and educational decisionmakers may request a copy of the survey, review the survey, and/or exempt their student from participating in the survey.

No survey requesting sexual information of a student shall be administered to any student in kindergarten through grade six.

No personally identifiable information of any student survey shall be disclosed unless permitted or required by state and federal law.

7. As a general matter substantive decision-making processes will be left to the judgment of the professional staff, administration and the Board of Education, subject to an effort to receive information from parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers as to any concerns, objections, or other information such parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers would wish to provide to the school district concerning a parent's, guardian's, or educational decisionmaker's access, involvement, and participation in activities of the school.

Date of Adoption: December 12, 2005

Reviewed: 7/10/2006

Readopted: 7/16/2007

Reaffirmed: 7/14/2008; 7/13/09; 7/12/10; 7/11/11; 7/16/12; 7/15/13; 7/14/14; 7/13/15; 7/11/16; 7/17/17; 7/16/18; 7/15/19; 7/20/20; 7/19/21; 7/18/22; 7/17/23; 7/15/24; 7/21/25; 7/20/26

InstructionComputerInternet Safety and Acceptable Use PolicyA. Internet Safety Policy

It is the policy of Holdrege Public Schools to comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA). With respect to the District's computer network, the District shall: (a) prevent user access to, or transmission of, inappropriate material via Internet, electronic mail, or other forms of direct electronic communications; (b) provide for the safety and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications; (c) prevent unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unlawful activities online; (d) prevent unauthorized online disclosure, use, or dissemination of personal identification information of minors; (e) obtain verifiable parental consent before allowing third parties to collect personal information online from students; and (f) implement measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials (visual or non-visual) that are harmful to minors.

1. Definitions. Key terms are as defined in CIPA. "Inappropriate material" for purposes of this policy includes material that is obscene, child pornography, or harmful to minors. The term "harmful to minors" means any picture, image, graphic image file, or other visual depiction that: (1) taken as a whole and with respect to minors, appeals to a prurient interest in nudity, sex, or excretion; (2) depicts, describes, or represents, in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors, an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and (3) taken as a whole, lacks serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value as to minors.
2. Access to Inappropriate Material. To the extent practical, technology protection measures (or "Internet filters") shall be used to block or filter Internet, or other forms of electronic communications, access to inappropriate information. Specifically, as required by the CIPA, blocking shall be applied to visual depictions of material deemed obscene or child pornography, or to any material deemed harmful to minors. Subject to staff supervision, technology protection measures may be disabled or, in the case of minors, minimized only for bona fide research or other lawful purposes.
3. Inappropriate Network Usage. To the extent practical, steps shall be taken to promote the safety and security of users of the District's online computer network when using electronic mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, and other forms of direct electronic communications. Specifically, as required by CIPA, prevention of inappropriate network usage includes: (a) unauthorized access, including so-called 'hacking,' and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

4. Supervision and Monitoring. It shall be the responsibility of all members of the District staff to supervise and monitor usage of the online computer network and access to the Internet in accordance with this policy and CIPA. Procedures for the disabling or otherwise modifying any technology protection measures shall be the responsibility of the Superintendent and the Superintendent's designees.
5. Social Networking. Students shall be educated about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, and cyberbullying awareness and response. The plan shall be for all students to be provided education on these subjects. The Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee shall be responsible for identifying educational materials, lessons, and/or programs suitable for the age and maturity level of the students and for ensuring the delivery of such materials, lessons, and/or programs to students.
6. Parental Consent. The District shall obtain verifiable parental consent prior to students providing or otherwise disclosing personal information online.
7. Adoption. This Internet Safety Policy was adopted by the Board at a public meeting, following normal public notice.
8. The District shall comply with the Nebraska Student Online Personal Protection Act and will endeavor to take all reasonable and necessary steps to protect the online privacy of all students.

B. Computer Acceptable Use Policy

This computer acceptable use policy is supplemental to the District's Internet Safety Policy.

1. Technology Subject to this Policy. This Computer Acceptable Use Policy applies to all technology resources of the District or made available by the District. Technology resources include, without limitation, computers and related technology equipment, all forms of e-mail and electronic communications, and the internet.
2. Access and User Agreements. Use of the District technology resources is a privilege and not a right. The Superintendent or designee shall develop appropriate user agreements and shall require that employees, students (and their parents or guardians), and others to sign such user agreements as a condition of access to the technology resources, as the Superintendent determines appropriate. Parents and guardians of students in programs operated by the District shall inform the Superintendent or designee in writing if they do not want their child to have access.

The Superintendent and designees are authorized and directed to establish and implement such other regulations, forms, procedures, guidelines, and standards to implement this Policy.

The technology resources are not a public forum. The District reserves the right to restrict any communications and to remove communications that have been posted.

3. Acceptable Uses. The technology resources are to be used for the limited purpose of advancing the District's mission. The technology resources are to be used, in general, for educational purposes, meaning activities that are integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students as defined in the E-rate program regulations.
4. Unacceptable Uses.

The following are unacceptable uses of the technology resources:

- a. **Personal Gain:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal financial gain other than in accordance with prescribed constitutional, statutory, and regulatory procedures, other than compensation provided by law.
- b. **Personal Matters:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for personal matters unless the User has entered into a lease agreement or other similar agreement with the School District that makes such use permissible under law.

Occasional use that the Superintendent or designee determines to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District is not prohibited by this provision. Examples of occasional use that may be determined to ultimately facilitate the mission of the District: sending an e-mail to a minor child or spouse; sending an e-mail related to a community group in which an employee is a member where the membership in the community group facilitates the District's mission.

This occasional use exception does not permit use by employees contrary to the expectations of their position. For example, employees may not play games or surf the net for purposes not directly related to their job during duty time; nor may students do so during instructional time.

The occasional use exception also does not permit use of the technology resources for private business, such as searching for or ordering items on the internet for non-school use; or sending an e-mail related to one's own private consulting business.

- c. **Campaigning:** Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.

- d. Technology-Related Limitations: Technology resources shall not be used in any manner which impairs its effective operations or the rights of other technology users. Without limitation:
1. Users shall not use another person's name, log-on, password, or files for any reason, or allow another to use their password (except for authorized staff members).
 2. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable another person's computer, information, files, programs or disks.
 3. Users shall not access resources not specifically granted to the user or engage in electronic trespassing.
 4. Users shall not engage in "hacking" to gain unauthorized access to the operating system software or unauthorized access to the system of other users.
 5. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software without permission from the network administrators.
 6. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
 7. Users shall not engage in any form of vandalism of the technology resources.
 8. Users shall follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The Superintendent or designees may further define such rules.
- e. Other Policies and Laws: Technology resources shall not be used for any purpose contrary to any District policy, any school rules to which a student user is subject, or any applicable law. Without limitation, this means that technology resources may not be used:
1. to access any material contrary to the Internet Safety Policy; or to create or generate any such material.
 2. to engage in unlawful harassment or discrimination, such as sending e-mails that contain sexual jokes or images.
 3. to engage in violations of employee ethical standards and employee standards of performance, such as sending e-mails that are threatening or offensive or which contain abusive language; use of end messages on e-mails that may imply that the District is supportive of a particular religion or religious belief system, a political candidate or issue, or a controversial issue; or sending e-mails that divulge protected confidential student information to unauthorized persons.
 4. to engage in or promote violations of student conduct rules.
 5. to engage in illegal activity, such as gambling.
 6. in a manner contrary to copyright laws.
 7. in a manner contrary to software licenses.

5. Disclaimer. The technology resources are supplied on an “as is, as available” basis. The District does not imply or expressly warrant that any information accessed will be valuable or fit for a particular purpose or that the system will operate error free. The District is not responsible for the integrity of information accessed, or software downloaded from the Internet.
6. Filter. A technology protection measure is in place that blocks and/or filters access to prevent access to Internet sites that are not in accordance with policies and regulations. In addition to blocks and/or filters, the District may also use other technology protection measures or procedures as deemed appropriate.

Notwithstanding technology protection measures, some inappropriate material may be accessible by the Internet, including material that is illegal, defamatory, inaccurate, or potentially offensive to some people. Users accept the risk of access to such material and responsibility for promptly exiting any such material.

The technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access may be disabled only by an authorized staff member for bona fide research or educational purposes: (a) who has successfully completed District training on proper disabling circumstances and procedures, (b) with permission of the immediate supervisor of the staff member requesting said disabling, or (c) with the permission of the Superintendent. An authorized staff member may override the technology protection measure that blocks and/or filters Internet access for a minor to access a site for bona fide research or other lawful purposes provided the minor is monitored directly by an authorized staff member.

7. Monitoring. Use of the technology resources, including but not limited to internet sites visited and e-mail transmitted or received, is subject to monitoring by the administration and network administrators at any time to maintain the system and insure that users are using the system responsibly, without notice to the users. Users have no privacy rights or expectations of privacy with regard to use of the District’s computers or Internet system. All technology equipment shall be used under the supervision of the Superintendent and the Superintendent’s designees.
8. Sanctions. Violation of the policies and procedures concerning the use of the District technology resources may result in suspension or cancellation of the privilege to use the technology resources and disciplinary action, up to and including expulsion of students and termination of employees. Use that is unethical may be reported to the Commissioner of Education. Use that is unlawful may be reported to the law enforcement authorities. Users shall be responsible for damages caused and injuries sustained by improper or non-permitted use.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC § 254
Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6501
FCC Order adopted August 10, 2011
47 USC § 254(h)(1)(b); 47 CFR 54.500(b) and 68 FR 36932 (2003) (E-rate restrictions)
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-14,101.01 (Political Accountability and Disclosure Act)

Date of Adoption: 6/11/01

Revised: 7/11/2005; 6/11/2012; 7/11/2016; 6/12/2017

Holdrege Public Schools
Addition to Employee Code of Conduct
Appendix "I"

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY, AND STAFF AGREEMENT

In order to make sure that all members of Holdrege Public Schools community understand and agree to these rules of conduct for use of the e-mail and Internet systems of the school district, the Holdrege Public School District asks that you, as an administrator, faculty member, or staff member user, sign the following statement:

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

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

Employee's Name _____

Employee's Signature _____ Date: _____

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

Holdrege Public Schools
Addition to Student Code of Conduct
Appendix "2"

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

STUDENT'S AGREEMENT

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

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

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

Student's Name _____

Student's Signature _____ Date: _____

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

Holdrege Public Schools
Addition to Student Code of Conduct
Appendix "3"

ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS AND NETWORKS

PARENT'S AGREEMENT

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

I have received a copy of, and have read, the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policy adopted by Holdrege Public Schools. As parent or guardian of the student named below, I grant permission for my son or daughter to access networked computer services such as electronic mail (e-mail) and the Internet. I understand that this free access is designed for educational purposes. I also understand that individuals may be held liable for violations of those Terms and Conditions. However, I also recognize that it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial materials and I will not hold Holdrege Public Schools responsible for materials acquired or sent via the network.

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

Student's Name _____

Parent's Signature _____ Date: _____

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

InstructionBehavioral Points of Contact

The Superintendent is delegated the authority to designate one or more behavioral awareness and health points of contact for each school building in the District. The behavioral awareness and health point of contact may be an administrator, nurse, psychologist, or another appropriate staff member. Each behavioral awareness and health point of contact will be trained in behavioral awareness and health and have knowledge of community service providers and other resources that are available for the students and families in the District. The District will maintain or have access to a registry of local mental health and counseling resources for students and parents.

The points of contact will be listed on the District's website and in the student handbook.

The Superintendent shall report the designated behavioral awareness and health points of contact to the Nebraska State Department of Education each year when requested by the Department.

In addition, all District employees who interact with students, as determined by the Superintendent, shall receive at least one hour of behavioral and mental health training with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention training each year. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for coordinating this training.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-11,159
LB 705, § 4 (2023)

Date of Adoption: 7/17/2023