

POLICY REFERENCE MANUAL

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1001 PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTIVES FOR COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Successful education programs require the support of the school district community. The board addresses the importance of the role of the school district community in the school district in this series of the policy manual. The board recognizes this support is dependent on the school district community's understanding of participation in the efforts, goals, problems and programs of the school district.

In this section, the board sets out its policies defining its relationship with the school district community. In striving to obtain the support of the school district community, the board will:

- Provide access to school district records;
- Inform the school district community of the school district's goals, objectives, achievements, and needs;
- Invite the input of the school district community; and,
- Encourage cooperation between the school district and the school district community.

Approved February 9, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1002 DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT

The superintendent or designee shall annually prepare a written report informing the public of the following areas of district characteristics and student achievement results:

- Student demographics, including enrollment by grade and site, number of students receiving free or reduced meals and number of special education students.
- District financial information including levy, total budget, valuation per pupil, per pupil costs and local, state and federal revenue.
- Student academic performance including results of standardized tests, average g.p.a. for elementary and secondary students, graduation rates and dropout rates.
- Faculty experience and education data.
- Transportation and facilities summary data.
- Average class size information by site.
- Graduation requirements and survey results of recent graduating classes.

The annual report shall be communicated to the public by publication in the newspaper of record, placement in school calendar or newsletter, or posting on school website.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.004.01A4
 NDE Rule 10.004.06A1

Cross Reference: 1001 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations
 1004 Press, Radio and Television News Media
 1005 Public Participation in the School District

Approved February 9, 2004_ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1003 PUBLIC EXAMINATION OF SCHOOL DISTRICT RECORDS

Public records of the school district may be viewed by the public during the regular business hours of the administration offices of the school district. These hours are 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, except for holidays and recesses.

Records defined by law as confidential records shall be viewed or copied upon receipt of written permission by the administration office from the person or entity whose confidential records are being requested. Lacking such permission, the superintendent will issue a written denial of the request.

Persons wishing to view the school district's public records shall contact the central administration office and make arrangements for the viewing. The board secretary will make arrangements for viewing the records as soon as practicable, and within 4 business days if possible.

Persons wanting copies may be assessed a fee for the copies not to exceed the actual costs. If the estimated cost of the records exceeds \$50.00, the secretary will obtain an advance deposit equal to the estimated cost. Records will not be made available in any form in which that record is not already maintained or produced. Persons making requests to use their own copying equipment must make arrangements satisfactory to the secretary.

It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary to maintain accurate and current records of the school district. It shall be the responsibility of the board secretary to respond in a timely manner to requests for viewing and receiving public information of the school district. If the secretary is unable to provide the requested records within 4 business days, the secretary will issue a written explanation with a revised date for completion, an estimate of cost, and allow the requester to modify or prioritize the information request.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statutes 84-712.0 et seq.

Cross Reference: 507.01 Student Records Access

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1004.1 MEDIA RELATIONS

The board recognizes the value of and supports open, fair and honest communication with the news media. The board will maintain a cooperative relationship with the news media. As part of this cooperative relationship, the board and the media will develop a means for sharing information while respecting each party's limitations.

Members of the news media are encouraged and welcome to attend open board meetings. The board president shall be the spokesperson for the board, and the superintendent shall be the spokesperson for the school district. It shall be the responsibility of the board president and superintendent to respond to inquiries from the news media about the school district.

Members of the news media seeking information about the school district shall direct their inquiries to the superintendent. The superintendent shall accurately and objectively provide the facts and board positions in response to inquiries from the news media about the school district.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1004.2 NEWS CONFERENCES AND INTERVIEWS

The superintendent, on behalf of the board and the school district, may hold a news conference or respond to a request for an interview with the news media.

The superintendent shall respond accurately, openly, honestly, and objectively to inquiries from the news media about the school district.

News conferences and interviews planned or pre-arranged for school district activities shall include the board and the superintendent. News conferences for issues requiring an immediate response may be held by the superintendent. It shall be within the discretion of the superintendent to determine whether a news conference or interview shall be held to provide an immediate response to an issue.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board apprised of news conferences and interviews.

Information about school activities and issues will be provided to the community in a way which will create and maintain a dignified and professionally responsible image for the district.

The procedures listed below will be followed in giving official information to the news media:

1. The board president will be the official spokesman for the board, unless this duty is delegated;
2. News releases that are of districtwide interest or that pertain to established district policy will be the responsibility of the superintendent;
3. The superintendent will establish regulations for the dissemination of news releases pertaining to the district.

When individual board members receive requests from press media representatives for information about board meetings or actions, members will refer these representatives to the board president, who is the spokesman for the board. The president may designate others to speak on behalf of the board at his/her discretion.

Press conferences will be authorized by the board president.

Nothing in this policy is intended to limit the rights of individual board members to speak their personal opinions.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1004.3 LIVE BROADCAST OR VIDEOTAPING

Individuals may broadcast or videotape public school district events, including open board meetings, as long as it does not interfere with or disrupt the school district event and it does not create an undue burden in adapting the buildings and sites to accommodate the request.

It shall be within the discretion of the superintendent to determine whether the request is unduly burdensome and whether the broadcast or videotaping will interfere with or disrupt the school district event.

Videotaping of classroom activities will be allowed at the discretion of the superintendent. Parents will be notified prior to videotaping of classroom activities.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations outlining the procedures for making the request and the rules for operation if the request is granted.

News media coverage of sports and other special events is encouraged. Radio broadcasts of events will be arranged through the superintendent's office.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1004.4 CRISIS MANAGEMENT COMMUNICATIONS

A school crisis may occur at any time, may take various shapes, and may hit with varying degrees of severity. The superintendent is directed to develop a School Communications Crisis Procedure to manage information more effectively and to ensure the crisis will be managed more effectively.

The procedure should include the following provisions:

1. Designation of a crisis spokesperson and description of the spokespersons duties;
2. Preparations to be taken before a crisis for dealing with the media;
3. Procedures for contacting various groups such as emergency response units, employees, parents, and the media;
4. Procedures for developing and releasing a public statement soon after the initiation of the crisis; and
5. Procedures for developing a public statement or report following the conclusion of the crisis.

Cross Reference: 905 Safety Program

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1005.1 PUBLIC COMPLAINTS

The board recognizes that concerns regarding the operation of the school district will arise. The board further believes that constructive criticism can assist in improving the quality of the education program and in meeting individual student needs more effectively. The board also places trust in its employees and desires to support their actions in a manner which frees them from unnecessary or unwarranted criticism and complaints.

Procedures for dealing with complaints concerning programs or practices should be governed by the following principles:

- where action/investigation is desired by the complainant, or where it seems appropriate, the matter should be handled as near the source as possible;
- complaints should both be investigated and, if possible, resolved expeditiously;
- complaints should be dealt with courteously and in a constructive manner; and,
- individuals directly affected by the complaint should have an opportunity to respond.

Specific procedures for handling complaints may be established in policies. The board, consistent with its board policy-making role, will deal with complaints concerning specific schools, programs or procedures only after the usual channels have been exhausted. Complaints regarding employees or complaints by students will follow the more specific policies on those issues.

When a complaint requiring attention is received by the board or a board member it will be referred to the superintendent. After all of the channels have been exhausted, the complainant may appeal to the board by requesting a place on the board agenda or during the public audience portion of the board meeting. If the complainant appeals to the board, the appeal shall be in writing, signed and explain the process followed by the complainant prior to the appeal to the board.

Cross Reference: 204.12 Public Participation at Board Meetings
 403.05 Public Complaints about Employees
 606.03 Objection to Instructional Materials

Approved February 9, 2004 Reviewed October 9, 2006 Revised November 13, 2006

1005.1R1 PUBLIC COMPLAINT PROCEDURES

This procedure is adopted to encourage the prompt resolution of concerns that patrons may have about the job performance of a staff member in a manner consistent with fairness to both the patron and to the staff member.

For consistency, all complaints regarding the job performance of any staff member shall be handled according to the procedure outlined below. Any school employee or board of education member approached with a complaint against a staff member shall inform the person/s making the complaint of the proper method for registering the complaint.

Prior to filing a written complaint against a staff member, the patron is encouraged to attempt to resolve the matter informally with the staff member.

A. Procedure

1. A complaint against a staff member shall be in writing on the Patron Complaint Form, shall be signed by the complaining part, and shall specify the details of the complaint and include all supporting evidence of which the complainant is aware.
2. Complaints against a staff member shall be filed with the administrator who supervises that staff member.
3. Upon receipt of a signed complaint, the administrator shall meet with the staff member. Prior to the meeting, the staff member shall be provided a copy of the written complaint and shall acknowledge receipt of the complaint. At the meeting, the staff member shall be allowed the opportunity to discuss the complaint and his or her response to it.
4. Prior to any action being taken on the complaint, the staff member shall be given the opportunity to submit a written response on the Patron Complaint Form. In addition, the staff member shall have the right to request a meeting with the complaining party and the appropriate administrator/s.

5. If, after investigation, the administration determines to take any kind of disciplinary action against the staff member, including placing the Patron Complaint Form in the staff member's personnel file, the staff member shall be notified in writing of the intended action and the reasons therefore. If the staff member does not agree with the administrative action, he/she may utilize the grievance section of the negotiated agreement.

6. Each staff member, upon employment and at the beginning of each school year, shall be informed of the Patron Complaint Procedure.

PATRON COMPLAINT FORM

Date: _____

Complainant Name: _____

Address: _____

Home/Business Phone: _____

Name of Person Complained Against: _____

Date of Action Causing Complaint: _____

Complaint (Attach additional sheets as necessary)

Supportive Evidence and/or Witnesses: (Attach copies of materials, if necessary)

Signature of Complainant

RESPONSE OF PERSON COMPLAINED AGAINST

Date Notified of Complaint: _____ Signature: _____

A signature indicates that the faculty member has been given a copy of this complaint and has been given an opportunity to respond to the complaint.

Response to Complaint: (Attach additional sheets, if necessary)

Recommendation

_____ I recommend no record be kept and no further action taken.

_____ I recommend a record be kept, but no further action taken.

_____ I recommend that the following action be taken.

Signature of Administrator

I have been informed of the above recommendation. I understand that a recommendation of no record being kept will result in this and all related documents being destroyed.

Signature of Faculty Member

Date

1005.2 PARENT RELATIONS GOALS

It is the general goal of the district to foster relationships with parents which encourage cooperation between the home and school in establishing and achieving common educational goals for students. The board believes parents should be active participants in education by demonstrating interest in and support for their school and the district, by becoming informed about their role as partners in education, and by becoming involved in the education of their children; and

While parents are individually responsible for their children, the district provides direct services of education and indirect services of child care for students during the time when they are within the supervision of school personnel. Consistent with these shared responsibilities and as appropriate to the maturity of the student, members of the school staff will consult with parents regarding student progress and achievement, methods to enhance student development, and matters of correction.

Additionally, parental involvement in the schools is encouraged through regular communication with the school principal and staff, the parent/teacher organizations, the school volunteer program, and other opportunities for participation in school activities and district programs. It is assumed that the relationship described in the general goal is fostered if the district will:

- consult with and encourage parents to share in school planning, in setting objectives, and evaluating programs;
- help parents understand the education process and their role in promoting this process;
- provide for parent understanding of school operations;
- provide opportunities for parents to be informed of their child's development and the criteria for its measurement; and
- help parents improve in their role as parents.

Cross Reference: 508.07 Custody and Parental Rights
 611.01 Student Progress Reports
 611.04 Parent Conferences

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1005.3 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE SCHOOLS

It is the policy of the district to provide full access to the parent of any student of the district to review textbooks, tests, curriculum and instructional materials, records of a student of any such parent, unless otherwise prohibited by law, and to any surveys of students done by the school district. Summary information regarding the district's curriculum, testing, and surveys will be provided at the beginning of each school year. Requests for access to specific instructional materials should be addressed to the teacher or building principal.

Requests by parents to attend and monitor courses, assemblies, counseling sessions and other instructional activities shall also be made to the building principal or teacher. While requests to monitor are usually granted, if the request is denied, reasons for the denial will be provided.

It is the policy of the district to provide as consistent an experience as possible in all classroom instruction, testing, surveys, and other school experiences. It is the policy of the district not to excuse students from classroom instruction, testing, and other school experiences unless an objection is submitted to the building principal or teacher outlining the specific experience, the basis for the objection and a proposed solution for dealing with the objection that would be satisfactory to the parent.

The request for the student to be excused will be reviewed by the building principal and a decision provided to the parents. While verbal objections and decisions are valid, written follow-up to verbal communications is required from the parent and the principal. If a student is excused from the requested activity no penalty will be assessed but an agreed upon alternative activity must be performed to the satisfaction of the teacher and principal.

It is the policy of the district to use only testing methods and testing instruments that are not of an experimental nature and to avoid using any testing materials or testing techniques that are not generally recognized by educational professionals to be within sound educational standards and both educationally and academically appropriate. It is the policy of the district to notify parents of any standardized testing that may be scheduled within the school district.

Approved February 9, 2004 Reviewed August 13, 2007 Revised _____

1005.4 COMMUNITY RELATIONS GOALS

The school-community relations program is a responsibility of both the Board of Education and the total school staff. Within the bounds of legal and ethical responsibilities to pupils, the school district will attempt to keep the community well informed about the operations and needs of the school district. The school district recognizes the necessity of involving citizens in the work of the schools and of two-way communications with the schools' internal and external publics.

The board will work closely with school district-community groups, including, but not limited to, the booster club and parent-teacher organizations. The Board expects all district staff to demonstrate commitment to the involvement of parents and community members in education.

Prior to any purchase of, or fund raising for, goods or services for the school district, the group shall confer with the superintendent to assist the group in purchasing goods or services to meet the school district's needs.

Funds raised by these groups for the school district may be kept as part of the accounts of the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the building principal to be the liaison with the school district-community groups affiliated with the building principal's attendance center.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1005.5 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN DECISION MAKING

The Board endorses the concept that community participation in school affairs is essential if the school system and the community are to maintain mutual confidence and respect and work together to improve the quality of education for students. It therefore intends to exert every effort to identify the community's desires and to be responsive, through its actions, to those desires.

All district citizens will be encouraged to express their ideas, concerns and judgments about the schools through such means as: (1) written suggestion(s) or proposal(s); (2) presentations at hearings; (3) responses to surveys made through interviews, written instruments or other means; (4) comments at Board meetings; and (5) service on citizens' advisory committees and school improvement teams.

The public advice will be given careful consideration. In evaluating such advice, the first concern will be for the educational program as it affects students. The Board's final decisions may depart from public advice when, in the judgment of staff and the Board, such advice is not consistent with goals adopted by the Board or with good educational practice or within available financial resources.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1005.6 COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS AND VOLUNTEERS

The board recognizes the valuable resource it has in the members of the school district community. When possible and in concert with the education program, members of the school district community may be asked to make presentations to the students or to assist employees in duties other than teaching. The school district may officially recognize the contributions made by volunteers.

Recruitment, training, utilization, and the maintenance of records for the purposes of insurance coverage or recognition of school district volunteers are responsibilities of the superintendent.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1005.7 VISITORS TO SCHOOL

The Board encourages parents and other district citizens to visit the school and classrooms at any time to observe the work of students, teachers and other employees. All visitors, which include persons other than employees or students, must notify the principal of their presence in the facility upon arrival and request authorization to visit elsewhere in the building.

Persons who wish to visit a classroom while school is in session are asked to notify the principal and obtain approval from the principal prior to the visit so appropriate arrangements can be made and so class disruption can be minimized. Teachers and other employees shall not take time from their duties to discuss matters with visitors.

Visitors shall conduct themselves in a manner fitting to their age level and maturity and with mutual respect and consideration for the rights of others while attending school events. Visitors failing to conduct themselves accordingly may be asked to leave the premises. The board and administration will not tolerate any person or persons whose presence disturb classes or school activities or hinder the instructional process. Children who wish to visit school must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult.

It shall be the responsibility of employees to report inappropriate conduct. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent and principals to take the action necessary to cease the inappropriate conduct. If the superintendent or principals are not available, a school district employee shall act to cease the inappropriate conduct.

The Board discourages using the school as a site for parents without custody to visit their children. The principal may deny the parent without custody the opportunity to deliver packages, gifts, messages, etc., to the child and/or to see the child during the school day without the approval of the custodial parent or legal guardian. In this paragraph, "without custody" means the parent lacks joint legal custody under Nebraska law.

The district may restrict the use of its buildings and grounds or restrict access to school property by issuing no trespassing commands and stay away/no trespassing letters when deemed necessary by the superintendent when any individual or group:

1. is determined to present a risk to the safety of others,
2. presents a disruption to the learning environment,

3. fails to follow proper check-in and identification procedures, or
4. does not have a legitimate purpose to be present on school grounds or activities.

In the event that a person prohibited by this or other board policies is on district property or is attending a district-sponsored event, the superintendent or building principal will tell the person he or she must leave and will notify the person that they are not permitted back on district property, except if their presence is required

Approved February 9, 2004 Reviewed January 14, 2008 Revised February 11, 2008

by the district. The superintendent or building principal may contact the proper legal authorities if necessary to enforce this policy and may file a report or sign a complaint on behalf of the district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-8,100

Cross Reference: 1004 Press, Radio and Television News Media

1005.8 PUBLIC CONDUCT ON SCHOOL PREMISES

No person on district property will:

1. Injure or threaten to injure another;
2. Damage the property of another or of the district;
3. Violate parking regulations;
4. Drive a vehicle in an unsafe manner;
5. Impede, delay or otherwise interfere with the orderly conduct of the district's educational program or any other activity taking place on district property which has been authorized by the Board, superintendent, principal or other authorized administrator;
6. Enter any portion of district premises at any time for purposes other than those which are lawful and authorized by district officials;
7. Possess an unauthorized loaded or unloaded firearm or any other instrument used as a dangerous or deadly weapon as defined in law and Board policy;
8. Consume, sell, give or deliver unlawful drugs including drug paraphernalia and alcoholic beverages;
9. Smoke or use tobacco products in other than a designated smoking area;
10. *[Wear, possess, use, distribute, display or sell any clothing, jewelry, emblem, badge, symbol, sign or other things which are evidence of membership or affiliation in any gang. Use speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interests of any gang or gang activity. A "gang" is defined as a group that identifies itself through the use of a name, unique appearance or language including hand signs, claiming of geographical territory or the espousing of a distinctive belief system that frequently results in criminal activity;]*
11. Willfully violate other district rules and regulations designed to maintain public order on school property.

Spectators are permitted to attend extracurricular activities only as guests of the school district, and, accordingly as a condition of such permission, they must comply with the school district's rules and policies. Spectators will not be allowed to interfere with the enjoyment of the students participating, other spectators or with the performance of employees and officials supervising the extracurricular activity. Spectators, like the student participants, are expected to display mature behavior and sportsmanship. The failure of spectators to do so is not only disruptive but embarrassing to the students, the school district and the entire community.

To protect the rights of students to participate without fear of interference, and to permit the sponsors and officials of extracurricular activities to perform their duties without interference, the following provisions are in effect:

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

- Abusive, verbal or physical conduct of spectators directed at participants, officials or sponsors of extracurricular activities or at other spectators will not be tolerated.
- Verbal or physical conduct of spectators that interferes with the performance of students, officials or sponsors of extracurricular activities will not be tolerated.
- The use of vulgar or obscene language directed at students, officials or sponsors participating in an extracurricular activity or at other spectators will not be tolerated.

If a spectator at an extracurricular activity becomes physically or verbally abusive, uses vulgar or obscene language, or in any way impedes the performance of an activity, the spectator may be removed from the event by the individual in charge of the event and the superintendent may recommend the exclusion of the spectator at future extracurricular activities.

Upon recommendation of the superintendent, the board shall cause a notice of exclusion from extracurricular activities to be sent to the spectator involved. The notice shall advise the spectator of the school district's right to exclude the individual from school district activities and events and the duration of the exclusion. If the spectator disobeys the school district's order, law enforcement authorities will be contacted and asked to remove the spectator. If a spectator has been notified of exclusion and thereafter attends an extracurricular activity, the spectator shall be advised that his/her attendance will result in prosecution.

Persons having no legitimate purpose or business on district property or violating or threatening to violate the above rules may be ejected from the premises and/or referred to law enforcement officials.

Cross Reference: 506 Student Activities
 903.08 Vandalism
 1006 Use of District Facilities and Equipment

1005.9 SKATEBOARDING AND ROLLERBLADING

In the interest of maintaining a safe injury-free environment and preventing damage to school equipment, skateboarding and rollerblading are prohibited on the sidewalks, driveways and playgrounds of the school at all times.

Cross Reference: 905 Safety Program

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1005.10 DISTRIBUTION OR POSTING OF MATERIALS

The board recognizes that students, employees, parents or citizens may want to distribute materials within the school district that are noncurricular. Noncurricular materials to be distributed must be approved by the building principal and meet certain standards prior to their distribution.

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

Materials shall be reviewed based on legitimate educational concerns. Such concerns include: the material is or may be defamatory; the material is inappropriate based on the age, grade level and/or maturity of the reading audience; the material is poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced; the material contains information that is not factual; the material is not free of racial, ethnic, religious or sexual bias; or the material contains advertising that violates public school laws, rules and/or policy, is deemed inappropriate for students or that the public might reasonably perceive to bear the sanction or approval of the district.

The superintendent or designee shall determine distribution procedures for noncurricular materials. Such procedures may include:

12. Distribution to each student before or after class if materials are not directly related to the instructional goals;
13. Notification to students or parents of the availability of the materials in a specified location if this procedure is deemed less disruptive to the educational process; or
14. Solicitation of school-related groups such as parent organizations to distribute materials.

The practice of distributing pamphlets, booklets, flyers, brochures and other similar materials shall be periodically reviewed to ensure that the mere volume of requests has not become an interruption to the educational process.

Approved February 9, 2004 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

The facilities, the staff or the students of the district shall not be used in any manner to advertise or promote commercial, cultural, organizational or other nonschool interests except that the district may:

1. Utilize films and other instructional aids furnished by private sources when the advertising content is reasonable in the judgment of the building principal;
2. Cooperate through announcements and distribution of program material with nonprofit community organizations that supplement the school program when such cooperation will not interfere with the school program;
3. Permit participation on a student option basis in essay, art, science and similar contests sponsored by outside interests when such activities parallel the curriculum and contribute to the educational program;
4. Release promotional material for nonschool athletic and cultural events only through appropriate school departments;
5. Accept ,but not actively solicit, limited advertising on extracurricular activity schedules and programs at the discretion of the principal of the school involved;
6. Permit other exceptions when, in the judgment of the superintendent, students of the district will benefit. The superintendent may, at his/her option, refer specific cases to the board for decision.

Signs and Banners: Signs and banners will be allowed in or upon buildings and other district facilities only with the prior written approval of the building principal with consideration for the health, safety and welfare of staff and students.

The following guidelines shall be applied in considering requests to display signs or banners:

1. Signs and banners on sticks require special authorization;
2. Signs and banners fastened to any structure of a building or structures immediately adjacent to an open space shall not be allowed without specific prior written permission;
3. Signs and banner presenting recognizable health or safety hazards are prohibited;
4. Signs and banners presenting false information shall be prohibited.

Advertising displayed under contract for monetary or in-kind contributions, i.e., scoreboards, computers, and other equipment or materials with a value of more than \$1,000 must have board approval.]

Cross References: 504.03 Student Conduct
 504.08 Freedom of Expression
 506 Student Activities
 604.10 Academic Freedom

1006.1 COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT BUILDINGS, SITES AND EQUIPMENT

School District facilities, sites and equipment will be made available to local nonprofit entities without charge. "Entities" shall include organizations, groups and individuals and their agents. Such use will be permitted only when the use does not interfere with or disrupt the education program or a school-related activity, the use is consistent with state law, and will end no later than midnight. It is within the discretion of the board to selectively allow for-profit entities to use school district facilities, sites and equipment on a fee basis. It shall be within the discretion of the superintendent to allow use of school district facilities, sites and equipment on Sundays or holidays.

Those who wish to use school district facilities, sites or equipment must apply at the superintendent's office. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to determine whether the school district facility or equipment requested is available and whether the application for use meets board policy and administrative regulations. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to provide application forms, obtain proof of insurance, and draw up the contract (when required) for use of school district facilities, sites and equipment.

A school district employee shall supervise use of school district facilities, sites and equipment by entities unless special prior arrangements are made with the superintendent. The school district employee shall not accept a fee from the entity using school district facilities and equipment. If appropriate, the school district employee will be paid by the school district.

Entities that use school district buildings or sites must leave the building or site in the same condition it was in prior to its use. Entities that use school district equipment must return the equipment in the same working condition it was in prior to its use. Inappropriate use of school district facilities, sites or equipment may result in additional fees charged to, or the inability of, the entity to use school district facilities, sites or equipment in the future.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

Legal Reference: Good News Club v. Milford

Cross Reference: 705.02 Usage Fees, Admissions and Royalties
904.02 Lease, Sale or Disposal of School District Buildings and Sites
1001 Principles and Objectives for Community Relations

**1006.1R1 Pierce Public Schools
Community Use of District Buildings, Sites, and Equipment**

Rental Fees

Rental fees when applicable are as follows: Auditorium/Elementary School Gym/High School Commons-\$100.00/day or \$15/hour; Library/Media Center-\$50/day or \$7.50/hour.

Granting of Approval

Requests for public use of school facilities must be made by a representative of the organization requesting the use. The applicant must be at least 21 years of age.

The Activity Director or Superintendent is authorized to approve and arrange for scheduling the use of school facilities by qualified applicants.

Payment for facility use according to the schedule of fees is expected within thirty (30) days of billing. Out of town users are expected to pay the rental fees in advance of their use. Refunds of advanced monies paid by renters in the event of cancellation will be made only if the cause of the cancellation was beyond the control of the rentor as determined by the school district superintendent. Any costs incurred by the district resulting from their performance under the lease may be deducted from the refund.

Use of the school property may be under the direction of a school custodian. Custodians in charge shall serve only as custodians and do ordinary cleaning only. Custodial employees who are required to work in a district facility during the time it is rented are paid double their base rate of pay for the time worked during the rental use. This cost will be added to the user's bill.

The school district reserves the right to assign all concession rights for all facilities.

Each group is held responsible for any damage or disorder that may occur and the custodian shall report such damage or disorder to the Principal the next day. The Superintendent will bill actual repair or replacement cost to the rentor or user.

The use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco products in school buildings is prohibited.

Smoking is not permitted in any school building other than in the area designated as smoking area.

Unless special arrangements have been made in advance, no outside activity may enter or interrupt the regular daily program of the school.

The sponsoring organization is held responsible for any damage to the school and is expected to guard the property during its use.

No organization may use the public address system without making specific arrangements with the school officials.

The sponsoring organization is responsible for the proper policing of the parking area during its activity.

Every organization using the school facilities must sign a written agreement including the items herein stated before the facilities of the school may be used.

Each applicant must agree to assume responsibility of any legal liability for injury or damage to the person or property of the applicant or others, and for any uninsured injury or damage to school personnel or property in connection with use of school facilities. They must agree to leave the Board of Education harmless in the event of any injury or damage, and must reimburse the school district for any damage.

It is understood that priority in obtaining specific dates, times, and sites for school use is this order: School activities, parent support groups, youth organizations, city activities, and other non-profit organizations.

Requirements of Users

In the interest of impartially treating each user of the schools, each shall be required to provide similar assurances of conduct. Among these assurances are:

To provide adequate and appropriate supervision by one or more adults and to remain until all participants have left and the building is secured.

To agree to save and hold harmless, protect and indemnify the district from and against any loss, damages, claims, suites, or actions at law, judgments and costs arising from their use.

To control the admission of persons by the group's supervisor to those having an actual interest or part in the activity.

To agree to protect the physical assets and not to materially alter or harm them nor to put them into use or operation any fixed equipment.

To surrender peacefully the facilities in a clean and undamaged state at the time and on the date given by the Superintendent and to pay for any and all damages ensuing during the time of their use.

To enter into a lease of school facilities agreement when requested by the Superintendent.

To comply with all laws of the State of Nebraska, ordinances of the City of Pierce, and policies and rules of the school district.

To expect or require no supervision nor supervisory assistance from the school district during their use of school facilities.

**PIERCE PUBLIC SCHOOLS
LEASE AGREEMENT FOR OUTSIDE PARTIES USING SCHOOL FACILITIES**

Organization: _____

—

Sponsor: _____

Address: _____

Telephone
Number: _____

School Facility
Leased: _____

Purpose: _____

Date(s) of
Lease: _____

Hours: _____

Special
Considerations: _____

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

Rental Fees: _____

Key(s)
Issued: _____

Liability for Damage

Any group or organization using school property shall leave the Pierce Public School District Board of Education, the individuals thereof, any school officials or employees, free and without harm, from any loss, damage liability, or expense that may arise during, or be caused in any way by such use of occupancy of school property. In the event property loss is incurred as a result of the use of the facility by any outside group, the amount of damages shall be determined by the Superintendent, in consultation with the building principal(s).

Signature _____

1006.2 SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT

School district facilities, including school vehicles, shall be off limits for smoking. This requirement extends to employees and visitors. This policy applies at all times, including school-sponsored and nonschool-sponsored events. Persons failing to abide by this request shall be required to extinguish their smoking material or leave the school district premises immediately. It shall be the responsibility of the administration to enforce this policy.

Legal Reference: Goals 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. No. 103-227, 108 Stat. 125 (1994).

Cross Reference: 1006.01 Community Use of School District Buildings, Sites and Equipment

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

1007 EDUCATION AGENCY RELATIONS

The Board desires that staff and students of this district benefit in every feasible way from resources provided by the colleges and universities of our area. The superintendent is to keep the board informed of opportunities for shared and cooperative services between the district and institutions of higher learning. Additionally, staff members are encouraged to seek out and use the services of college and university faculty members who are willing to serve our schools as instructional resource persons.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____