

POLICY MANUAL

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601 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This series of the board policy manual is devoted to the goals and objectives for the delivery of the education program as described by the mission statement of the district. The board's objective in the design, contents and the delivery of the education program is to provide an equal opportunity for students to pursue an education free of discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, marital status, religion or disability.

In providing the education program of the school district, the board shall strive to meet its overall goal of providing the students an opportunity to develop a healthy social, intellectual, emotional, and physical self-concept in a learning environment that provides guidance and encourages critical thinking in students.

In striving to meet this overall goal, the objectives of the education program are to provide students with an opportunity to:

- Acquire basic skills in obtaining information, solving problems, thinking critically and communicating effectively;
- Become effective and responsible contributors to the decision-making processes of the social and political institutions of the community, state and nation;
- Acquire entry-level job skills and knowledge necessary for further education;
- Acquire the capacities for a satisfying and responsible role as family members;
- Acquire knowledge, habits and attitudes that promote personal and public health, both physical and mental;
- Acquire an understanding of ethical principles and values and the ability to apply them to their own lives;
- Develop an understanding of their own worth, abilities, potential and limitations; and,
- Learn and enjoy the process of learning and acquire the skills necessary for a lifetime of continuous learning and adaptation to change.

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

602.1 SCHOOL CALENDAR

The school calendar shall accommodate the education program of the school district. The school calendar shall accommodate instruction for a minimum of 1,080 hours for students in grades nine through twelve, 1,032 hours for students in grades one through eight, and 1,032 hours for students in kindergarten. The school calendar shall include, but need not be limited to, days for student instruction, staff development, in-service days and teacher conferences.

The academic school year for students is considered to include a minimum of one-hundred and seventy-five days in the school calendar.

Special education students may attend school on a school calendar different from that of the regular education program consistent with their Individualized Education Program.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop the school calendar for recommendation, approval, and adoption by the board annually.

The board may amend the official school calendar when the board considers the change to be in the best interests of the school district's education program.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-211
 NDE Rule 10.004.01A2

Cross Reference: 503 Student Attendance
 604.03 Special Education

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

602.2 SCHOOL DAY

The normal student school day for grades one through twelve shall consist of a minimum of 6.5 hours, not including the lunch period. The school day consists of the schedule of class instruction and class activities as established and sponsored by the school district. Time during which school is dismissed for tournaments or contests, parent/teacher conferences, funerals, parades and school picnics may be counted as part of the student's instructional time. The minimum school day shall meet the requirements as established for the operation of accredited schools.

The kindergarten school day shall consist of a minimum of 6 hours.

The district may occasionally schedule a school day for less than the standard minimum number of hours due to the scheduling of staff development opportunities, parent-teacher conferences or special events occupying a portion of the day. Schedule revisions and changes in time allotments will be made by the superintendent.

When the school is forced to close due to weather or other emergencies, that part of the day during which school was in session will constitute a school day.

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

602.3 CLOSED CAMPUS

The campuses of the district are closed and students after arrival for morning classes will not, without permission of the principal, leave the campus for any purpose until they have completed their school requirements for the day.

Cross Reference: 503 Student Attendance
 504.01 Student Due Process Rights
 505 Student Discipline

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

603.1 CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Curriculum development shall be an ongoing process in the school district. Each curriculum area shall be reviewed and revised when necessary according to the timelines set out by the superintendent. These timelines will provide for periodic review of each curriculum area.

The superintendent shall be responsible for curriculum development and for determining the most effective way of conducting research of the school district's curriculum needs and a long-range curriculum development program. In making recommendations to the board, the superintendent shall propose a curriculum that will:

- fulfill the philosophy of the school district;
- reflect the educational and operational needs assessment of the school district;
- articulate courses of study from kindergarten through grade twelve;
- identify minimum objectives for each course and, at the elementary level, for each grade;
- provide for the evaluation of the procedures and methods for attaining the objectives;
- provide for objective monitoring of a student's progress;
- provide for the needs of vocational and college bound students;
- include, if feasible, the course offerings requested by the students;
- meet the requirements of the Nebraska Department of Education.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to keep the board apprised of necessary curriculum changes and revisions and to develop administrative regulations for curriculum development and recommendations to the board.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996).

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
104 Educational and Operational Planning
604 Instructional Curriculum
606 Instructional Materials

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

603.2 CURRICULUM ADOPTION

Curriculum of the school district must be recommended by the superintendent and approved by the board.

The board may authorize the use of curriculum guides when it adopts the curriculum. Such guides will be used when, in the opinion of the superintendent, they will be of assistance to the instructional program and will provide a consistent approach in the instructional program.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).
 34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996).

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

603.3 CURRICULUM GUIDES AND COURSE OUTLINES

Curriculum guides and course outlines will be written for all courses offered in the district. L.E.A.R.N.S. (Leading Educational Achievement through Rigorous Nebraska Standards) as adopted by the State Board of Education will be included. Teachers are expected to adhere closely to the course of study adopted by the district. Information regarding course offerings will be made available to all students and interested district patrons, upon request.

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

603.4 CURRICULUM EVALUATION

When deemed necessary by the superintendent, and whenever a new program is proposed, the board will review the curriculum to determine its strengths and weaknesses. The board may authorize the superintendent to appoint an ad hoc advisory committee to review the curriculum.

The board shall review the students' performance on standardized tests, courses, and other indicators of student achievement deemed relevant by the board as a guideline for the effectiveness of the curriculum. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to provide the board with the test scores and grades along with the superintendent's comments about the school district's curriculum.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996).

Cross Reference: 101 Educational Philosophy of the District
104 Educational and Operational Planning
611 Academic Achievement
604 Instructional Curriculum

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

603.5 PILOT, EXPERIMENTAL OR INNOVATIVE PROJECTS

The board welcomes new ideas in curriculum. Proposals for pilot or experimental projects shall first be reviewed and analyzed by the superintendent. Projects recommended by the superintendent will be considered by the board. Pilot and experimental projects approved by the board, the Nebraska Department of Education, or the U. S. Department of Education may be utilized in the education program.

Students, who may be or are asked to participate in a research or experimental project or program, must have their parents' written consent on file prior to participating in the project or program. A research or experimental program or project requiring parents' prior written consent is a program or project designed to explore or develop new or unproven teaching methods or techniques. These programs or projects shall be designated as research or experimental projects or programs. The educational materials of a program or project designated as a research or experimental program or project may be inspected and reviewed by the parents of the students participating or being considered for participation in the program or project. The inspection and review by the parents shall be in accordance with board policy 606.02, "Instructional Materials Inspection."

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

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996)..

Cross Reference: 604 Instructional Curriculum

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.1 BASIC INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

The basic instructional program shall include the courses required for each grade level by the Nebraska Department of Education.

The basic weekly instructional program of students enrolled in the elementary grades shall include reading and language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health, physical education, art, and music. Writing skills shall be incorporated in all curricular areas. The district shall consider elementary grades to be all grades up to sixth.

The basic yearly instructional program of students enrolled in the junior high grades shall include reading, language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health, art, music, and physical education. Writing skills shall be incorporated in all curricular areas. Exploratory experiences shall be offered in vocational education, foreign language, and technology education. The district shall consider junior high grades to be grades seven and eight.

The basic instructional program of students enrolled in the high school grades shall consist of a minimum of 400 instructional units including language arts (60 units), social science (40 units), mathematics (40 units), science (40 units), foreign language (20 units), vocational education (80 units), personal health and physical fitness (20 units), and visual and performing arts (40 units). Writing skills shall be incorporated in all curricular areas. The instructional program shall include computer education. The district shall consider high school grades to be all grades of ninth and above.

Each instructional program shall be carefully planned for optimal benefit taking into consideration the financial condition of the school district and other factors deemed relevant by the board or superintendent. Each instructional program's plan should describe the program, its goals, the effective materials, the activities and the method for student evaluation.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations stating the required courses and optional courses for the elementary, middle and high school grade programs.

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.005 - 10.007
20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994)
34 C.F.R. Pt. 98 (1996)

Cross Reference:	102	Educational Philosophy of the District
	103	Equal Educational Opportunity
	104	Educational and Operational Planning
	603	Curriculum Development
	611	Academic Achievement

604.2 SUMMER SCHOOL INSTRUCTION

Generally, elementary and junior high core classes will be offered during summer school. The board, in its discretion, may offer high school summer school for one or more courses and student activities for students who need additional help and instruction or for enrichment in those areas. This decision shall be within the discretion of the board.

Upon receiving a request for summer school, the board shall weigh the benefit to the students and the school district as well as the school district's budget and availability of certificated employees to conduct summer school.

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

Cross Reference: 411.02 Summer School Certificated Employees
 604 Instructional Curriculum
 801.07 Summer School Program Transportation Service

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed November 8, 2004 Revised January 10, 2005

604.3 SPECIAL EDUCATION

The board recognizes some students have different educational needs than other students. The board shall provide an appropriate education program and related services to students identified in need of special education. The special education services will be provided from birth until the appropriate education is completed, age twenty-one or to maximum age allowable in accordance with the law. Students requiring special education shall attend regular education classes, participate in extracurricular activities and receive services in a regular education setting to the maximum extent possible. The appropriate education for each student shall be written in the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Special education students shall be required to meet the requirements stated in board policy or in their IEPs for graduation. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to provide or make provisions for appropriate special education and related services.

Children from birth through age 5 meeting the identification and verification procedures shall be provided special education services within the public education system. The school district shall work in conjunction with the appropriate education agencies to provide services, at the earliest appropriate time, to children with disabilities. This shall be done to ensure a smooth transition of children entitled to early childhood special education services.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. §§1400 et seq. (1994).
34 C.F.R. Pt. 300 et seq. (1996).
Neb. Statute 79-1110 et seq.

Cross Reference: 505 Student Discipline
507 Student Records
508.02 Administration of Medication to Students
508.08 Student Special Health Services
602.01 School Calendar
604 Instructional Curriculum
611.07 Graduation Requirements

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.4 MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

Students shall have an equal opportunity for a quality education without discrimination, regardless of their race, religion, color, sex, marital status, national origin or disability.

The education program shall be free of discrimination and provide equal opportunity for the students. The education program shall foster knowledge of and respect and appreciation for the culture, history and contributions of diverse cultural groups including, but not limited to, African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, and Asian Americans. It shall place special emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races.

The board shall adopt a written plan for the implementation of multicultural education and shall evaluate this plan at least every five years. During the evaluation process, the board shall involve parents, students, employees and a diverse representation of the community members in assessing the effectiveness and appropriateness of the program. The plan shall establish district goals for the multicultural program and will include staff development to assist the district in pursuing these goals. The plan shall include a process for selecting appropriate materials and shall incorporate multicultural education into all subject areas of the core curriculum of grades kindergarten through twelve.

The superintendent will annually report the status of the multicultural education program to the board.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-719 et seq.
 NDE Rule 10.004.01A3
 NDE Rule 16

Cross Reference: 103 Equal Educational Opportunity
 600 Goals and Objectives of the Education Program

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.5 HEALTH EDUCATION

Students in grade levels one through twelve shall receive, as part of their health education, instruction about personal health; food and nutrition; environmental health; safety and survival skills; consumer health; family life; human growth and development; substance abuse and non-use, including the effects of alcohol, tobacco, drugs and poisons on the human body; human sexuality; self-esteem; stress management; interpersonal relationships; emotional and social health; health resources; prevention and control of disease; and communicable diseases, including acquired immune deficiency syndrome. The purpose of the health education program is to help each student protect, improve and maintain physical, emotional and social well-being.

The areas stated above shall be included in health education and the instruction shall be adapted at each grade level to aid understanding by the students.

The Pierce Public Schools believes that the primary responsibility for educating students on human reproduction and sexuality belongs to the parents. The values and traditions of the family should dictate how and when children receive this information. Our function as an educational institution is to provide factual information on the components of human growth and development. In these presentations we will advocate abstinence outside of marriage is the only truly “safe sex”.

Parents who object to health education instruction in human growth and development may file a written request that the student be excused from the instruction. The written request shall include a proposed alternate activity or study acceptable to the superintendent. The superintendent shall have the final authority to determine the alternate activity or study.

Cross Reference: 504 Student Rights and Responsibilities
 508 Student Health and Well-Being
 608 Instructional Services

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.6 PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students in grades one through eight shall be required to participate in physical education courses unless they are excused by the principal of their attendance center.

Students in grades nine through twelve are required to participate in one year or 10 instructional units of physical education. Participation in health education courses may apply toward this requirement.

Students may be excused from physical education courses if the student presents a written statement from a doctor stating that such activities could be injurious to the health of the student or the student has been exempted because of a conflict with the student's religious beliefs.

Students who will not participate in physical education must have a written request or statement from their parents.

Cross Reference: 506 Student Activities

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.7 CAREER EDUCATION

Preparing students for careers is one goal of the education program. Career education will be written into the education program for grades kindergarten through twelve. This education shall include, but not be limited to, awareness of self in relation to others and the needs of society, exploration of employment opportunities, experiences in personal decision-making, and experiences of integrating work values and work skills into their lives.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to assist certificated employees in finding ways to provide career education in the education program. Special attention should be given to offering courses of vocational education. The board, in its review of the curriculum, shall review the means in which career education is combined with other instructional programs.

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.8 DRIVER EDUCATION

If a traffic safety education program is provided by the district, the program will be made available to all eligible resident students. The district will charge a tuition rate as established by the board. The program will be held during the summer and no credit will be awarded.

Eligible nonresident students may enroll in the district's traffic safety education program if resources are available. Nonresident students may be charged tuition at a higher rate than resident students.

The district will develop procedures for establishing tuition rates and enrolling nonresident students.

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.9 TEACHING ABOUT RELIGION

The school district is required to keep the practice of religion out of the school curriculum. The board recognizes the key role religion has played in the history of the world and authorizes the study of religious history and traditions as part of the curriculum. Preferential or derogatory treatment of a single religion shall not take place.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure the study of religion in the schools in keeping with the following guidelines:

- the proposed activity must have a secular purpose;
- the primary objective of the activity must not be one that advances or inhibits religion; and
- the activity must not foster excessive governmental entanglement with religion.

Cross Reference: 605.5 Religious-Based Exclusion from a School Program
 607.02 School Ceremonies and Observances

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.10 ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The board believes students should have an opportunity to reach their own decisions and beliefs about conflicting points of view. Academic freedom is the opportunity of licensed employees and students to study, investigate, present, interpret, and discuss facts and ideas relevant to the subject matter of the classroom and appropriate to and in good taste with the maturity and intellectual and emotional capacities of the students.

It shall be the responsibility of the teacher to refrain from advocating partisan causes, sectarian religious views, or biased positions in the classroom or through teaching methods. Teachers are not discouraged from expressing personal opinions as long as students are aware it is a personal opinion and students are allowed to reach their own conclusions independently.

It shall be the responsibility of the principal to ensure academic freedom is allowed but not abused in the classroom.

Cross Reference: 504 Student Rights and Responsibilities
 1005.10 Distribution or Posting of Materials

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.11 CITIZENSHIP

Being a citizen of the United States, of Nebraska and of the school district community entitles students to special privileges and protections as well as requiring the students to assume civic, economic and social responsibilities and to participate in their country, state and school district community in a manner that entitles them to keep these rights and privileges.

As part of the education program, students shall have an opportunity to learn about their rights, privileges, and responsibilities as citizens of this country, state and school district community. As part of this learning opportunity students shall be instructed in the elements of good citizenship and the role quality citizens play in their country, state and school district community.

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 504 Student Rights and Responsibilities
 505 Student Discipline

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

604.12 GLOBAL EDUCATION

Because of our growing interdependence with other nations in the world, global education shall be incorporated into the education program for grades kindergarten through twelve so that students have the opportunity to acquire a perspective on world issues, problems, and prospects for an awareness of the relationship between an individual's self-interest and the concerns of people elsewhere in the world.

Cross Reference: 603 Curriculum Development
 604 Instructional Curriculum

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

605.1 INSTRUCTION AT A POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION

Eligibility

Any 11th or 12th grade student who is under the age of 21 shall be eligible to apply to an institution of higher education for enrollment through the post-secondary options program if he or she:

1. is deemed by the student and parent/guardian on the advice of the principal to be in need of course work at a higher academic level than that available at school
2. is deemed by school personnel to show a high degree of maturity and responsibility, especially with regard to potential for completing post-secondary courses
3. is deemed by school personnel to be in need of a different environment
4. has given two months' written notice to the school district specifying the courses in which the student intends to enroll

Academic Credit

Academic credit granted for course work successfully completed by a student under this program shall count as high school credit toward graduation requirements unless credit is denied by the principal and the denial, if appealed, is upheld by the superintendent and the board on the basis that such credit is inappropriate. An appeal procedure is provided in the event a student is denied high school credit. A student participating in this program shall still be considered as enrolled in the district and eligible for all high school activities. The college instructor must have a valid Nebraska Teaching Certificate before high school credits can be given to the student.

The program is not available for summer school.

Payment of Tuition by Student

The student or parent/guardian shall be responsible for paying the tuition associated with post-secondary courses taken by the student. The district shall not reimburse the student or parent/guardian for tuition for such courses.

Transportation Costs

The school district shall not provide or pay for transportation to the institution of higher education.

605.2 INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

The board's primary responsibility in the management of the school district is the operation and delivery of the regular education program. Generally, students attending the school district shall receive the regular education program offered by the district. Only in exceptional circumstances will the board approve students receiving individualized instruction at the expense of the school district.

Recommendations from the superintendent for individualized instruction shall state the need for the instruction, the objectives and goals sought for the instruction, the employee requirements for the instruction, the implementation procedures for the instruction and the evaluation procedures and processes that will be used to assess the value of the instruction.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations for individualized instruction.

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

605.3 PROGRAM FOR TALENTED AND GIFTED STUDENTS

The district is committed to an educational program that recognizes, identifies and serves the unique needs of talented and gifted students. Talented and gifted students are those who have been identified as having high performance capability in such areas as intellectual, creative, or artistic capacity or in specific fields and who require accelerated or differentiated curriculum programs in order to develop those capabilities fully.

The board directs the superintendent to develop a written identification process for identifying talented and gifted students in grades K-12. The identification process shall include an appeals process for parents/guardians who wish to request reconsideration.

A written plan that identifies programs or services to be provided to address the assessed needs of identified students shall be similarly developed. The plan shall include:

- the district's philosophy on educational service to learners with high ability;
- the district's operational definition of a high ability learner;
- goals and objectives of the program;
- a description of the programming services, options and strategies to be provided under this plan;
- yearly evaluation procedures to allow for input from parents, educators, students, and community members;
- staff development training and support provided within the plan; and
- an outline of program management.

Specific programs and services to be offered as components of the talented and gifted education plan may include, but are not limited to:

- Early Entrance
- Grade Skipping
- Ungraded/Multi-age Classes
- Cluster Grouping in Regular Classes
- Continuous Progress
- Cross Grade Grouping
- Compacted/Fast-Paced Curriculum
- Special Full or Part-time Classes
- Advanced Placement Classes

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed November 14, 2005 Revised December 12, 2005

605.4 PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK STUDENTS

The board recognizes some students require additional assistance in order to graduate from the regular education program. The board shall provide a plan to encourage and provide an opportunity for at-risk students to achieve their potential and obtain their high school diploma.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop a plan for students at-risk which provides for identifying students, for program evaluation, and for the training of employees.

Cross Reference: 608.01 Student Guidance and Counseling Program
 611 Academic Achievement

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

605.5 RELIGIOUS-BASED EXCLUSION FROM A SCHOOL PROGRAM

Parents who wish to have their child excluded from a school program because of religious beliefs must inform the superintendent. The board authorizes the administration to allow the exclusion if it is not disruptive to the education program and it does not infringe on a compelling state or educational interest. Further, the exclusion must not interfere with other school district operations.

In notifying the superintendent, the parents shall abide by the following:

1. The notice shall be in writing;
2. The objection shall be based on religious beliefs;
3. The objection shall state which activities or studies violate their religious beliefs;
4. The objection shall state why these activities or studies violate their religious beliefs;
and
5. The objection shall state a proposed alternate activity or study.

The superintendent shall have discretion to make this determination. The factors the superintendent shall consider when a student requests to be excluded from a program or activity because of religious beliefs include, but are not limited to, staff available to supervise a student who wishes to be excluded, space to house the student while the student is excluded, available superintendent-approved alternative course of study or activity while the student is excluded, number of students who wish to be excluded, whether allowing the exclusion places the school in a position of supporting a particular religion, and whether the program or activity is required for promotion to the next grade level or for graduation.

Students who are allowed to be excluded from a program or activity which violates their religious beliefs shall be required to do an alternate supervised activity or study.

Cross Reference: 604 Instructional Curriculum
 607.02 School Ceremonies and Observances

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

605.6 ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

The School Board recognizes the need to provide equal educational opportunities for all students in the district. Therefore, if the inability to speak and understand the English language due to national origin or non-English speaking environments excludes a student from effective participation in the educational programs offered by the district, the district shall take appropriate action to rectify the English language deficiency in order to provide the student equal access to its programs. The board directs the administration to develop and implement procedures which:

- Appropriately identify and evaluate students with limited English proficiency (LEP). Limited English proficient students are those whose native/home language is a language other than English and whose English language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are not developed to a level at which they can achieve challenging performance standards in a regular classroom.
- Determine the appropriate instructional environment for LEP students.
- Monitor progress of students receiving English as a Second Language (ESL) or bilingual instruction in order to determine their readiness for the mainstream classroom environment.
- Establish professional standards for staff members who teach bilingual or English as a Second Language programs and provide development opportunities for staff members when needed.

Where feasible, the district may provide support for the student's use of the native language while developing English language skills.

Legal Reference: Title VI, Civil Rights Act of 1964.
20 U.S.C. §§ 1701 et seq.

Cross Reference: 103 Equal Educational Opportunity
601 Goals and Objectives

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

605.7 DUAL ENROLLMENT

The parent, guardian, or custodian of a resident student receiving instruction at a private, denominational or parochial school, or a school choosing not to meet accreditation or approval requirements may also enroll the student in the school district. The student shall be considered under dual enrollment. The parent, guardian, or custodian requesting dual enrollment for the student should notify the superintendent on a form provided by the school district. On the form, they shall indicate the academic courses and extracurricular activities in which the student is interested in participating.

A dual enrollment student is eligible to participate in the school district's academic and extracurricular activities in the same manner as other students enrolled in the school district to the extent allowed within NSAA regulations. The policies and administrative rules of the school district shall apply to the dual enrollment students in the same manner as the other students enrolled the school district. These policies and administrative rules shall include, but not be limited to, athletic eligibility requirements, rules governing student conduct, academic eligibility requirements, and payment of the fees required for participation.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding deadlines, specific courses or activities approved, restrictions of classroom space, maximum or minimum course number limitations and other procedures for this policy.

Cross Reference:	502	Student Admissions
	504	Student Rights and Responsibilities
	505	Student Discipline
	506	Student Activities
	508	Student Health and Well-Being
	611	Academic Achievement

Approved September 11, 2006 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

606.1 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS SELECTION

The board has sole discretion to approve instructional materials for the school district. This authority is delegated to certificated employees to determine which instructional materials, other than textbooks, will be utilized by and purchased by the school district.

In reviewing current instructional materials for continued use and in selecting additional instructional materials, certificated employees shall consider the current and future needs of the school district as well as the changes and the trends in education and society. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to report to the board the action taken by certificated employees.

In making its recommendations to the superintendent, the certificated employees will select materials which:

- support the educational philosophy, goals and objectives of the school district;
- consider the needs, age, and maturity of students;
- are within the school district's budget;
- foster respect and appreciation for cultural diversity and difference of opinion;
- stimulate growth in factual knowledge and literary appreciation;
- encourage students to become decision-makers, to exercise freedom of thought and to make independent judgment through the examination and evaluation of relevant information, evidence and differing viewpoints;
- portray the variety of careers, roles, and lifestyles open to persons of both sexes; and,
- increase an awareness of the rights, duties, and responsibilities of each member of a multicultural society.

In the case of textbooks, the board shall make the final decision after receiving a recommendation from the superintendent. The criteria stated above for selection of other instructional materials shall apply to the selection of textbooks. The superintendent may develop another means for the selection of textbooks. Textbooks shall be reviewed as needed and at least every seven years.

Education materials given to the school district must meet the criteria established above. The gift must be received in compliance with board policy.

Cross Reference: 203.07 Advisory Board Committees
 603 Curriculum Development
 611 Academic Achievement

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

606.2 INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS INSPECTION

Parents and other members of the school district community may view the instructional materials used by the students. All instructional materials, including teacher's manuals, films, tapes or other supplementary material which will be used in connection with any survey, analysis, or evaluation as part of any federally funded programs must be available for inspection by parents.

The instructional materials must be viewed on school district premises. Copies may be obtained according to board policy.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding the inspection of instructional materials.

Cross Reference: 603 Curriculum Development
 1003 Public Examination of District Records

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

606.3 OBJECTION TO INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Members of the school district community may object to the instructional materials utilized in the school district and ask for their use to be reconsidered.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent, in conjunction with the principals, to develop administrative regulations for reconsideration of instructional materials.

Cross Reference: 202.12 Public Participation in Board Meetings
 403.05 Public Complaints About Employees
 603 Curriculum Development

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

606.3R1 Objection to Instructional Materials

Responding to Complaints or Objections

Any resident of the district wishing to lodge a complaint about the use of sensitive or controversial subject matter or methods of teaching should direct such concerns to the principal of the school. Complaints from anyone other than a district resident will be neither recognized or accepted.

The procedures outlined below should be followed in responding to such a complaint:

- The principal will inform the teacher(s) involved of the nature of the complaint, will meet with and discuss the issue with the complainant and explain the review procedure. This initial meeting will be limited to the principal and the complainant.
- If the issue is not resolved with the initial discussion, the complainant will be requested to state the objection in writing, citing specific teaching methods and/or subject matter to which he/she objects. The written objection will be submitted to the building principal for his/her formal review.
- The building principal will meet with the teacher(s) involved to review the teaching approach and/or subject matter as to purpose, appropriateness and content. The findings and recommendations of the principal will be submitted, in writing, to the superintendent or his/her designee. Additionally, the principal will inform the complainant and the teacher(s) involved of the decision.
- If the complainant and teacher(s) involved are satisfied with the decision of the building principal, the process is complete. If the complainant or teacher(s) involved are not satisfied with the decision, the process continues.
- After receiving a formal written indication of dissatisfaction from the complainant or teacher(s) involved, the principal will direct the appeal to the Superintendent for consideration by a district review committee. This committee will be chaired by the Superintendent and will consist of:

one classroom teacher from the appropriate grade level/subject area;
one building administrator other than the building principal from the appropriate level;

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed December 12, 2005 Revised January 9, 2006

one member from the Board of Education (in a non-voting advisory capacity only);
one representative selected by the complainant;
one director and/or supervisor from the appropriate curriculum area;
one representative selected by the teacher(s); and
one 7-12 grade student (for any complaint involving grades 7-12).

- The District Review Committee will review the issue within thirty (30) school days. The committee will meet with both the complainant and the teacher(s) involved to review the teaching methods and/or subject matter for purpose, appropriateness and content. The committee should utilize the findings of the building principal, but is not bound by them and may conduct their own independent inquiry.
- Upon completion of the review, the Superintendent will present the written findings and recommendations for action by the Board of Education. This information will also be provided to both the complainant and teacher(s) involved.
- The complainant and teacher(s) involved will be notified by the Superintendent or his/her designee as to the specific date and time that the Board of Education will consider the findings and recommendations of the District Review Committee.
- The superintendent will inform, in writing, the complainant and teacher(s) involved of the final decision of the Board of Education.

Objection to Instructional Materials – Policy 606.03

To: Building Principal and/or Superintendent of Schools

Date: _____

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Title of book/materials _____

Author _____

1. What is objectionable to you in this book? (Please be specific; cite pages)

2. What do you feel might be the result of using this book/materials?

3. Did you review the complete item? If, not, which parts?

4. What do you believe is the theme of this material?

5. What action do you recommend that the school district take concerning this material?

Do not assign it to my child. _____

Re-evaluate its worthiness. _____

Restrict for special use under a specific teacher's guidance. _____

Withdraw it from all students. _____

606.4 TECHNOLOGY AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

The board supports the use of innovative methods and the use of technology in the delivery of the education program. The board encourages employees to investigate economic ways to utilize instructional television, audiovisual materials, computers, and other technological advances as a part of the curriculum.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop a plan for the use of technology in the curriculum and to evaluate it annually. The superintendent shall report the results of the evaluation and make a recommendation to the board annually regarding the use of technology in the curriculum.

Cross Reference: 603 Curriculum Development

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

606.5 MEDIA CENTERS

The school district shall maintain a media center at each campus for use by students and employees during the school day to expand the opportunity for learning, contribute to literacy, support the local curriculum, and enhance and enrich learning experiences for all students.

Materials for the centers will be acquired according to Board Policy 606.01, "Instructional Materials Selection" and will meet the minimum requirements of the Nebraska Department of Education.

It shall be the responsibility of the principal of the building in which the media center is located to oversee the use of materials in the media center.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to develop procedures for the selection and replacement of both library and instructional materials, for the acceptance of gifts, for the removal of obsolete library and instructional materials, and for the handling of challenges to library materials.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.004.04

Cross Reference: 603 Curriculum Development

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

606.6 ACCEPTABLE USE OF COMPUTERS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET

Due to the rapidly changing nature of technology, most specific rules in this area are best left to coverage under administrative regulations. Prior to approval of the policy and adoption of associated guidelines, the Children’s Internet Protection Act requires public notice and at least one meeting for public comment on the regulations. If the Board prefers that no personal e-mail should be sent or received by staff, the words "and only limited, incidental personal use" should be deleted from the second sentence of the Staff Use section. The Community Use section should be omitted if computer access is only available to students and staff.

The Board supports the use of computers, technology and the Internet in the District's instructional program as a resource to educate and inform. The use of these resources shall be consistent with the curriculum adopted by the School District and shall be employed in an appropriate and responsible manner to meet the varied instructional needs, learning styles, abilities and developmental levels of students.

Procedures and Guidelines

The Superintendent shall develop and implement appropriate procedures to provide guidance for computer use and Internet access. Guidelines shall address teacher supervision of computer use, ethical use of electronic media, and the District’s ownership and right of administrative review of electronic files and communications. The term “electronic media” includes, but is not limited to, the Internet, e-mail and other technological resources.

The guidelines shall prohibit utilization of networks for inappropriate or illegal activities, the intentional spreading of imbedded messages (viruses) or the use of other programs with the potential of damaging or destroying programs, data or equipment. The guidelines will describe the District's limitation of liability and will establish that the use of computers, technology and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Violation of the procedures and guidelines will result in cancellation of those privileges and appropriate disciplinary action.

Technology Protection Measure

The District will implement a technology protection measure that will block or filter Internet access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic or of a harmful nature to minors. Operation of this measure will be monitored and enforced during use of computers by minors.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

Audit of Use

Users with network access shall not utilize District resources to establish electronic mail accounts through third-party providers or any other nonstandard electronic mail system. Participation in chat rooms is prohibited without specific prior approval by the system administrator. The Superintendent shall establish a process to determine whether the District's education technology is being used for purposes prohibited by law or for accessing prohibited materials. The process may include, but not be limited to:

- Utilizing blocking/filtering software.
- Turning off the "auto load images" feature of the Internet browser.
- Using a proxy server to control accessible websites.

Appropriate Internet Behavior On Social Websites

The district recognizes its responsibility to educate students regarding appropriate behavior on social networking and chat room sites about cyberbullying. Therefore, students shall be provided instruction about appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking sites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.

[Student use of district computers to access social networking sites is prohibited. To the extent possible, the Superintendent or designee shall block access to such sites on district computers with Internet access.]

Student Use

A written parental permission and agreement form will be required prior to the student being granted access to electronic media involving District technological resources. The form will specify acceptable uses, rules of on-line behavior, access privileges and penalties for procedural violations. It must be signed by the parent or legal guardian of minor students (under age 18) and by the student. This document will be kept on file as a legal, binding document. In order to rescind the agreement, the student's parent/guardian (or the student who is at least 18 years old) must provide the Superintendent with a written request.

Staff Use

A written staff agreement form will be required for all employees having access to electronic media. Staff shall confine e-mail use to work-related purposes and a reasonable, appropriate and limited personal use that does not interfere with their district duties. The agreement form will refer to the procedures and guidelines for use of computers and the Internet, describe prohibitions and limitations on the use of these resources and state the employee's responsibility for the security of individual passwords.

Community Use

On recommendation of the Superintendent, the Board will determine the conditions and limits under which equipment and services will be made available to the community. Upon request to the Building Principal, community members may have access to electronic resources and programs available through the District, provided they attend any required training and abide by the rules of usage established by the Superintendent. A written agreement form will be required for all community members having access to these resources indemnifying the District from claims by community users.

Disregard of Rules

Individuals who refuse to sign required acceptable use documents or who violate District rules governing the use of District technology shall be subject to loss or restriction of the privilege of using computers, technology or the Internet and related resources.

Responding to Concerns

School officials shall apply the same criterion of educational suitability used to review other educational resources when questions arise concerning access to specific databases or other electronic media.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. sec. 1232g (1988) (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
 47 U.S.C. 201 et seq. (Communications Decency Act of 1995)
 Children's Internet Protection Act and Neighborhood CIPA of 2000
 Nebraska Statutes 79-2104

Cross Reference: 102 Educational Philosophy of the District
 401 Guiding Principles for Employees
 504 Student Rights and Responsibilities
 507 Student Records
 603 Curriculum Development
 604 Instructional Curriculum
 1006 Use of District Facilities and Equipment

606.7 DISTRICT WEB SITE

The board supports and encourages the publication of a district web site to improve community relations, to foster creativity and to demonstrate student learning. It is a means of providing information to the community about school events and classroom activities, and provides an effective line of communication between the community, staff and students.

The superintendent is directed to develop written web site regulations that pursue the benefits of maintaining a web site while protecting the school and community from its potential misuse. The superintendent will designate a staff member (herein called the Computer Coordinator) to implement the web site regulations and to review all materials published on the web site. All web pages on the web site will conform to this policy and the corresponding regulations.

Staff Web Pages

Staff may create web pages to use in class activities or to provide a resource for other staff members. Staff web pages must reflect the educational goals and objectives of the district. District employees, board members or guests may not establish personal web pages using district resources.

School or Class Web Pages

Schools or classes may establish web pages that present information about the school or class activities. The Building Principal will designate an individual to be responsible for managing the school web site under the supervision of the computer coordinator. Teachers will be responsible for maintaining their class pages.

Extracurricular Organization Web Pages

Extracurricular organizations may establish web pages with the approval of the organization sponsor and the computer coordinator. Material presented on the organization web page must relate specifically to organization activities and will include only student-produced material.

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

Student Web Pages

Students may establish personal web pages with staff sponsorship and approval by the computer coordinator. Material presented in the student's web pages must be related to the student's educational and career preparation activities.

Other Web Pages

The district may allow other organizations such as parent-teacher groups, booster clubs, school foundations, etc. to publish web pages providing they conform to this policy and the corresponding administrative regulations.

Written Permission

Written permission from both the parent/guardian and the student must be obtained prior to placing any student photographs, artwork, writing or other projects on the web site. No personal contact information about the child, such as home address, phone number, or e-mail address will be given. The work will appear with a copyright notice prohibiting the copying of such work without express written permission. In the event that anyone requests such permission, those requests will be forwarded to the parent or guardian. All such work may be removed from the web site at the end of the current school year.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. sec. 1232g (1988) (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act)
 47 U.S.C. 201 et seq. (Communications Decency Act of 1995)
 Neb. Statute 79-2104

Cross Reference: 504 Student Rights and Responsibilities
 507 Student Records
 603 Curriculum Development
 604 Instructional Curriculum
 606.05 Media Centers
 1006 Use of District Facilities and Equipment

607.1 CLASS SIZE - CLASS GROUPING

It shall be within the sole discretion of the board to determine the size of classes and to determine whether class grouping shall take place. The board shall review the class sizes annually.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to make a recommendation to the board on class size based upon the financial condition of the school district, the qualifications of and number of certificated employees, and other factors deemed relevant to the board.

Cross Reference: 502.02 Nonresident Students

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

607.2 SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

The school district will continue school ceremonies and observances which have become a tradition and a custom of the education program. These include, but are not limited to, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and observance of holidays, such as Christmas, Halloween and Easter, by programs and performances. Such ceremonies or observances shall have a secular purpose and shall not advocate or sponsor a particular religion.

Students who do not wish to participate in these activities may be silent during the ceremony or observance or receive permission from the principal to be excused from the ceremony for religious reasons in compliance with board policy.

September 17 shall be designated as Constitution Day. The district shall hold an educational program(s) for all students on the United States Constitution each September 17. When September 17 falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, then Constitution Day shall be held during the preceding or following week.

607.3 ANIMALS IN THE CLASSROOM

Live animals will not be allowed in school district facilities except under special circumstances and only for an educational purpose. Permission from the principal will be required of anyone wishing to bring an animal into school district facilities. Appropriate supervision of animals is required when animals are brought into the school district facilities.

The person bringing the animal must furnish transportation for the animal brought to school. Animals will not be allowed to travel to and from the student's attendance center on the school bus without prior approval from the principal.

It shall be the responsibility of the principal to determine appropriate supervision of animals in the classroom.

Cross Reference: 508 Student Health and Well-Being

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

607.4 STUDENT PRODUCTION OF MATERIALS AND SERVICES

Materials and services produced by students at the expense of the school district are be the property of the school district. Materials and services produced by students at the student's expense, except for incidental expense to the school district, are be the property of the student.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to determine incidental expense.

Cross Reference: 409.04 Certificated Employee Publication or Creation of Materials
 504.19 Student Fees

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

607.5 STUDENT FIELD TRIPS AND EXCURSIONS

The principal may authorize field trips and excursions when such events contribute to the achievement of education goals of the school district. The school district will provide transportation for field trips and excursions. Excursions are defined as brief educational trips beyond the boundaries of the school grounds beginning and ending in a single class period.

In authorizing field trips and excursions, the principal shall consider the financial condition of the school district, the educational benefit of the activity, the inherent risks or dangers of the activity, and other factors deemed relevant by the superintendent. Written parental permission will be required prior to the student's participation in field trips. The superintendent's approval will be required for field trips outside the state. Board approval will be required for field trips which involve unusual length or expense.

Field trips and excursions are to be arranged with the principal well in advance. A detailed schedule and budget must be submitted by the employee. The school district will be responsible for obtaining a substitute teacher if one is needed. Following field trips and excursions, the teacher may be required to submit a written summary of the event.

Cross Reference: 504.03 Student Conduct
 506.01 Student Activity Eligibility
 604 Instructional Curriculum
 801 Transportation

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

607.6 COLLECTION OF MONEY BY TEACHERS

Teachers in grades K-6 will not be required to collect money from students for activities other than the following: field trip lunches and lost or damaged books or equipment.

Teachers in grades 7-12 will not be required to collect money from students for activities other than the following: school insurance, field trip lunches, physical education uniform sales, rental charges, and lost or damaged books or equipment.

Teacher sponsors of student government, productions, dances, athletic events, or other grade level or school-wide activities may be required to handle funds associated with these activities. Teachers will be aware of, and comply with, provisions of the district's policy on student fees.

Cross Reference: 504.19 Student Fees
 506 Student Activities

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

607.7 PLANNING AND RECORD-KEEPING BY TEACHERS

Quality lesson planning is necessary to help ensure the teacher that key elements of an effective lesson are presented. Lesson plans aid the principal, supervisor and substitute teachers in understanding the regular classroom teacher's plan for teaching the course of study as adopted by the School Board. Lesson plans should also be prepared by teachers whose assignment may vary from regular classroom work in order that their scheduled activities may be observed with understanding or replicated by a substitute teacher. Generally, teachers will prepare lesson plans on a weekly basis although they are expected to have general plans which cover the length of the course. Plans will be kept by the classroom teacher in a place known to and accessible to the building administrators. The principal may further require teachers to provide copies of lesson plans to the school office at reasonable times and intervals as determined by the principal.

The lesson plan should be of sufficient length and substance to allow a substitute teacher to carry on the course of study and to provide a means by which principals and supervisors may monitor instruction to assure that the educational program in a particular class or activity is related to the district-approved course of study.

Although the district will provide lesson plan books, principals may request another system or format for the presentation of lesson plans provided it meets the purpose of planning. Principals may also require more detail or specific plans to assist individual teachers, or they may minimize the use of lesson plans when such action will not compromise the stated purpose of lesson planning.

It is recognized that provision for flexibility is essential within the lesson plan to allow for unexpected changes and varying learning rates.

607.8 SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

Citizens who voluntarily contribute their time and talents to the improvement and enrichment of the public schools' instructional and other programs are valuable assets. The board encourages constructive participation of groups and individuals in the school to perform appropriate tasks during and after school hours under the direction and supervision of professional personnel.

The administration is responsible for the recruitment, use, coordination and training of volunteers. These assignments will be carried out as directed or delegated by the superintendent. Every effort should be made to use volunteer resources in a manner which will ensure maximum contribution to the welfare and educational growth of students.

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

608.1 STUDENT GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING PROGRAM

The board shall provide a student guidance and counseling program. The guidance counselor shall be certified with the Nebraska Department of Education in guidance and counseling and hold any additional qualifications required by the board. The guidance and counseling program will serve grades K - 12. The program will assist students with their personal, educational, social and career development. It will provide assistance to students in academic planning and placement. The program shall be coordinated with the education program and involve certificated employees.

Cross Reference: 507 Student Records
 604 Instructional Curriculum
 605 Alternative Programs

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

609.1 EVALUATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS

The board supports building level school improvement processes and projects for the purpose of attaining higher educational achievement levels for the district's students. An important part of school improvement is the on-going evaluation of the curriculum and instructional program of the district. Programs will be evaluated with respect to both their effectiveness and efficiency as means of delivering student education.

The superintendent shall develop guidelines by which the instructional staff will evaluate the instructional program on a periodic basis.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.004.07A

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

610.1 TEST OR ASSESSMENT SELECTION

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

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

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

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

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

Legal Reference: Goals 2000: Educate America Act, Pub. L. No. 103-227, 108 Stat. 125 (1994).
 20 U.S.C. § 1232h (1994).

Cross Reference: 507 Student Records
 608.02 Student Health Services
 611 Academic Achievement

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

610.2 TEST OR ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION

The district shall assess the progress of students through a district-wide assessment system to provide for a fair and adequate measurement of each student's progress and accomplishments. Administrators and staff shall select a valid and reliable system of assessments aligned with the curriculum and essential learner outcomes.

The superintendent, in directing the assessment system, shall hold administrators and staff accountable to:

1. follow appropriate security procedures;
2. use the assessments identified within applicable curriculum guides;
3. use assessment data to monitor student learning;
4. use assessment data to differentiate instruction where appropriate;
5. provide students and parents with information about student progress;
6. use assessment data for school improvement planning; and
7. use assessment data to adjust, improve, or terminate ineffective teaching practices.

Cross Reference: 611 Academic Achievement
 1005.02 Parent Relations Goals

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

611.1 STUDENT PROGRESS REPORTS

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

Cross Reference: 507 Student Records

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

611.2 STUDENT PROMOTION, RETENTION OR ACCELERATION

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

Students will normally progress annually from grade to grade. Exceptions may be made when, in the judgement of the teachers and the principal, such exceptions are in the best educational interest of the students involved. Exceptions will always be made after prior notification and explanation to the student's parents, but the final decision will rest with school authorities.

When it becomes apparent a secondary student will be unable to meet the minimum credit requirements for the year, both the student and parents will be informed. Students who cannot demonstrate proficiency at their grade levels will also be considered for retention. Teachers must notify the principal of these students, make a recommendation to the principal concerning their promotion or retention, and hold a conference with parents.

The principal may require remediation as a condition of promotion to the next grade level. Such remediation may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to, a mandatory summer school program focused on the areas of deficiency or other such alternatives conducted by the district outside of the regular school day.

The parents will be requested to indicate in writing their agreement or disagreement with the recommendation for retention. The final decision will rest with the school administration. Parents may request retention if they believe it to be in the best interest of their student. The principal will confer with the teachers and parents to determine appropriate action.

More than one retention during the elementary school years will receive special consideration and require the approval of the superintendent based on the recommendation of the principal, teacher and parent or guardian.

Students with exceptional talents may, with the permission of the principal and parents, take classes beyond their current grade level. Enrichment opportunities outside the school district may be allowed when they do not conflict with the school district's graduation requirements. Acceleration ahead in a grade level should be approached with caution and should only occur with the joint approval of the superintendent, the principal and the parent or guardian.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Statute 79-526

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

611.3 STUDENT HONORS AND AWARDS

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

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

Cross Reference: 506 Student Activities
 611 Academic Achievement

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

611.4 PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent-teacher conferences may be held each semester at the elementary and high school to keep the parents informed. The conferences at the high school are not individually scheduled.

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

Cross Reference: 507 Student Records

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed November 10, 2004 Revised January 10, 2005

611.5 GRADING GUIDELINES

The superintendent shall develop and implement student grading guidelines. The objectives of grading guidelines shall be to quantify, report and record the academic progress of each student. Grades should fairly reflect the level of student achievement in the knowledge and skills specified by grade level or course objectives and outcomes.

All graded student work will be treated as education records and will not be disclosed to anyone but authorized personnel without written permission from parents or eligible students. Student work intended for display shall be graded or displayed in such a manner as to conceal any grade marking from public view. Teacher assistants and volunteers will sign a confidentiality agreement before having access to graded materials.

Legal Reference: Falvo v. Owasso Independent School District No. I-001

Cross Reference: 507.01 Student Records Access
1003 Public Examination of District Records

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

611.6 CLASS RANKINGS AND GRADE POINT AVERAGE

The official grade point average (GPA) of graduating students is based on a minimum of 8 semesters of studies in order to allow students sufficient opportunity for demonstrating achievement. Temporary GPA's will be sent to colleges and universities who request information for admission.

The official GPA will be furnished to post-secondary institutions upon request.

The district will name a Valedictorian based solely upon class rank. The Valedictorian shall be the student earning the highest GPA and having a minimum of one year enrollment in the district.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-526

Cross Reference: 507 Student Records

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

611.7 GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent to ensure that students complete grades one through twelve and that high school students complete **240** credits prior to graduation. The following credits will be required:

Language Arts	<u>40</u> credit hours
Science	30 credit hours
Mathematics	30 credit hours
Social Studies	30 credit hours
Computer Applications	10 credit hours
Physical Education/Health	<u>10</u> credit hours
Total Required Hours	150 credit hours
Total Elective Hours	90 credit hours
Total Required Hours for Graduation	<u>240</u> credit hours

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

Students will be allowed to graduate mid-term of the senior year if all graduation requirements are met. They will be allowed to participate in graduation exercises.

Graduation requirements for special education students will be in accordance with the prescribed course of study as described in their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Each student's IEP will include a statement of the projected date of graduation at least 18 months in advance of the projected date and the criteria to be used in determining whether graduation will occur. Prior to the special education student's graduation, the IEP team shall determine whether the graduation criteria have been met.

Cross Reference: 604.3 Special Education
 611 Academic Achievement

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed Feb. 11, 2008 Revised

611.8 EARLY GRADUATION

A student who wishes to graduate from high school in less time than the ordinary eight (8) semester, grade 9-12 sequence, may request permission to complete graduation requirements on an alternate schedule.

The student and parents/guardians will consult with high school guidance personnel to develop a graduation plan. The student's intention to accomplish this shall be stated in writing to the principal. The student's parent or legal guardian must submit a letter in support of the student's request for early graduation, and such letter is to accompany the student's written request. The request letters to the principal are to be submitted no later than six months prior to the anticipated completion of the required high school program.

A student who graduates early must complete all graduation requirements established by the board. The student who chooses early graduation will be allowed to participate in the spring graduation ceremonies. In all other school activities the early-out graduate will be treated as a graduated student.

It is recommended that when a student graduates early, the student either gets the diploma or a notice from the school district that the student has graduated. The board should determine in policy how an early graduate will be treated after the student graduates. The board should determine whether the early graduate will be allowed to participate in activities and, if so, which activities.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

611.9 COMMENCEMENT

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

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

Approved September 8, 2003 Reviewed _____ Revised _____

612.01 FREE APPROPRIATE PUBLIC EDUCATION

The district ensures that a free appropriate public education is available to all children with disabilities from birth through the school year in which the student reaches 21 years of age, including children who have been suspended or expelled from school.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.02 FULL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GOAL

The district has a goal of providing full educational opportunity for all children with disabilities birth through the school year when the student reaches age 21 consistent with the state's full educational opportunity goal.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.03 CHILDFIND

All children with disabilities residing in the district, including children with disabilities who are homeless children or wards of the state and children with disabilities attending non-public schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, and who are in need of special education and related services, are identified, located, and evaluated and a practical method is developed and implemented to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.04 IDENTIFICATION, EVALUATION AND VERIFICATION

The district ensures that children with disabilities are evaluated in accordance with 92 NAC 51-006.

Procedures to ensure that testing and evaluation materials and procedures utilized for the purposes of evaluation and placement of children with disabilities will be selected and administered so as not to be racially or culturally discriminatory. Such materials or procedures shall be provided and administered in the child's native language or mode of communication, unless it is clearly not feasible to do so, and no single procedure shall be the sole criterion for determining an appropriate educational program for a child.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

**612.05 INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM AND
FAMILY SERVICES PLAN**

The district ensures that an Individualized Education Program (IEP), or an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is developed, reviewed, and revised for each child with a disability in accordance with 92 NAC 51-007.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

Approved _____ Reviewed _____ Revised _____

612.06 SMOOTH AND EFFECTIVE TRANSITION TO SERVICES

The district ensures that children participating in early intervention services experience a smooth and effective transition to services provided under Part B of the IDEA.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.07 PARTICIPATION IN ASSESSMENTS

The district ensures that children with disabilities are included in district-wide assessment programs, with appropriate accommodations, where necessary. As appropriate, the school district develops guidelines for the participation of children with disabilities in alternate assessments for those children who cannot participate in district-wide assessments and develops and conducts those alternate assessments. The district will make available to the Nebraska Department of Education the information necessary to carry out its duties relating to the reporting of participation in assessments by children with disabilities.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.08 LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT

To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, including children in public and nonpublic institutions or other care facilities, are educated with children who are not disabled, and special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular education environment occurs only when the nature or severity of the disability of a child is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

If placement in a public or non-public residential program is necessary to provide special education and related services to a child with a disability, the program including non-medical care and room and board, must be at no cost to the parents of the child.

The district ensures that children with disabilities have available to them the variety of educational programs and services available to non-disabled children, including art, music, industrial arts, consumer and homemaking education and vocational education.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.09 CHILDREN IN NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS

To the extent consistent with the number and location of children with disabilities who are enrolled by their parents in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools, provision is made for the participation of those children in special education and related services in accordance with the requirements contained in 92 NAC 51.

The district's policy relating to childfind activities applies with respect to children with disabilities who are enrolled in nonpublic, including parochial, elementary and secondary schools.

Children with disabilities in nonpublic schools and facilities are provided special education and related services in accordance with an individualized education program, at no cost to their parents, if the child is placed in, or referred to nonpublic schools or facilities by the district as a means of carrying out the requirements of IDEA or any other applicable law requiring the provision of special education and related services to all children with disabilities. Children served by nonpublic schools or facilities as a result of a referral by the district will have all the rights they would have if served by the district.

The district is not required to pay for the cost of education, including special education and related services, of a child with a disability at a nonpublic school or facility if the district made a free appropriate public education available to the child and the parents elected to place the child in such nonpublic school or facility.

If the parents of a child with a disability, who previously received special education and related services under the authority of the district, enroll the child in a nonpublic elementary or secondary school without the consent of or referral by the district, a court or a hearing officer may require the district to reimburse the parents for the cost of the enrollment if the court or hearing officer finds that the district had not made available a free appropriate public education to the child in a timely manner prior to that enrollment.

The cost of the reimbursement may be reduced or denied if at the most recent IEP meeting that the parents attended prior to the removal of the child from the district, the parents did not inform the IEP team that they were rejecting the placement proposed by the district to provide a free appropriate public education to their child, including stating their concerns and their intent to enroll their child in a nonpublic school at public expense; or 10 business days (including any holidays that occur on a business day), prior to the removal of the child from the school district, the parents did not give written notice to the district of the information required above. The cost of reimbursement will not be reduced or denied for failure to provide the information required above. The cost of reimbursement will not be reduced or denied for failure to provide the information required if the parent is illiterate and cannot write in English, if compliance with the

requirement would likely result in physical or serious emotional harm to the child, if the school prevented the parent from providing the information or if the parents had not received notice required by 92 NAC 51-009 of the parents' responsibility to provide notice to the district.

The reimbursement may also be reduced or denied if prior to the parents' removal of the child from the district, the school district informed the parents, through the notice requirements described in 92 NAC 51-009, of its intent to evaluate the child (including a statement of the purpose of the evaluation was that appropriate and reasonable), but the parents did not make the child available for the evaluation.

The reimbursement may also be reduced or denied upon a judicial finding of unreasonableness with respect to actions taken by the parents.

612.10 PROCEDURAL SAFEGUARDS AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The district ensures that children with disabilities and their parents are afforded the procedural safeguards required in 92 NAC 51-009.

The district complies with the requirements contained in 92 NAC 51-009 relating to the confidentiality of records and information.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.11 TRANSPORTATION

The district ensures that transportation will be provided to any special education student who qualifies for special education transportation under Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-1129.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.12 PERSONNEL STANDARDS

The district ensures that all personnel are appropriately and adequately prepared subject to IDEA requirements and the district will take measurable steps to recruit, hire, train and retain personnel meeting the requirements of IDEA to provide special education and related services to children with disabilities.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.13 PERFORMANCE GOALS AND INDICATORS

The district will use performance goals and indicators established by the state to assess progress toward achieving those goals that are consistent to the extent appropriate with any other goals and academic standards for children.

The district will provide the Nebraska Department of Education with information necessary to enable the state to assess progress toward achieving the goals established by the state.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

612.14 SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION REPORTING

The district will report data to the Nebraska Department of Education to determine if significant discrepancies are occurring in the rate of long-term suspension and expulsions of children with disabilities.

NDE Rule 51 shall serve as an administrative procedure to this policy.

613 DISTRIBUTION OR POSTING OF MATERIALS AND CIRCULATION OF PETITIONS

In order to prevent undue interruption of school time, personnel and resources, distribution or posting of non-school-related materials is prohibited in district schools and on district property at all times.

The board recognizes that students, employees, parents or citizens may want to distribute materials within the school district that are non-curricular. Non-curricular 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 on the basis of 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 non-curricular materials. Such procedures may include:

1. Distribution to each student before or after class if materials are not directly related to the instructional goals;
2. 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
3. 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.

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 non-school interests except that the district may:

Approved April 17, 2006 Reviewed _____ Revised _____