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InstructionGeneral Policy Statement

The Board of Education delegates to the Superintendent the responsibility of maintaining the program of instruction and extracurricular activities.

The instructional program and extracurricular activities shall meet the accredited school system standard of the State Board of Education through the Nebraska Department of Education, Federal regulations, Nebraska School Activities Association regulations and the policies of the Board of Education.

The professional staff is responsible for the development of educational and activities programs which meet the objectives of Norfolk Public Schools.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

InstructionScope of Instructional Program

- A) The District shall provide instruction suitable to the needs of all who are legally eligible to attend school in the District.
- B) Except for special types of instruction, the instructional program may be arranged in units commonly designated as grades, each grade approximately the work of one (1) year. Such a program of instruction shall be organized into schools or other administrative units as follows:
 - 1. The elementary school shall provide for the instruction of children kindergarten through fourth grade.
 - 2. The middle school shall provide for instruction of children in grades five (5) and six (6).
 - 3. The secondary school shall provide for the instruction of children in grades seven (7) through twelve (12). Within the secondary school, grades seven (7) and eight (8) may be treated as separate from grades nine (9) through twelve (12).
 - 4. Instruction appropriate to the needs of the community and individuals may be provided for adults and others beyond the age required to attend school.
 - 5. Departures from the above noted organizational plan for instruction may be made by the Superintendent upon approval of the Board of Education.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

InstructionThe Program of Instruction

The minimum program of instruction in the schools shall be that prescribed by the state and federal statutes. The statutory curriculum may be augmented and extended to provide for the educational needs of individual pupils and differing areas in the School District.

Legal Reference: Rule 10: ESSA

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Revision:	August 8, 2016
Date of Revision:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

Instruction

Copyright Piracy

The District shall educate staff and students about the harms of copyright piracy.

Legal Reference: Rule 10: ESSA

Date of Adoption:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

InstructionSchool Instructional Hours

Norfolk Public Schools will have a school year consisting of at least (a) for preschool, the time equivalent to 450 hours; (b) for elementary grades kindergarten through grade eight, the time equivalent to 1,032 hours, and (c) for grades nine through twelve, the time equivalent to 1,080 hours.

An instructional hour shall mean a period of time at least sixty (60) minutes, which is actually used for the instruction of students.

Interruptions in the school year of instructional hours due to extracurricular activities (interscholastic sports, clubs, and contests) will be held to a minimum. All students participating in such events will be required to comply with the District's policies on student attendance for such absences to be excused, including the completion of assignments for missed classes.

The required 1,080, 1,032, and 450 instructional hour minimums shall not include the following:

1. When a school is dismissed for any reason such as tournaments or contests, parent/teacher conferences, funerals, parades, and school picnics;
2. Time scheduled for the school lunch period.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-101; Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-211 and 79-212;
NDE Rule 10

Date of Adoption: June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation: September 12, 2016
Date of Revision: November 9, 2020
Date of Revision: June 8, 2026

InstructionClassroom Environment

At all times, teachers are expected to organize, maintain and ensure that their classroom is in a safe, orderly and clean condition for student learning. Classrooms should be free from distractions (such as but not limited to inappropriate, unprofessional, or controversial posters or displays and unapproved technology) and other apparatus that may cause student health problems (such as essential oils and/or essential oil diffusers). Teachers who are uncertain as to whether their classroom meets this requirement are encouraged to consult with their building principal in a proactive manner.

The District will only permit the Gall-Peters projection map (or a similar cylindrical equal-area projection map) or the AuthaGraph projection map for display or use in the classroom.

Legal Reference: LB 1329 (2024)

Date of Adoption:	August 10, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 11, 2020
Date of Revision:	July 8, 2024
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

InstructionSchool Day for Students

The school day shall be scheduled in such a way that students are given the best opportunity for their educational growth and development. The length of the day, and the arrangement of time segments within it, need not be uniform for all grade levels.

- A) The length of the school day in the secondary schools shall be no less than 380 minutes.
- B) The hours of opening and closing each type of school shall be determined by the Superintendent of Schools. The time of opening and ending the school day may be modified where transportation or other conditions justify such a change upon the authorization of the Superintendent of Schools provided that the length of school sessions are not shortened.
- C) During the school year, all schools (excluding Pre-K) shall be in session five (5) days a week, Monday through Friday, except upon emergency authorization of the Superintendent of Schools or during authorized school breaks.
- D) The following characteristics and exceptions to the school day are to be met:
 - 1. The learning activities of each student are carefully guided and supervised.
 - 2. Each student has opportunities to receive individual assistance from teachers outside of the regular school day.
 - 3. Parents shall be informed of late starts or early dismissal.
 - 4. Early dismissal for student employment shall be subject to approval of the building administration. Parental or guardian permission shall precede any early dismissal for work related activities. Early dismissal of other students shall be for reasons of health, etc., and must be validated by the student's parent or guardian.
 - 5. Changes in the school day shall be subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 14, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

InstructionElectronic Communication Devices and Cell Phones

For the purpose of this policy, electronic communication devices includes any non-school issued or non-approved electronic device capable of communication with another entity, including, but not limited to cell phones, smart watches/glasses, tablets, earbuds/headphones, and gaming devices.

Per state law, all students are prohibited from accessing or using an electronic communication device while on school property or attending a school instructional function, unless:

1. When required by a student's Individualized Education Program or 504 Plan;
2. When authorized by the District for educational purposes during instructional time;
3. In the case of an emergency or perceived threat of danger;
4. When necessary to monitor or manage a student's health care; or
5. When determined appropriate by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

Exceptions and Practices approved by the Board of Education include:

Elementary Exceptions:

Usage allowed at the end of the day once students have exited the building and occasional non-instructional times when specifically approved by the building administration.

Elementary Practices:

Devices are kept in their book bags and turned off throughout the entire school day.

Middle School Exceptions:

Usage allowed at the end of the day once students have exited the building and occasional non-instructional times when specifically approved by the building administration.

Middle School Practices:

Devices are kept in their lockers and turned off throughout the entire school day.

Junior High Exceptions:

Usage allowed before 8:00 A.M. and after 3:25 P.M.

Junior High Practices:

Devices are kept in their lockers and turned off throughout the entire school day.

Senior High Exceptions:

Usage allowed before 8:00 A.M. and after 3:25 P.M.

Senior High Practices:

Devices are kept in their lockers and turned off throughout the entire school day.

Any student who violates this Policy may be subject to discipline under the District's Student Discipline Policy.

Legal Reference: LB 140 (2025)

Date of Adoption: June 23, 2025

Date of Revision: May 11, 2026

Instruction

Emergencies

All employees of the school system are responsible for promoting the safety of students.

Procedures for fire, civil defense, and other emergencies shall be maintained.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-706

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 11, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

InstructionFire Drills

Fire drills shall be conducted at such times and manner as is required by the State Fire Marshal.

The frequency of fire drills shall be as follows:

- at a sufficient frequency to familiarize occupants with the drill procedure as a matter of routine;
- every month in each school building in which the facility is in session;
- subject to the exception that a monthly drill may be deferred in months of severe weather, provided that the required number of annual drills is achieved and not less than four are conducted before the drills are deferred; and
- one additional drill shall be conducted within the first 30 days of a school year.

The manner of conducting fire drills shall be as follows:

- emphasis shall be on conducting an orderly evacuation, rather than speed;
- under varying conditions and at expected and unexpected times;
- participants shall relocate to a predetermined location and remain until recalled or dismissed; and
- all emergency and relocation drill alarms shall be sounded.

Crisis Plans

Crisis Plans for emergency responses and directions for tornado, evacuation, lockdown, lockout, shelter in place and fire drill activities have been developed. To be in compliance with the fire code, there are to be nine fire evacuation exercises each school year. Two tornado drills are to be exercised and two lockdown drills practiced each school year.

Since many parents may not be at home, all children and faculty will be normally retained at the school building in case of extreme emergency. The school notification system will be activated to inform parents and guardians regarding where children may be picked up at school or at the evacuation site.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §79-706

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 14, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

InstructionEmergency Dismissal or Cancellation

Except for those dates designated on the school calendar, school shall not be dismissed or canceled except by action of the Board of Education or in emergency situations as determined by the Superintendent.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

InstructionCeremonies, Observances, and the Pledge of Allegiance

Appropriate patriotic exercises suitable to the occasion shall be held under the direction of the Superintendent or designee on George Washington's birthday, Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, Native American Heritage Day, Constitution Day, Memorial Day, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving Day, or on the day or week preceding or following such holiday, if the school is in session. In addition, appropriate exercises may be held for Flag Day and State Fire Day.

The flags of the United States of America and the State of Nebraska shall be prominently displayed on the school grounds on each day such school is in session. All flag displays shall be in accordance with the standards prescribed for the display of the flag of the United States of America.

Each of the District's schools shall establish a period of time during the school day, when a majority of the students are scheduled to be present, during which time students will be led in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in the presence of the flag of the United States of America. Student participation in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance shall be voluntary. Students not participating in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance shall be permitted to silently stand or remain seated but shall be required to respect the rights of those students electing to participate.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-705; § 79-707, 79-708, 79-724: and NDE Rule 10
70 Federal Register 55507 (Constitution Day)

Date of Adoption: June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation: September 12, 2016
Date of Revision: August 10, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation: November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation: May 11, 2026

InstructionAttendance Area Boundary Line Review

The Board of Education believes that pupil-teacher ratio is an important equity issue in the learning process of children. Therefore, the Board of Education directs the Superintendent to review attendance center student population annually to insure that pupil-teacher ratio will approach uniformity as much as possible throughout the District.

The Board invests the Superintendent with the authority to change attendance center boundaries and to establish procedures and guidelines for boundary changes to fulfill the intent of this policy. Generally, the procedures and guidelines are:

- A. The Superintendent will consider class size throughout the District and if the educational program in a school is impeded because of class size or if equity in class size is an issue between schools, the Superintendent will initiate a change in attendance center boundaries.
- B. When boundary changes are to be considered, those areas bordering the division line between attendance centers will be considered first for boundary changes.
- C. To the extent practicable, students currently enrolled in an elementary school will be allowed to finish their school years in the same school even though the area in which they live has been assigned to a different school.
- D. To the extent practicable, no student will be moved from one attendance center to another more than once during his/her elementary school years.
- E. Boundary changes will take place at the end of a school year. The parents directly affected will be notified of the proposed boundary changes prior to the last day of school.
- F. Boundary changes will be discussed with and reported to the Board prior to implementation.

Date of Adoption:	March 9, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

InstructionAttendance Districts

The School District shall be divided in attendance districts for each elementary school. The Superintendent or designee shall have the authority to permit a child to attend a school other than the one in the attendance district in which the child's parents reside, in the event that such attendance will be for the good of the student and does not adversely affect pupil enrollment in either school involved. If a child's parents move from one attendance district to another during the school year, the child shall be permitted to attend either school for the balance of that school year.

Date of Adoption:	March 9, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

InstructionSafe Schools Policy

It is the mission of Norfolk Public Schools to provide a safe, secure, drug-free and welcoming environment for all students, staff and community members. The administration is authorized and directed to adopt such regulations and take such actions as determined appropriate by the board of education to advance the mission of providing safe schools. Such regulations and actions may include, but not be limited to, school security measures, such as use of metal detectors, surveillance, searches and seizures, and security officers, as well as staff training and student educational programs.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

InstructionLimitations on Minimum Class Size

The Superintendent shall implement methods when necessary to maintain appropriate class sizes. This may include the reassignment of staff to maximize efficiency and/or effectiveness.

Date of Adoption:	March 9, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 12, 2016
Date of Revision:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

InstructionObjectives of the Instructional Program

Norfolk Public Schools' instructional objectives are as follows:

A. To provide quality content and learning opportunities that enable students to attain skills, knowledge, and attitudes that prepares them to be successful in postsecondary education settings and/or to pursue career and life goals. This shall be accomplished through:

1. Expectations that students will learn to the best of their ability
2. Subject content, standards based learning objectives, research-based instruction, progress monitoring, and learning supports that provide every student the potential to experience success.
3. Expectations of regular attendance, learning participation, parental/guardian involvement, and community support.
4. Demonstration of relationships that exist within content areas and across the curriculum.
5. Encouragement to pursue extra-curricular activities that meet students' interests and skills.
6. Learning responsible citizenship and understanding our country's founding principles. (This includes history, civics, geography, and economics).
7. Instruction related to scientific inquiry and knowledge about earth science, life sciences, physical sciences, and technology.
8. Instruction related effective Language Arts skills and knowledge in the areas of speaking/listening, reading, writing, information fluency and digital citizenship.
9. Instruction related to problem solving, representations, mathematical communication and connections (numbers, data, algebra, and geometry).
10. Instruction related to physical education literacy, engagement in physical activities, and development of skills for an active and healthy lifestyle.
11. Opportunities to gain knowledge and skills in music and fine arts.
12. Opportunities to explore careers and participate in career ready practices.
13. Recognition of scholastic achievement and social, athletic, and civic contributions.

B. To provide a learning environment that promotes physical, social, and psychological health. This shall be accomplished through:

1. Providing a safe classroom environment characterized by mutual respect, respect for public and private property and preservation of personal dignity.
2. Participation in experiences that contribute to smooth transitions between grade levels, programs, schools, and college/careers.
3. Services and programs that meet specific needs; such as speech therapy, remedial reading, counseling, and health services.

C. To provide personnel, facilities, and programs that promote effective learning and fulfill the Norfolk Public Schools mission, vision, and strategic plan goals and objectives. This shall be accomplished through:

1. Hiring and providing professional development for administrators, teachers, and staff who are competent, dedicated, and support the NPS vision and mission.
2. Providing learning facilities that are appropriate and safe learning environments.
3. Developing and implementing a strategic plan that includes goals and objectives that result in improved student performance and school effectiveness.
4. Developing student cognitive skills

Date of Adoption: June 9, 2014
Date of Revision: October 10, 2016
Date of Revision: November 9, 2020
Date of Revision: June 8, 2026

InstructionCurriculum - Development and Adoption

All major program adoptions and/or major course revisions shall be subject to the approval of the Board of Education.

Major program adoptions and/or major course revisions may be proposed by district-wide curriculum and/or building curriculum committees. These changes may be approved, rejected or revised and approved by the Superintendent before being submitted to the Board's Committee on Curriculum or Committee on American Civics, as appropriate, for review and the full Board of Education for final approval.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Revision:	October 10, 2016
Date of Revision:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

InstructionCurriculum – Assessments

A comprehensive assessment system shall be established and maintained. The assessment system will be responsive to federal, state, and district requirements. It will also reflect district-identified content standards and state-approved standards. The comprehensive student assessment system shall be aligned with the written and taught curriculum of Norfolk Public Schools. The assessment system will accomplish the following:

1. monitor the progress of students in a program, school, or the District;
2. aid in planning and providing classroom instruction appropriate to student needs;
3. assist in making decisions about placement of students;
4. provide information for program monitoring, management, and evaluation.

A comprehensive student assessment system shall consist of district-wide assessments and teacher/classroom assessments. The purposes of the District assessments include analysis of student growth and information on strengths and areas needing improvement in schools and programs. District-wide assessment data will be one source of information used to monitor and adjust our educational program. District assessments shall be valid, reliable, and aligned to the written curriculum. Teacher/classroom assessments will be used to monitor student progress and adjust instruction to optimize individual student learning.

Assessment Security

The superintendent, in directing the assessment system, shall hold administrators and staff accountable to follow all required security procedures.

Legal Reference: NDE Rule 10.05; NDE Rule 27.004.02H and 004.03D

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Revision:	October 10, 2016
Date of Revision:	August 12, 2019
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	July 13, 2026

InstructionAssessments—Academic Content Standards

The Board of Education adopts the most recent academic content standards of the State Board of Education (“State Board”). The adoption of the academic content standards includes the:

Language Arts Standards
Mathematics Standards
Science Standards
Social Studies Standards

Unless other action is taken, the Board of Education adopts the standards of the State Board as such standards are subsequently adopted or amended by the State Board.

The administration shall be responsible for implementing assessments on the state standards in accordance with the procedures established by the State Board and the Department of Education, including conducting assessments in the same subject areas and the same grade levels as established in the state standards, and the reporting of scores and sub-scores.

This policy does not supersede the existing standards adopted by the Board of Education except as set forth herein.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-760 to 79-760.05

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	September 14, 2015
Date of Revision:	August 8, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 10, 2016
Date of Revision:	July 9, 2018
Date of Revision:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	July 22, 2021
Date of Revision:	August 14, 2023
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

InstructionReading Instruction and Improvement

The District shall develop its curriculum to facilitate reading instruction and intervention services to address student reading needs, including, but not limited to, dyslexia. In doing so, the District will ensure that all teachers for kindergarten through grade three should be effective reading teachers as evidenced by (a) evaluations based on classroom observations and student improvement on reading assessments or (b) specialized training in reading improvement. Each student and his or her parents or guardians will be informed of the student's reading progress. It is the District's intent that each student in the District be able to read at or above grade level by third grade.

For school year 2019-20 and each school year thereafter, the District shall administer an approved reading assessment three times during the school year to all students in kindergarten through grade three, except for any student receiving specialized instruction for limited English proficiency who has been receiving such instruction for less than two years, any student receiving special education services for whom such assessment would conflict with the individualized education plan, and any student receiving services under a plan pursuant to the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, for whom such assessment would conflict with such section 504 or Title II plan. The first administration of such assessment for each such school year shall occur within the first thirty days of the school year.

Any student in kindergarten, grade one, grade two, or grade three shall be identified as having a reading deficiency if such student performs below the threshold level determined pursuant to the Reading Intervention Act. A student who is identified as having a reading deficiency pursuant to the Reading Intervention Act shall remain identified as having a reading deficiency until the student performs at or above the threshold level on an approved reading assessment. Nothing in the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act shall prohibit the District from identifying any other student as having a reading deficiency.

The District will provide a supplemental reading intervention program for the purpose of ensuring that students can read at or above grade level at the end of third grade. The District may work collaboratively with a reading specialist at the State Department of Education, with educational service units, with learning communities, or through interlocal agreements to develop and provide such supplemental reading intervention programs. Each supplemental reading intervention program shall:

- (a) Be provided to any student identified as having a reading deficiency;
- (b) Be implemented during regular school hours in addition to regularly scheduled reading instruction unless otherwise agreed to by a parent or guardian; and
- (c) Make available a summer reading program each summer for any student who has been enrolled in grade one or higher and is identified as continuing to have a reading deficiency at the conclusion of the school year preceding such summer reading program. Such summer reading program may be held in conjunction with existing summer programs in the school district or in a community reading program not affiliated with the school district or may be offered online.

(2) The supplemental reading intervention program may also include:

- (a) Reading intervention techniques that are based on scientific research and best practices;
- (b) Diagnostic assessments to frequently monitor student progress throughout the school year and adjust instruction accordingly;
- (c) Intensive intervention using strategies selected from the following list to match the weaknesses identified in the diagnostic assessment:
 - (i) Development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension;
 - (ii) Explicit and systematic instruction with detailed explanations, extensive opportunities for guided practice, and opportunities for error corrections and feedback; or
 - (iii) Daily targeted individual or small-group reading intervention based on student needs as determined by diagnostic assessment data subject to planned extracurricular school activities;
- (d) Strategies and resources to assist with reading skills at home, including parent-training workshops and suggestions for parent-guided home reading; or
- (e) Access to before-school or after-school supplemental reading intervention with a teacher or tutor who has specialized training in reading intervention.

The school of any student who is identified as having a reading deficiency shall notify such student's parents or guardians either in writing or by electronic communication no later than fifteen working days after the identification of the reading deficiency that the student has been identified as having a reading deficiency and that an individual reading improvement plan will be established and shared with the parents or guardians.

Any student who is identified as having a reading deficiency shall receive an individual reading improvement plan no later than thirty days after the identification of such reading deficiency. The reading improvement plan may be created by the teacher, the principal, other pertinent school personnel, and the parents or guardians of the student and shall describe the reading intervention services the student will receive through the supplemental reading intervention program pursuant to section 24 of this act to remedy such reading deficiency. Each such student shall receive reading intervention services through the supplemental reading intervention program pursuant to section 24 of this act until the student is no longer identified as having a reading deficiency.

Legal Reference: Nebraska Reading Intervention Act

Date of Adoption:	July 9, 2018
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

StudentsCollection of Information Relating to Dyslexia

The District will collect and maintain the following information relating to dyslexia during each school year:

- (1) Testing for a specific learning disability in the area of reading, including tests that identify characteristics of dyslexia and the results of such tests;
- (2) The number of students identified as having a reading issue, including dyslexia, pursuant to the assessment administered under the Nebraska Reading Improvement Act and Policy 6213;
- (3) The number of students identified in Paragraph (2) that have shown growth on the measure used to identify the reading issue; and
- (4) All other data required by law and/or the District's special education obligations.

By July 1st of each year, the District will provide the Nebraska State Department of Education with information collected about dyslexia, as requested by the Department.

Any student or parent/guardian with questions or concerns about dyslexia are encouraged to contact the District's Director of Special Education.

Legal Reference: LB 298 (2023)

Date of Adoption: August 14, 2023

Date of Reaffirmation: May 11, 2026

InstructionExperimental/Innovative Program

The professional staff of the school system is encouraged to seek improvement of the educational program of the schools.

Experimental programs and "pilot studies" must have the recommendation of the Curriculum Committee and approval of the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

InstructionCurriculum Guides

Curriculum pacing guides and course guides shall be prepared in harmony with the legal requirement of the state and the purposes of the program of instruction adopted by the board.

The Superintendent and his/her designee shall have general coordinating authority over the formation of all courses of study and curriculum guides.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Revision:	September 14, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2026

InstructionHomework

Norfolk Public Schools believes that homework contributes to the development of our students by building responsibility, self-discipline, academic achievement, and lifelong learning habits, when it has a clear academic purpose that is focused on learning targets. Norfolk Public Schools also values our partnership with parents and believes that strong family involvement is critical to student success. Teachers' professional judgment should be utilized when determining the amount and type of homework assigned, based upon grade level, developmental appropriateness, course, and purpose. The amount of homework will increase gradually from elementary to senior high school. The intent is for students to engage in meaningful homework assignments that strengthen skills, apply concepts, review knowledge, and/or practice procedures that extend the learning targets introduced during classroom instruction.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 10, 2016
Date of Revision:	May 13, 2019
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

InstructionGrading

The district uses grades for the purposes of providing:

1. Teachers with documentation of student academic performance,
2. Students with feedback about what and how well they have learned,
3. Counselors and post-secondary institutions with information to guide student class selections and career choices, and
4. Parents with grade reports that indicate student progress toward learning targets and content standards.

Learning targets and content standards are consistent across schools, grade-level classrooms, and courses in the district. Grades are not used to reflect student behaviors or as punishment.

Grades are assigned by teachers using a standardized (district-wide) percentage range and letter grade scale and are determined using the NPS proficiency target/GPA conversion scale as appropriate. Any grading practice guidelines, developed and implemented by the Superintendent or designee, are based on educational research and explain how grades quantify, detail, and document academic achievement of each student.

Date of Adoption:	August 10, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	June 8, 2026

InstructionGuidance

The classroom teacher is a key figure in the guidance of youth in both the elementary and secondary schools. The counselor and teachers, by pooling their knowledge and resources, accept the students where they are and help them go as far as their potentialities permit. The students are helped to know and develop their abilities and to recognize and accept their limitations, and in this way to better understand themselves.

The guidance program includes five (5) basic services:

1. Inventory Service. Emphasis is placed upon a system of accurate and complete student records that accentuate the uniqueness of the individual students.
2. Informational Service. Information in the areas of occupational, educational and vocational guidance is made available to teachers, students and parents.
3. Counseling Service. Students are encouraged to seek individual counseling when needed. Students with needs beyond that of the counseling program are encouraged to seek the services of private counseling.
4. Placement Service. This service assists students in the selection of appropriate occupations, educational institutions and work experiences, and includes assistance with the completion of post-secondary and financial applications.
5. Follow-up Service. A continuing follow-up of former students through surveys should be pursued in order to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of the school program.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Revision:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionField Trips

Field trips shall be considered as instruction and planned as such with definite objectives determined in advance.

Teachers or other certified personnel shall accompany pupils on all field trips and shall assume responsibility for their proper conduct.

When a field trip is made to a place of business or industry, the teacher shall insist that an employee of the host company serve as facilitator.

Appropriate education experience and proper supervision shall be supplied for any pupils whose parents do not wish them to participate in a field trip.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	July 13, 2026

InstructionSchool Activity Trip Drivers

Students who attend school sponsored activities as official representatives of the School District, as participants, or as official representatives of a school club or organization must be transported in a vehicle driven by a qualified staff member, a qualified parent of one of the students in the vehicle, or a qualified adult. The Director of Human Resources shall approve the proposed qualified adult prior to the commencement of any activity trip. (This does not apply to practices and rehearsals.)

Date of Adoption:	March 9, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionActivities

A vital component of a comprehensive education program is a properly supervised activities program. Such activities, properly supervised and kept in proper perspective, shall be maintained in the school program in order to give students opportunities for experiences not possible in classroom activities. Care and consideration should be given by educators, coaches, sponsors and parents to the amount of time these activities take students away from school during school hours or away from studies on "school nights."

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionActivity Funds Management

School activity funds may be expended only for purposes which may benefit the student body of the school. All rules, regulations, and procedures for the conduct, operation and maintenance of extra-curricular accounts, and for the safe-guarding, accounting and auditing of all monies received and derived therefrom are to contribute to that objective.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionActivitiesSchool Colors

The official colors of Norfolk Public Schools shall be maroon and white. Exceptions to this policy must be approved by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 10, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2020
Date of Revision:	July 13, 2026

InstructionActivitiesConcussions1. Training.

The Superintendent or designee shall make available training approved by the chief medical officer of the State, to all coaches of school athletic teams, on how to recognize the symptoms of a concussion or brain injury and how to seek proper medical treatment for a concussion or brain injury.

2. Education.

The Superintendent or designee shall require that concussion and brain injury information be provided on an annual basis to students and the students' parents or guardians prior to such students initiating practice or competition. The information provided to students and the students' parents or guardians shall include, but need not be limited to:

- a. the signs and symptoms of a concussion;
- b. the risks posed by sustaining a concussion; and
- c. the actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of his or her coaches.

3. Response to Concussions.

- a. Removal. A student who participates on a school athletic team shall be removed from a practice or game when he or she is reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury in such practice or game after observation by a coach or a licensed health care professional who is professionally affiliated with or contracted by the school.
- b. Return-to-Play. A student who has been removed from a practice or game as a result of being reasonably suspected of having sustained a concussion or brain injury shall not be permitted to participate in any school supervised team athletic activities involving physical exertion, including, but not limited to, practices or games, until the student: (i) has been evaluated by a licensed health care professional, (ii) has received written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities from the licensed health care professional, and (iii) has submitted the written and signed clearance to resume participation in athletic activities to the school accompanied by written permission to resume participation from the student's parent or guardian.

The coach or administration may require that the student's return to full activities be on a stepwise progression back to full participation, or otherwise establish

conditions for return to participation that are more restrictive than those defined by the licensed health care professional if the coach or an administrator reasonably deems such to be appropriate.

The signature of an individual who represents that he or she is a licensed health care professional on a written clearance to resume participation that is provided to the school shall be deemed to be conclusive and reliable evidence that the individual who signed the clearance is a licensed health care professional. The school is not required to determine or verify the individual's qualifications.

- c. Parent Notification. If a student is reasonably suspected after observation of having sustained a concussion or brain injury and is removed from an athletic activity per the preceding paragraph, the parent or guardian of the student shall be notified by the Superintendent or designee of the date and approximate time of the injury suffered by the student, the signs and symptoms of a concussion or brain injury that were observed, and any actions taken to treat the student.
- d. Return to Learn. The Superintendent or designee shall develop a return to learn protocol for students who have sustained a concussion. The return to learn protocol shall recognize that students who have sustained a concussion and returned to school may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff until the student is fully recovered.

4. Responsibility of Coaches.

Coaches shall comply with this policy and apply their safety and injury prevention training. A coach who fails to do so is subject to disciplinary action, including but not limited to termination of employment.

5. Students and Parents.

It is recognized that coaches cannot be aware of every incident in which a student has symptoms of a possible concussion or brain injury. As such, students and their parents have a responsibility to honestly report symptoms of a possible concussion or brain injury to the student's coaches on a timely basis.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-9102 to 71-9106

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Revision:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionInitiations, Hazing, Secret Clubs and Outside Organizations

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

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

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

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

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

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

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Revision:	August 8, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Revision:	August 14, 2023
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionActivitiesReturn to Learn From Cancer

The Superintendent or designee shall make available general literature regarding how to recognize students who have been treated for pediatric cancer and returned to school and may need informal or formal accommodations, modifications of curriculum, and monitoring by medical or academic staff.

A 504 or IEP team meeting will be held, as appropriate, to develop individual return to learn accommodations and modifications.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-2, 148

Date of Adoption:	September 14, 2015
Date of Revision:	August 8, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionDedications and Commencement

Traditions are a cherished part of the community life and Norfolk Public Schools expresses an interest in maintaining those traditions which have a significance to the community. The graduation ceremony is considered an extracurricular activity and participation in it is a privilege.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionSelection and Review of Instructional and Media MaterialsA) Assignment of Responsibility

The Board of Education reserves responsibility for the final acquisition of materials, but the responsibility for the selection of instructional materials is delegated to the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee, with the assistance of the instructional and media staff, to establish procedures and regulations for the selection of instructional and media materials, reviewing their effectiveness, and dealing with complaints concerning instructional materials. The Superintendent may establish committees consisting of teachers and media staff to assist with these responsibilities.

B) Criteria for Instructional Materials

The selection of instructional materials shall be made in accordance with Board of Education policies, legal requirements, state standards and reflect the following philosophy:

1. To provide high-quality, standards-aligned instructional materials to prepare students for success in college, career, and civic life.
2. To provide materials that will stimulate growth in factual knowledge, practical skills, concepts, literary appreciation, aesthetic values, and ethical standards.
3. To provide a background of information which will enable students to make intelligent judgments in their daily life.
4. To provide materials that will enrich and support the curriculum, taking into consideration the varied interest, abilities, and maturity levels of the students served.
5. To provide materials on opposing sides of controversial issues so that young citizens may develop under guidance the practice of critical thinking and analysis.
6. To provide materials representative of the many religious, ethnic, and cultural groups and their contributions to our American heritage.
7. To place principle above personal opinion and reason above prejudices in the selection of materials of the highest quality in order to assure a comprehensive collection appropriate for the instructional materials.

C) Criteria for Media Materials

The selection of media materials shall be made in accordance with Board of Education policies, legal requirements, and with the Library Bill of Rights of the American Library

Association, which Bill of Rights has been accepted by the American Association of School Librarians reflect the following philosophy:

1. To provide a comprehensive collection of instructional materials selected in compliance with basic, written selection principles, and to provide maximum accessibility to these materials.
2. To provide materials that will support the curriculum, taking into consideration the individual's needs, and the varied interest, ability, socio-economic backgrounds, and maturity levels of the students served.
3. To provide materials for teachers and students that will encourage growth in knowledge, and that will develop literary, cultural and aesthetic appreciation, and ethical standards.
4. To provide materials which reflect the ideas and beliefs of religious, social, political, historical, and ethnic groups and their contribution to the American World Heritage and Culture, thereby enabling students to develop an intellectual integrity in forming judgments.
5. To provide a written statement, approved by the local Boards of Education of the procedures for meeting the challenge of censorship of materials in school library media centers.
6. To provide qualified professional personnel to serve teachers and students.

D) Procedures for Reconsideration of Materials

Occasional objections to some materials may be voiced despite the care taken in selection and qualification of the personnel selecting materials. The following procedures apply equally to all complaints whether they be from students, parents, school personnel or district patrons.

1. Complaints should be presented to the Principal of the school where the material is used. The principal will schedule a conference with the concerned patron and attempt to resolve the complaint or concern. If the patron is not satisfied, he/she may file a formal written complaint with the principal.
2. Formal complaints about instructional materials must be presented in writing on a form approved by the superintendent. In the absence of such a form, the complainant shall be required to submit a written complaint setting forth: complainant's identity, material challenged, detailed statement of reason(s) for challenging the material, action the complainant is requesting, and such other information as the Principal may reasonably request.
3. When a formal written complaint is completed and returned to the principal, the principal will discuss the issue and the procedures to be followed in resolving the issues with the person filing the complaint. The principal with whom the complaint was filed shall notify the other school administrators and also advise those faculty

members who may use the instructional material, or the media staff in the case of media material, that a complaint has been filed. The school administrators shall decide whether to appoint a building-level review committee or a district-level review committee to study the complaint. The principals will convene building-level review committees. These building-level committees shall consist of five or more committee members composed of staff and community patrons. The superintendent of schools or his designee will convene district-level review committees. These district-level committees shall consist of five or more members composed of staff and community patrons.

4. The review committees shall consider district philosophy, the professional judgment of teachers, reviews of the material by other competent authorities, compatibility with the school district's adopted curriculum, the teacher's stated goals, as well as the views of the complainant. The review committee will issue a written decision and accompanying rationale to the complainant and the superintendent of schools. The committee's decision may be to remove the material in question from district use, to modify the material for continued uses, or to reject the complaint and continue to use the material.
5. Any materials identified in a complaint may remain in use pending its review and its disposition by the review committee. Principals may, upon written request of parent(s), excuse students from using the material, or may direct teachers to use suitable substitutes, and in the case of challenged media material the Principal may place the material on a reserve shelf where it may be checked out by students only with written parent permission. However, the school shall reserve the right to require students to use material or to engage in activities which are a part of regular and/or required curricular activities.
6. Where the same or essentially the same materials have been the subject of a challenge which has been decided by a review committee, and another complaint is made against the material by either the same or a different person, the complaint shall be considered by the Superintendent, who may deny the complaint without following the review procedure. In considering the complaint, the Superintendent shall consider whether the complaint raises any substantially different issue than that previously decided by the review committee.
7. If the complainant is not satisfied by the committee's decision, he/she may request that the Board of Education reconsider the committee's decision.

E) School Library Materials Access

Norfolk Public Schools uses and maintains a catalog of all books in the district's library, categorized by school building. The catalog can be accessed on the website of each school. The parent, guardian or educational decisionmaker can choose to be notified when the student of such parent, guardian or educational decisionmaker checks out a book from the school library.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. 79-533.04
 NDE Rule 10.04, 10.06

Date of Adoption: June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation: November 9, 2016
Date of Revision: December 14, 2020
Date of Revision: July 13, 2026

InstructionParent Requests for Exclusion

Parents may request that their child be excused from the study of a given book, instructional unit or particular literary work. The Principal shall determine whether to grant such requests based on legal requirements relating to the request, the reason given for the request, the effect of the request on the student's educational development and the educational program, and the availability of alternative materials or instruction for the student. In the event the Principal does not grant the request, the parent may request a review be conducted by the Superintendent, based on the same criteria.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionRecognition of Religious Beliefs and Customs

It is accepted that no religious belief or non-belief should be promoted by the school district or its employees, and none should be disparaged. Instead, the school district should encourage all students and staff members to appreciate and be tolerant of each other's religious views. The school district should utilize its opportunity to foster understanding and mutual respect among students and parents, whether it involves race, culture, economic background or religious beliefs. In that spirit of tolerance, students and staff members should be excused from participating in practices which are contrary to their religious beliefs unless there are clear issues of overriding concern that would prevent it.

Norfolk Public Schools recognizes one of its educational goals is to advance the student's knowledge and appreciation of the role our religious heritage has played in the social, cultural and historical development of civilization.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionAcknowledgment of Religious Holidays

The practice of the Norfolk Public School District shall be as follows:

1. The several holidays through the year which have a religious and a secular basis may be observed or recognized in the public schools.
2. The historical and contemporary values and the origin of religious holidays may be explained in an unbiased and objective manner without sectarian indoctrination.
3. Music, art, literature and drama having religious themes or basis are permitted as part of the curriculum for school sponsored activities and programs if presented in a prudent and objective manner and as a traditional part of the cultural and religious heritage of the particular holiday.
4. The use of religious symbols such as a cross, menorah, crescent, Star of David, crèche, symbols of Native American religions or other symbols that are a part of a religious holiday is permitted as a teaching aid or resource provided such symbols are displayed as an example of the cultural and religious heritage of the holiday and are temporary in nature. Among these holidays included are Christmas, Easter, Passover, Hanukkah, Ramadan, Thanksgiving and Halloween.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Revision:	September 14, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionReligion in the Curriculum

Religious institutions and orientations are central to human experience, past and present. An education excluding such a significant aspect would be incomplete. It is essential that the teaching about – and not of – religion be conducted in a factual objective and respectful manner. However, sectarian instruction of any kind is prohibited in this school.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionPurpose of Religion in the Curriculum

The practice of Norfolk Public Schools shall be as follows:

1. The District supports the inclusion of religious literature, music, drama and the arts in the curriculum and in school activities provided it is intrinsic to the learning experience in the various fields of study and is presented objectively.
2. The emphasis on religious themes in the arts, literature and history should be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. Such studies should never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious beliefs.
3. Student initiated expressions to questions or assignments which reflect their beliefs or non-beliefs about a religious theme shall be accommodated. For example, students are free to express religious belief or non-belief in compositions, art forms, music, speech and debate.

Date of Adoption:	June 9, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionMulticultural Education

Norfolk Public Schools incorporates multicultural education in all curriculum areas at all grades. Multicultural education includes, but is not limited to, studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans with special emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races.

Statement of Philosophy and Mission

The philosophy of the multicultural education program is that students will have improved ability to function as productive members of society when provided with: (a) an understanding of diverse cultures and races, the manner in which the existence of diverse cultures and races have affected the history of our nation and the world, and of the contributions made by diverse cultures and races and (b) the ability and skills to be sensitive toward and to study, work and live successively with persons of diverse cultures and races.

The mission of the multicultural education program is to prepare students to: (a) value and respect their own culture and race and cultures and races other than their own and (b) eliminate stereotypes and different treatment of others based on culture and race. The mission shall also include preparing students to eliminate stereotypes and discrimination or harassment of others based on ethnicity, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, age, or disability.

Implementation of Multicultural Education

The philosophy and mission of the multicultural education program is to be implemented as follows:

1. Multicultural education shall be included in goals established for educational programs.
2. Multicultural education shall be included in the district curriculum guides, frameworks, or standards.
3. The process for selecting appropriate instructional materials shall include assuring that the instructional materials at all grade levels include studies relative to the culture, history, and contributions of African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and European Americans with special emphasis on human relations and sensitivity toward all races.
4. Staff development shall be provided on the District's multicultural education policy. The staff development shall include professional development for administrators, teachers, and support staff which is congruent with the District and program goals.
5. Periodic assessment of the multicultural education program shall be conducted by the Superintendent. Teachers and other staff upon request shall have the responsibility to provide the administration with reports on: (a) the instructional

materials used and programs or methods implemented with their students which are supportive of the multicultural education program philosophy and mission, (b) programs or materials to be implemented in the future or which teachers or other staff feel should be implemented to further advance such philosophy and mission, and (c) their professional assessment on the successes of or deficiencies in achieving the multicultural education program philosophy and mission. The Superintendent or Superintendent's designee shall provide an annual status report on the assessment to the Board of Education.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-719 to 79-723
 Nebraska State Board of Education Rule 10

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	October 8, 2018
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 13, 2019
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Revision:	June 14, 2021
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 9, 2022
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 12, 2023
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 9, 2025
Date of Revision:	July 13, 2026

InstructionEqual Opportunity: Instruction Program

The school district pledges itself to avoid discriminatory actions, and seeks to foster good human and educational relations which help to attain:

1. Equal rights and opportunities for students and employees in the school community.
2. Equal opportunity for all students to participate in the instructional program of the schools.
3. Continual study and development of curricula toward improving human relations and understanding and appreciating cultural differences.
4. Frequent training opportunities for improving staff responsiveness to educational and social needs.
5. Opportunities in educational programs which are broadly available to pupils which are not solely based upon sex, disability, race, color, religion , veteran status, national or ethnic origin, age, marital status, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical condition, sexual orientation or gender identity or other protected status.

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Revision:	July 12, 2021
Date of Revision:	July 13, 2026

InstructionControversial Issues

Controversial issues exist where there are sharp differences of opinion concerning an idea or a line of action. In order that students may develop intelligent attitudes and understandings concerning significant aspects of living, they should be afforded opportunities within the classroom to deal with such issues to the extent appropriate for their level of maturity and the educational mission of the District.

In considering such issues, it shall be the purpose of our schools to provide students the opportunity:

1. To study controversial issues concerning which the students, at their level of maturity, should have begun to form an opinion or to seek information about.
2. To have access to all relevant, educationally appropriate information.
3. To study under competent instruction in an atmosphere of freedom from bias and prejudice.
4. To form, and in an appropriate manner and in appropriate forum, to express the students' own judgments on controversial issues.
5. To recognize that reasonable compromise is often an important facet in decision making in our society.
6. To respect the opinions of others.

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Revision:	July 13, 2026

InstructionControversial Issues in the Classroom

The following administrative and teaching regulations are to be observed:

For Principals:

1. Remind teachers that we do not teach controversial issues, but rather provide opportunities for their study.

For Teachers:

1. Deal with controversial topics as impartially and objectively as possible. Do not intrude your own biases.
2. Handle all such topics in a manner suited to the range of knowledge, maturity, and competence of your students.
3. Have teaching materials dealing with all possible aspects of the topics readily available.
4. Do not manufacture an issue. Take up only those that are current and real.
5. Do not expect or require that the class reach an agreement.
6. Whenever you are in doubt about the advisability of taking up a given "hot" topic, consult with your Principal and or/Superintendent.
7. Remember that the policy of the board is designed to protect you as well as your students from unfair or inconsiderate criticism whenever your students are studying a controversial subject.

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	November 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionParental/Community Involvement in Schools

Norfolk Public Schools, after having conducted a public hearing concerning parental involvement and participation, declares that it shall be the policy of the District:

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. As a general matter substantive decision-making processes will be left to the judgment of the professional staff, administration and the Board of Education, subject to an effort to

receive information from parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers as to any concerns, objections, or other information such parents, guardians, or educational decisionmakers would wish to provide to the school district concerning a parent's, guardian's, or educational decisionmaker's access, involvement, and participation in activities of the school.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sections 79-530 to 79-533
Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g
Protection of Pupil Rights Amendment, 20 U.S.C. 1232h

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 11, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 9, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 9, 2017
Date of Revision:	June 11, 2018
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 13, 2019
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 14, 2021
Date of Reaffirmation:	May 9, 2022
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 12, 2023
Date of Revision:	June 23, 2025
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionFree and Reduced Price Meals

The Norfolk Public Schools has agreed to participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and accepts responsibility for providing free and reduced price meals to eligible children in the schools under its jurisdiction. The school food authority assures the State Department of Education that the school system will uniformly implement the following policy to determine children's eligibility for free and reduced price meals in all National School Lunch Programs. In fulfilling its responsibilities the school food authority:

- A) Agrees to serve meals free to children from families whose income is at or below that established by the NSLP for free meals.
- B) Agrees to serve meals at a reduced price to children from families whose income is at or below that established by the NSLP for reduced meals listed.
- C) Agrees to provide these benefits to any child whose family income falls within the criteria established by the NSLP for free or reduced meals after deductions are made for the following special hardship conditions which could not reasonably be anticipated or controlled by the household:
 - 1. Unusually high medical expenses
 - 2. Shelter costs in excess of 30 percent of reported income
 - 3. Special education expenses due to the mental or physical condition of a child
 - 4. Disaster or casualty losses

In addition, agrees to provide these benefits to children from families who are experiencing strikes, layoffs and unemployment which cause the family income to fall within the criteria established by the NSLP for free or reduced meals.

- D) Agrees there will be no physical segregation of, nor any other discrimination against, any child because of his inability to pay the full price of the meal. The names of the children eligible to receive free and reduced price meals shall not be published, posted or announced in any manner and there shall be no overt identification of any such children by use of special tokens or tickets or any other means. Further assurance is given that children eligible for free or reduced price meals shall not be required to:
 - 1. Work for their meals
 - 2. Use a separate lunch room
 - 3. Go through a separate serving line
 - 4. Enter the lunchroom through a separate entrance
 - 5. Eat meals at a different time
 - 6. Eat a meal different from the one sold to children paying the full price
- E) Agrees in the operation of child nutrition programs, no child shall be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, or national origin.
- F) Agrees to establish and use a fair hearing procedure for parental appeals of the school's decisions on applications and for school officials' challenges to the correctness of

information contained in an application or continued eligibility of any child for free or reduced price meals. During the appeal and hearing the child will continue to receive free or reduced priced meals. A record of all such appeals and challenges and their dispositions shall be retained for three (3) years. Prior to initiating the hearing procedures, the parent or local school official may request a conference to provide an opportunity for the parent and school official to discuss the situation, present information, and obtain an explanation of data submitted in the application and decisions rendered. Such a conference shall not in any way prejudice or diminish the right to a fair hearing. The hearing procedure shall provide the following:

1. A publicly-announced, simple method for making an oral or written request for a hearing
 2. An opportunity to be assisted or represented by an attorney or other person
 3. An opportunity to examine, prior to and during the hearing, the documents and records presented to support the decision under appeal
 4. Reasonable promptness and convenience in scheduling a hearing and adequate notice as to the time and place of the hearing
 5. An opportunity to present oral or documentary evidence and arguments supporting a position without undue interference
 6. An opportunity to question or refute any testimony or other evidence and to confront and cross-examine any adverse witnesses
 7. The hearing be conducted and the decision made by a hearing official who did not participate in the decision under appeal or in any previous conference
 8. The parties concerned and any designated representative thereof be notified in writing of the decision of the hearing official
- G) Agrees to designate the Superintendent or designee to review applications and make determinations of eligibility. This official will use the criteria outlined in this policy to determine which individual children are eligible for free or reduced price meals.
- H) Agrees to develop and send to each child's parent or guardian a letter as outlined by State Department of Education including an application form for free or reduced price meals at the beginning of each school year. Applications may be filed at any time during the year. All children from a family will receive the same benefits.
- I) The following information will be available in the office of the Superintendent.
1. Eligibility criteria for free and reduced meals
 2. Parent letter and application
 3. Public release
 4. Collection procedure

Legal Reference: National School Lunch Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1751 et. seq.
Child Nutrition Act, 42 U.S.C. § 1771 et. seq.

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	February 13, 2017
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionSpecial Education

Norfolk Public Schools adopts this special education policy with the intent that the policy maintains the District's compliance with all applicable laws affecting special education services and programs. The Superintendent or designees shall develop regulations or procedures to implement these policies. Employees and contractors of the District are expected to comply with these policies and all regulations, guidelines and procedures related to this policy in all respects.

The District will abide by all state and federal laws relating to special education. The District's special education policy and regulations, guidelines and procedures related to this policy are to be interpreted so as to be in compliance with such laws. In the event of changes in law, the school administration shall be authorized to implement modifications of practice to comply with such changes (whether the changes impose more or less stringent procedural or substantive requirements) until such time as amended policies are adopted by the Board of Education. References herein to 92 NAC 51 citations are made to Rule 51 as in effect on the date of the adoption of these policies. In the event of renumbering or other revisions to Rule 51, the policy shall be interpreted and implemented consistent with such renumbering or revisions.

1. Free Appropriate Public Education

A free appropriate public education shall be made available to all children with disabilities residing in the District, including children with disabilities who have been suspended or expelled, from date of verification through the school year in which the child is no longer eligible or the student reaches twenty-one (21) years of age, whichever occurs earlier. An Individualized Education Plan ("IEP") will be created for each such child that will enable the student to make progress appropriate in light of the student's unique circumstances.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.01 through 004.03A and 007.07C2 through 007.07C6

2. Full Educational Opportunity Goal

The District shall take steps to ensure that its children with verified disabilities, through the age of twenty-one, have available to them the variety of educational programs and services available to children without disabilities in the areas served by the District, including art, music, industrial arts, family consumer science education, and vocational education.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.11A

3. Child Find

All children from birth to age twenty-one (21) with disabilities residing in the District, including children with disabilities who are homeless or are wards of the state or attending nonpublic schools, regardless of the severity of their disabilities, who are in need of special education and related services, will be identified, located and evaluated. A practical method shall be developed and implemented by the administration to determine which children with disabilities are currently receiving needed special education and related services. The District will implement multiple methods to provide parents, guardians, and community members with information regarding how to refer a child for an evaluation and the identification process and will publish an annual notice of any significant activity that is designed to identify, locate, or evaluate children to

publicly notify parents, guardians, or appointed surrogates. The District's child find process will be consistent with Federal and Nebraska regulations. Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.01 through 006.01A2

4. Pre-Referral Interventions

For a school age student, a general education student assistance team (SAT) or a comparable problem solving team shall be used prior to referral for multidisciplinary team evaluation. The SAT or comparable problem solving team shall utilize and document problem solving and intervention strategies to assist the teacher in the provision of general education. If the student assistance team or comparable problem solving team feels that all viable alternatives have been explored, a referral for multidisciplinary evaluation shall be completed. A referral shall include information from the SAT or comparable problem solving team, meeting the requirements of 92 NAC 51-006.01B and a listing of the members of the SAT or comparable problem solving team.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.01B

5. Disability Verification and Eligibility

Eligibility for services will be determined by a multidisciplinary team based on the results of a comprehensive evaluation. The multidisciplinary team will identify whether a child is eligible for special education services based on the disability categories identified by Nebraska and Federal regulations. The multidisciplinary team will rule out the determinant factor is due to a lack of appropriate instruction in reading or math or due to lack of English proficiency. The team will prepare a written report documenting all evaluation findings in accordance with Federal and Nebraska requirements that will be provided to the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate. When a child is not eligible for services, the multidisciplinary team will determine if general education interventions or strategies are needed.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.03; 92 NAC 51-006.04B through 006.04N;

6. Individualized Education Program (IEP)

An individualized education program, or an individualized family service plan, is to be developed, reviewed, and revised for each child with a disability in accordance with 92 NAC 51-007 by teams that will include all roles identified within Federal and Nebraska rules. Any draft of an IEP that is developed will not be considered final until it is reviewed and revised based on the team, including the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate, input, and consensus. The district will make reasonable efforts to obtain informed consent from the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate for special education placement on the IEP form before services are initiated. Revocation of consent for services must be documented by the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate in writing.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-007

7. Least Restrictive Environment

To the maximum extent appropriate, children with disabilities, through the age of twenty-one, including children in public or private institutions or other care facilities, are to be educated with children who are not disabled. Placement for a student with a disability will be based upon a completed IEP developed by a group of persons, including the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate, knowledgeable about the child, the meaning of the evaluation data, and the placement options. Special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of children with disabilities from the regular educational environment will occur 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 (the “Least Restrictive Environment Rules”). The District will ensure that a continuum of alternative placements is available to meet the needs of children with disabilities, particularly those in disproportionate groups, for special education and related services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-008.01

8. Procedural Safeguards

Children with disabilities and their parents, guardians, or appointed surrogates shall be afforded the required procedural safeguards. Parents, guardians, and appointed surrogates will be given a copy of their procedural safeguards annually or upon initial referral or parental (parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate) request for evaluation; upon request by a parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate; upon receipt by the school district or approved cooperative of the first occurrence of the filing of a complaint under 92 NAC 51-009.11 and the first occurrence of filing a special education due process case under 92 NAC 55; and in accordance with the discipline procedures in 92 NAC 51-016.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-009.01 through 009.07; 009.10 through 009.12; 009.14, 006.07

9. Disciplinary Removal of Children with Disabilities

School personnel may remove a child with a disability who violates a code of student conduct from his or her current placement to an appropriate interim alternative educational setting, another setting, or suspension as long as those removals do not constitute a change of placement. The District defines a change of placement as it is defined under 92 NAC 51-016. The school district will ensure that school personnel appropriately consider unique circumstances on a case-by-case basis when determining whether a change in placement has occurred. Within 10 school days of any decision to change the placement of a child with a disability because of a violation of a code of student conduct, the school district, the parent, and relevant members of the student’s IEP shall conduct a manifestation determination pursuant to 92 NAC 51-016. If the conduct which gave rise to the violation of the school code is determined to be a manifestation of the student’s disability, any change of placement for the student will only be made by a student’s IEP team. For disciplinary changes in placement that would exceed ten (10) consecutive school days, if the behavior that gave rise to the violation of the school code is determined not to be a manifestation of the child’s disability, school personnel may apply the relevant disciplinary procedures to children with disabilities in the same manner and for the same duration as the procedures that would be applied to children without disabilities.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-016

10. Evaluation, Identification, and Reevaluation Procedures

Children with disabilities shall be evaluated, identified, and reevaluated by a team of multidisciplinary qualified professionals in accordance with 92 NAC 51-006. The MDT of a child suspected of having a specific learning disability shall include the additional requirements in accordance with 92 NAC 51-006.04K. The District will make reasonable efforts to obtain written permission for evaluation in accordance with Federal and Nebraska rules. Revocation for consent for evaluation must be documented by the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate in writing.

The documented results of the evaluation will be provided to parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate and included in student files. All evaluation components will be at district expense. The

District will utilize a variety of assessment instruments to ensure district teams have access to appropriate measures to complete evaluations. The district will follow any publisher guidelines for assessments and will not use outdated or culturally inappropriate tools.

The District will respond to a request for an Independent Educational Evaluation without unnecessary delay. The parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate will be given written notice of the District's decision to either move forward with the Independent Educational Evaluation or to initiate a hearing to determine the appropriateness of the evaluation. If the District agrees to move forward with the evaluation, locations of any evaluator shall be within a reasonable distance of the District. A reasonable distance means within 100 miles of the school building the child attends and within Nebraska. In the event this geographic area restriction would prevent a parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate from obtaining an Independent Educational Evaluation, the location of the evaluator may be outside the specified geographic area but must be within Nebraska. The District will provide the parent, guardian, or appointed surrogate with a list of qualified agencies/evaluators within the geographic area. The evaluators are to have their rates approved by the Nebraska Department of Education to be authorized to conduct the evaluation.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006

11. Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information

A system of safeguards will be implemented to protect the confidentiality of student records and information in accordance with law.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-003.16, 003.20, 009.03 through 009.03M3

12. Transition of Children from Part C to Preschool Programs

Children participating in early intervention programs under Part C of the IDEA (early intervention services) will be appropriately evaluated, identified, and have services under Part B of the IDEA by age 3 in a manner consistent with 92 NAC 52-008. Children receiving early intervention services under Part C of the IDEA may continue to receive Part C services, upon parental consent, until the August 31st following the child's third birthday. The District will participate in transition planning conferences arranged by the designated lead agency.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 52-008

13. Children in Nonpublic Schools

To the extent consistent with the number and location of children with disabilities in the District who are enrolled by their parents, guardians, or appointed surrogates in nonpublic elementary and secondary schools in the District, provision will be made for the participation of those children in the programs assisted or carried out under Part B of the IDEA (services for school-aged children) by providing them with special education and related services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-012.08 and 015

14. Personnel Standards and Personnel Development

Personnel providing special education or related services to children with disabilities shall be appropriately and adequately prepared and trained in accordance with IDEA requirements and the District will take measurable steps to recruit, hire, train and retain personnel meeting the requirements of IDEA to provide such services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-010

15. Accessibility of IEP and Responsibility to Implement

A child's IEP shall be accessible to each regular education teacher, special education teacher, related service provider, and other service provider who is responsible for the IEP's implementation. Each of the aforementioned providers shall be informed of his or her specific responsibilities related to implementing the child's IEP, and the specific accommodations, modifications, and supports that must be provided for the child in accordance with the IEP. All providers who are responsible for the implementation of a child's IEP are expected to implement the child's IEP according to its terms.

16. Participation in and Reporting of State and District Wide Assessments

All children with disabilities shall be included in all general state and district wide assessment programs, including assessments described under section 612(a)(16)(A) of the IDEA with appropriate accommodations and alternate assessments where necessary and as indicated in their respective individualized education programs. The District will make available to the Nebraska Department of Education the information necessary to carry out its duties relating to the reporting of children with disabilities participation in assessments.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.05

17. Suspension and Expulsion Rates

The District will examine data, including data disaggregated by race/ethnicity, gender, LEP status, and disability category, to determine if significant discrepancies are occurring in the rate of long-term suspensions and expulsions of children with disabilities.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.06E

18. Access to Instructional Materials

As part of any printed instructional materials adoption process, procurement contract, or other practice or instrument used for purchase of printed instructional materials, the District will enter into a written contract with the publisher of the printed instructional materials to:

- A. Require the publisher to prepare and, on or before delivery of the print instructional materials, provide to the National Instructional Material Access Center, electronic files containing the contents of the printed instructional materials using the National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard, or
- B. Purchase instructional materials from the publisher that are produced in, or may be rendered in specialized formats.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.15

19. Over-Identification and Disproportionality

Procedures shall be in place to ensure that testing and evaluation materials and procedures utilized for the 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. All District special education provisions will be equitably available to all children regardless of race, ethnicity, language, location, transience, income level, and access to medical care.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-006.02C

20. Prohibition on Mandatory Medication

Children shall not be required to obtain a prescription for a controlled substance as a condition of attending school, receiving an evaluation to determine whether a child has a disability or the nature and extent of special education and related services the child needs, or receiving special education services.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-004.11D; 21 U.S.C. §812(c)

21. Transportation

Transportation will be provided for children with disabilities who are eligible for transportation and residents of the school district as required by law to access academic, related services, and nonacademic services and activities as determined by the child's IEP. Except when a parent is transporting only his or her child, the District shall require that the driver and vehicle meet the standards required by 92 NAC 91 and 92.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-014.01 through 014.02

22. Surrogates

A surrogate will be appointed, and other action taken to ensure the rights of children with a disability as required by law. The surrogate may represent the child in all matters related to the identification, evaluation, and educational placement of a child and the provision of a free appropriate public education to the child.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 51-009.10

23. Early Intervention Services – Consent

When a parent refuses to provide consent under 92 NAC 52, a meeting will be held or offered to explain to the parents how their failure to consent affects the ability of their child to receive services under 92 NAC 52.

Legal Reference: 92 NAC 52

Legal Reference: 34 CFR Parts 300, 303 and 304
Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 79-1110 to 79-1167
92 NAC 51, 52 and 55

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Revision:	September 14, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	February 13, 2017
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Revision:	November 8, 2021
Date of Revision:	July 11, 2022
Date of Revision:	August 14, 2023
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionFirearm Policy

It shall be the policy of the Norfolk Public School District to undertake all reasonable efforts to prohibit the unlawful possession, the knowingly and intentionally selling, attempting to sell, providing, loaning, delivering, or in any other way transferring the possession of a firearm to a juvenile, and to prevent the unlawful possession of a firearm, including concealed firearms, in a school, on school grounds, in a school owned vehicle, or at a school sponsored activity or athletic event. This policy shall not apply to the issuance of firearms to or possession by members of the Armed Services of the United States, active or reserve, National Guard of the State, or reserve officers training corp, peace officers, off duty law enforcement, or other duly authorized law enforcement officers when on duty or training or when contracted by a school to provide school security or school event contract services. Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to require school action when a firearm is lawfully possessed by a person receiving instruction, or instruction under the immediate supervision of an adult instructor, or as to firearms contained within a private vehicle operated by a non-student adult when the firearm is not loaded, is encased, and is either in a locked firearm rack that is on a motor vehicle or is in a case that is expressly made for the purpose of containing a firearm and that is completely zipped, snapped, buckled, tied or otherwise fastened with no part of a firearm exposed.

Any unlawful use or possession of a firearm, including concealed firearms, as described in this policy and as described by statute shall as soon as is reasonably possible be reported to an appropriate peace officer. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to prevent the district from carrying out regular disciplinary procedures as have been adopted by the Board of Education or as otherwise authorized by law.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. Sec. 28-1204.04

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Revision:	September 14, 2015
Date of Reaffirmation:	February 13, 2017
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Revision:	August 14, 2023
Date of Reaffirmation:	July 8, 2024
Date of Revision:	July 13, 2026

InstructionComputerInternet Safety and Acceptable Use PolicyA. Internet Safety Policy

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

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

called ‘hacking,’ and other unlawful activities; and (b) unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal identification information regarding minors.

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

B. Computer Acceptable Use Policy

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

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

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

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

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

The following are unacceptable uses of the technology resources:

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

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

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

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

- c. Campaigning: Technology resources shall not be used, and no person shall authorize its use, for the purpose of campaigning for or against the nomination or election of a candidate or the qualification, passage, or defeat of a ballot question.
- d. Technology-Related Limitations: Technology resources shall not be used in any manner which impairs its effective operations or the rights of other technology users. Without limitation,
 - 1. Users shall not use another person's name, log-on, password, or files for any reason, or allow another to use their password (except for authorized staff members).
 - 2. Users shall not erase, remake, or make unusable another person's computer, information, files, programs or disks.
 - 3. Users shall not access resources not specifically granted to the user or engage in electronic trespassing.
 - 4. Users shall not engage in "hacking" to gain unauthorized access to the operating system software or unauthorized access to the system of other users.
 - 5. Users shall not copy, change, or transfer any software without permission from the network administrators.
 - 6. Users shall not write, produce, generate, copy, propagate, or attempt to introduce any computer code designed to self-replicate, damage, or otherwise hinder the performance of any computer's memory, file system, or software. Such software is often called a bug, virus, worm, Trojan horse, or similar name.
 - 7. Users shall not engage in any form of vandalism of the technology resources.
 - 8. Users shall follow the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. The Superintendent or designees may further define such rules.
- e. Other Policies and Laws: Technology resources shall not be used for any purpose contrary to any District policy, any school rules to which a student user is subject, or any applicable law. Without limitation, this means that technology resources may not be used:
 - 1. to access any material contrary to the Internet Safety Policy; or to create or generate any such material.
 - 2. to engage in unlawful harassment or discrimination, such as sending e-mails that contain sexual jokes or images.
 - 3. to engage in violations of employee ethical standards and employee standards of performance, such as sending e-mails that are threatening or offensive or which contain abusive language; use of end messages on e-mails that may imply that the District is supportive of a particular religion or religious belief system, a

political candidate or issue, or a controversial issue; or sending e-mails that divulge protected confidential student information to unauthorized persons.

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

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

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

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

may be reported to the Commissioner of Education. Use that is unlawful may be reported to the law enforcement authorities. Users shall be responsible for damages caused and injuries sustained by improper or non-permitted use.

Legal Reference: Children's Internet Protection Act, 47 USC § 254
Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. § 6501

FCC Order adopted August 10, 2011
47 USC § 254(h)(1)(b); 47 CFR 54.500(b) and 68 FR 36932 (2003) (E-rate restrictions)
Neb. Rev. Stat. § 49-14,101.01 (Political Accountability and Disclosure Act)

Date of Adoption: July 14, 2014
Date of Revision: September 14, 2015
Date of Revision: August 8, 2016
Date of Revision: February 13, 2017
Date of Revision: September 11, 2017
Date of Reaffirmation: December 14, 2020
Date of Revision: July 13, 2026

InstructionChronic Infectious Disease Practice and ProcedureA. Infectious Diseases

1. This policy applies to any disease not known to be spread by casual, incidental contact. Such diseases include but are not limited to AIDS and Hepatitis B.
2. The safety and health of the students and staff of Norfolk Public Schools is of ultimate concern. The determination of whether an infected student or employee of the Norfolk Public School System should be permitted to attend classes, participate in school activities or remain on the job will be made on a case-by-case basis.
3. In making this determination the following factors will be taken into consideration:
 - a. The behavior, neurological development and physical condition of the infected person.
 - b. The expected type of interaction with others in the school setting.
 - c. The impact on both the infected person and others in that setting.
4. The determination of whether or not an infected person remains in the school or school system will be based solely on scientific and medical evidence. Legal advice may also be sought by the district.
5. If determination of whether or not an infected person poses an imminent threat to the health and safety of the school, community or the individual's conduct presents a clear threat to the physical safety of himself/herself or others, then with respect to an infected student, Nebraska Revised Statutes Section 79-264 will be followed concerning exclusion from school. With respect to an infected certified employee of the school district, the provision of Nebraska Revised Statutes, Section 79-838 will be followed with respect to leave of absence.
6. If an infected student in grades K through 12 is not permitted to attend classes, the school will make every reasonable effort to provide the student with an adequate alternative education.
7. Any person with an infectious disease will retain the rights of confidentiality and privacy. Information and discussion with regard to the case will be limited to those who must have information to deal with the situation. If necessary, the community will be informed that an infectious disease is present in the school system and that the person will be excluded only if the situation warrants such action based upon medical and legal advice. No information will be given out about the individual, his/her medical record or about the family without written permission of the individual (adult) or parent/legal guardian of the student.

B. Bloodborne Pathogens

1. First aid may be rendered in situations involving the presence of blood or other potentially infectious materials (hereinafter "bloodborne pathogen situations") by the school nurse, and by such other employees as the Superintendent shall designate. All non-designated employees shall refer bloodborne pathogen situations to a designated employee, and shall not be required to personally render first aid in bloodborne pathogen situations or be disciplined for failure to personally render first aid in bloodborne pathogen situations.
2. An employee who has an employment related bloodborne pathogen exposure incident (an incident in which another person's blood or other potentially infectious material contacts the employee's eye, mouth, mucous membrane, non-intact skin, or pierced mucous membrane or skin barrier) shall promptly give notice of the incident and details of the incident to the superintendent or the superintendent's designee.
3. The Superintendent shall be authorized and required to take such action and adopt such plans as may be required to place this School District in compliance with OSHA regulations concerning bloodborne pathogens, in the event and at such time as this School District may become subject to OSHA regulation.

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Reaffirmation:	February 13, 2017
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionDispensing Medications

The administration of medication at school is strongly discouraged except when necessary for the student's health or education. The dosage intervals of many medications can be adjusted so the times for taking the medication come outside school hours. When possible, interval adjustment should be considered before administering medication at school. All medications administered by school district personnel shall be administered in accordance with the Medication Aide Act.

- A. Authorizations for Prescription Medications. Prescription medications which must be administered during school hours may be administered when the following are on file at school:
1. Physician's Authorization: A physician's dated authorization including name of the medication and dosage provided in the original prescription bottle.
 2. Caretaker's Authorization: A caretaker's signed and dated authorization or permission to administer the medication during school. (Note: All references to "caretaker" in this policy shall mean a parent, foster parent, family member, or legal guardian who provides care for the student for whom medication is to be administered. The laws include a "friend" as a caretaker, but the school will not ordinarily recognize such an individual as a "caretaker" for the purposes of medication administration).
 3. Original Packaging: The medication is in its original packaging and is labeled as dispensed by the prescriber or pharmacist. The label must name the child and identify the medication, strength, time interval and route to be administered. Two labeled containers may be requested: one for home and one for school. If needed, the physician may be contacted for clarification on medication administration.
- B. Authorizations for Non-Prescription Medications. If a student must take non-prescription medication during school, procedures 2 and 3 above are to be followed before administration.
- C. Renewal of Authorizations. Medication authorizations must be renewed annually and updated immediately as changes occur.
- D. Documentation of Administration of Medication. The school district shall keep and maintain accurate medication administration records. A record of each dose of medication administered shall be documented reflecting the student's name, and the name of the medication, date, time, dosage, route, the signature and title of the person administering the medication and any unusual observations, and any refusal by the recipient to take and/or receive the medication. Medication documentation shall be kept confidential in accordance with the policies and practices concerning student records, provided that medication administration records shall be available to the Department of Education and the

Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure for inspection and copying according to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements. Such medication administration records shall be maintained for not less than two (2) years.

- E. Storage of Medications. Medication shall be stored in a locked or otherwise secure area in accordance with the manufacturer's or dispensing pharmacist's instructions or temperature, light, humidity, or other storage instructions. Only authorized school personnel who are designated by the administration of the school district for administration of medications shall have access to the medications. The school nurse shall establish procedures for monitoring the storage and handling of medication, the medication's expiration date, and the disposal of medication.
- F. Receipt and Disposal of Medications. Medication shall be provided the parent. When medication is received, the amount received should be documented. Medication which is either past the expiration date or not claimed by the parent by the end of the school year shall be destroyed. Procedures for destroying medication shall include witness and documentation.
- G. Administration of Medication by School Personnel.
 - 1. Administration of Medication: Administration of medication includes, but is not limited to:
 - a. Providing medications for another person according to the "five rights" (getting the right drug to the right recipient in the right dosage by the right route at the right time);
 - b. Recording medication provision; and
 - c. Observing, monitoring, reporting, and otherwise taking appropriate actions regarding desired affects, side effects, interactions, and contraindications associated with the medication.
 - 2. Authorized School Personnel: Administration of medication shall only be done by the following school personnel:
 - a. Health Care Professionals (School Nurses). This means an individual who holds a current license from the Department of Health and Human Services Regulation and Licensure for whom administration of medication is included in the scope of practice. For purposes of this Policy, such individuals are referred to as "school nurses."
 - b. Medication Competent Staff. This means a staff member of the school who has been determined to be competent to administer medication by: (i) a recipient with capability and capacity to make an informed decision about medications (at a minimum, the recipient must be age 19 or older), (ii) a caretaker for the student, or (iii) the health care professional designated by the school to conduct the assessment.

- (1) Determination of Competency by School Nurse: A staff member may be determined to be competent where the staff member:
 - (i) passes a competency assessment every 3 years
 - (ii) that demonstrates the staff member can follow the minimal competencies
 - (iii) to the satisfaction of the school nurse (school nurses are the school district's designated health care professionals).

The school nurse shall provide such training as the school nurse determines in the exercise of professional judgment to be appropriate given the experience level of the staff member and the anticipated medication administration for which the staff member will be responsible.

- (2) Competency Certificate: Upon successful completion of the competency assessment, the school nurse shall maintain the documentation of competency. The documentation may be by letter, certificate, or other written memoranda and shall include: the name of the school staff member who successfully completed the competency assessment; the date the competency assessment was conducted; and, the name, profession, and license number of the school nurse who conducted the competency assessment.
- (3) Maintain Records of Assessments: The school shall maintain written documentation of successful completion of competency assessments, identification of the individual providing direction and monitoring, and acceptance of the responsibility for direction and monitoring for a minimum of two (2) years.
- (4) Direction and Monitoring: A medication competent staff member is to be subject to direction and monitoring, which involves responsibility for observing and taking appropriate action regarding any desired effects, side effects, interactions, and contraindications associated with the medication. The school nurse is identified as a person being responsible for direction and monitoring and for each medication competent staff member is to accept responsibility for direction and monitoring of medication competent staff member in writing.
- (5) Errors. Medication competent staff members are to promptly report any medication errors or concerns to the school nurse.

3. Minimum Competencies:

The minimum competencies to be demonstrated by medication competent staff and to be implemented in practice by all school personnel engaged in medication administration are:

- (1) Maintaining confidentiality.
- (2) Complying with a competent recipient's right to refuse to take medication and, in the case of a non-competent, recognize the requirement to seek advice and consultation with the physician, physician's designee, or caretaker of the student providing direction and monitoring regarding the procedures and persuasive methods to be used to encourage compliance with medication provision. Recognizing that persuasive methods should not include anything that causes injury to the recipient.
- (3) Maintaining hygiene and current accepted standards for infection control.
- (4) Documenting accurately and completely.
- (5) Safely providing medications according to the "five rights" ("five rights" means getting the right drug to the right recipient in the right dosage by the right route at the right time).
- (6) Having the ability to understand and follow instructions.
- (7) Practicing safety in application of procedures for storage, handling and administration of medications.
- (8) Complying with limitations and conditions under which school personnel may provide medications.
- (9) Having an awareness of abuse and neglect reporting requirements.
- (10) Recognizing general unsafe conditions indicating that the medication should not be provided including change in consistency or color of the medication, unlabeled medication or illegible medication label, and those medications that have expired.
- (11) Recognizing that unsafe conditions should be reported to the caretaker or licensed health care professional responsible for providing direction and monitoring (typically, the school nurse).
- (12) Recognizing general conditions which may indicate an adverse reaction to medication such as rashes/hives, and general changes in recipient's condition which may indicate inability to receive medications, and that all such conditions shall be reported to the caretaker or licensed health care professional responsible for providing direction and monitoring (typically, the school nurse).

4. Routes of Medication Administered by School Personnel:

- a. Routine Medication via Oral, Inhalation, Topical, and Instillation Routes: School nurses and medication competent staff may provide routine medications (meaning the frequency of administration, amount, strength, and method are specifically fixed) by the following routes:

- (1) Oral, which includes any medication given by mouth including sublingual (placing under the tongue) and buccal (placing between the cheek and gum) routes and oral sprays;
- (2) Inhalation, which includes inhalers, and nebulizers. Oxygen may be given by inhalation;
- (3) Topical application of sprays, creams, ointments, and lotions and transdermal patches; and

(4) Instillation by drops, ointments, and sprays into the eyes, ears, and nose.

b. Administration of Medication via Additional Routes, PRN Medication, and Observing and Reporting: School nurses and medication competent staff may provide medication by additional routes not listed in subparagraph “a” above (“additional routes”), provide PRN medication (PRN medication means an administration scheme in which a medication is not routine, is taken as needed, and requires assessment for need and effectiveness), or participate in observing and reporting for monitoring medications only under the following conditions:

- (1) In the case of a medication competent staff member, a determination has been made by the school nurse or by the student’s physician or duly licensed health care professional that that these activities can be done safely for the specified recipient by the medication competent staff member and the determination is placed in writing.
- (2) Directions for additional routes must be for recipient specific procedures and must be in writing.
- (3) Directions for PRN medication must be in writing and include parameters for provision of PRN medication.
- (4) Directions for observing and reporting for monitoring medication must be in writing and include the parameters for the observation and reporting.
- (5) School personnel administering the medication shall comply with the written directions.

c. Injections: School nurses will ordinarily be responsible for medications that must be provided or administered by injection. A medication competent staff member will not ordinarily administer medications by injection without specific training on injection administration. Students may be authorized to self-administer medication as hereafter provided.

5. Refusal to Administer Medication: School personnel may refuse to give a medication at school if after a reasonable and prudent research by a school health care professional as set forth in subparagraph "e" below, a decision has been made that the dosage prescribed exceeds that which is recommended in the Physician's Desk Reference, Mosby's Nursing Drug Reference, the most recent edition of the Nursing Drug Handbook, or other pharmaceutical manuals handbook; or when a drug or substance is not currently approved by the FDA. When school personnel refuse to carry out a request to administer medication, the principal, Director of Student Services and parent/guardian shall be notified. The attending physician may also be notified, if warranted.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 71-6718 to 71-6742; NDE Rule 59

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
1 st Revision:	December 8, 2014
2 nd Revision:	February 13, 2017
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionStudent Self-Management of Asthma, Anaphylaxis, and/or Diabetes

Students with asthma, anaphylaxis or diabetes will be permitted to self-manage such medical conditions upon:

- (1) written request of the student's parent or guardian;
- (2) authorization of the student's physician;
- (3) receipt of a signed no liability statement from the parent or guardian; and
- (4) development of an asthma or anaphylaxis or a diabetes medical management plan for the student.

Students with such a medical management plan may possess the necessary medication to manage their medical condition upon the conditions established in the plan and not be subject to discipline for such possession. Provided that, if the student uses or allows the medication to be used for any reason other than as prescribed or as provided in the plan or possesses the medication other than as provided in the plan the student shall be subject to discipline in accordance with the student conduct and drug-free school policies.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-224 and 79-225

Date of Adoption:	July 14, 2014
Date of Revision:	August 8, 2016
Date of Reaffirmation:	February 13, 2017
Date of Reaffirmation:	December 14, 2020
Date of Reaffirmation:	June 8, 2026

InstructionSeizure Safe Schools

Each school building will have a “seizure action plan” if the following criteria are met: (1) at least one student in that building has been identified as having a seizure disorder; and (2) that student’s parent or guardian and health care provider have worked with the school to develop a seizure action plan.

Every building with a seizure action plan will have at least one employee who has met the training requirements necessary to administer or assist with the self-administration of a seizure rescue medication or medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms.

In accordance with state law, except in the case of an emergency, prior to the administration of a seizure rescue medication or medication prescribed to treat seizure disorder symptoms by a school employee, a student's parent or guardian must:

1. Provide the school with a written authorization to administer the medication at school;
2. Provide a written statement from the student's health care practitioner containing the following information:
 - a. The student's name;
 - b. The name and purpose of the medication;
 - c. The prescribed dosage;
 - d. The route of administration;
 - e. The frequency that the medication may be administered; and
 - f. The circumstances under which the medication may be administered.
3. Provide the medication to the school in its unopened, sealed package with the intact label affixed by the dispensing pharmacy; and
4. Collaborate with school employees to create a seizure action plan.

If permitted by the student's seizure action plan, a student shall be allowed to possess the supplies, equipment, and medication necessary to treat a seizure disorder in accordance with such seizure action plan.

Any authorization provided by a parent or guardian shall be effective only for the school year in which it is provided and shall be renewed each following school year.

Legal Reference: Neb. Statute 79-3201 to 3207

Date of Adoption: August 14, 2023

Date of Reaffirmation: June 8, 2026

InstructionBehavioral Points of Contact

The Superintendent is delegated the authority to designate one or more behavioral awareness and health points of contact for each school building in the District. The behavioral awareness and health point of contact may be an administrator, nurse, psychologist, or another appropriate staff member. Each behavioral awareness and health point of contact will be trained in behavioral awareness and health and have knowledge of community service providers and other resources that are available for the students and families in the District. The District will maintain or have access to a registry of local mental health and counseling resources for students and parents.

The points of contact will be listed on the District's website and in the student handbook.

The Superintendent shall report the designated behavioral awareness and health points of contact to the Nebraska State Department of Education each year when requested by the Department.

In addition, all District employees who interact with students, as determined by the Superintendent, shall receive at least one hour of behavioral and mental health training with a focus on suicide awareness and prevention training each year. The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for coordinating this training.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-11,159
 LB 705, § 4 (2023)

Date of Adoption: August 14, 2023
Date of Reaffirmation: June 8, 2026

InstructionBehavioral Intervention and Classroom Management1. Purpose

The District is committed to creating a learning environment where every individual is valued, respected, and supported. This Policy emphasizes the shared responsibility of individuals for their actions and their ability to learn, grow, and thrive. This Policy further provides a framework for encouraging positive behavior, addressing challenges in a caring and constructive way, and ensuring safe and supportive school and classroom environments.

2. General Principles

As part of the District's commitment to all students, the Board hereby implements a tiered-system of support to foster a positive school climate and culture, encourage appropriate student behavior, and provide the necessary supports for academic and behavioral success.

This Policy does not replace or alter the Student Discipline Act when behaviors warrant student disciplinary action under that Student Discipline Act.

3. Standards

Tier 1: Universal Supports			
	District Level	School Level	Classroom Level
Sound Infrastructure & Shared Leadership	Develop and maintain a district-wide behavior framework, ensuring alignment with the district's vision and goals. Establish a leadership team to oversee implementation and sustainability.	Create school-level leadership teams to implement the district behavior framework. Build systems to support staff in consistent implementation of universal behavior strategies.	Teachers set up clear, consistent behavior expectations aligned with school and district policies. Classroom routines and physical environments are structured to promote positive behaviors.
Layered Continuum of Support	Ensure all schools have access to evidence-based universal behavior practices and instructional tools for promoting positive behavior.	Develop a school-wide plan for teaching and reinforcing positive behavior expectations for all students.	Integrate the development of emotional and interpersonal skills into daily instruction and explicitly teach expected behaviors.
Data-Based Decision-Making	Implement a district-wide behavior data system for tracking	Use behavioral data to assess school culture,	Collect and reflect on classroom behavior data to identify patterns or

	student behavioral incidents, attendance, and other indicators of behavior. Analyze district trends to guide support for schools.	climate and adjust universal supports.	unanticipated signs of distress and adjust teaching practices as needed.
Communication and Collaboration	Share district-wide behavior policies, expectations, and data with all stakeholders, including families and the community.	Develop intervention teams to identify students in need of Tier 2 support and manage their plans.	Teachers collaborate with intervention teams to integrate targeted strategies into the classroom.
Tier 2: Targeted Supports			
	District Level	School Level	Classroom Level
Sound Infrastructure & Shared leadership	Provide a menu of evidence-based Tier 2 intervention and training for implementation.	Develop intervention teams to identify students in need of Tier 2 support and manage their plans.	Teachers collaborate with intervention teams to integrate targeted strategies into the classroom that align with school and district policies.
Layered Continuum of Support	Allocate resources to support targeted interventions, such as additional staff or training for small group supports.	Implement interventions such as mentoring programs, social skills groups, or targeted behavior coaching.	Provide additional supports like daily progress monitoring and structured break.
Data-Based Decision-Making	Use district-wide systems to track the effectiveness of Tier 2 interventions and adjust as needed.	Monitor progress using behavior data: point sheets, observations, or student self-assessments and input data in district-wide systems.	Document daily data on student progress to evaluate the impact of interventions.
Communication and Collaboration	Facilitate communication between schools, families, and community partners about available Tier 2 supports.	Engage families in the intervention process by providing regular updates and involving them in problem solving and goal setting.	Maintain open lines of communication with families about their child's progress and strategies to promote support the behavior goals at home.
Tier 3: Intensive, Individualized Supports			
	District Level	School Level	Classroom Level
Sound Infrastructure & Shared leadership	Ensure access to specialized staff to design and oversee intensive interventions.	Assemble a multidisciplinary team to develop and implement Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBAs) and Behavior	Collaborate with specialists to integrate individualized supports into classroom routines that align with school and district policies.

		Intervention Plans (BIPs).	
Layered Continuum of Support	Coordinate external services and resources for students requiring wraparound support beyond the school.	Provide interventions or sessions tailored to the student's unique needs and communicate with external services and resources to align supports for students.	Consistently implement accommodations and modifications, such as sensory supports or de-escalation plans, to address individual behaviors.
Data-Based Decision-Making	Regularly review data on Tier 3 interventions and outcomes to ensure its effectiveness.	Use detailed, frequent data collection to refine and adjust BIPs based on student progress.	Implement daily monitoring and adjust individualized strategies as data indicates.
Communication and Collaboration	Partner with community agencies to align supports for students with complex needs.	Conduct regular meetings with families to review and revise plans based on student progress.	Provide ongoing feedback to families and specialists about the student's daily performance, progress, and needs.

4. Addressing Dysregulated Behavioral and Classroom Removal

This Policy outlines a structured approach for managing dysregulated behavior that disrupts the learning environment or poses safety concerns. The aim is to ensure the safety and well-being of all students and staff, while supporting the student in developing self-regulation skills and reintegrating into the classroom.

A. Criteria for Removal

- i. *Safety Concerns*: Immediate removal may occur if a student poses a threat to their own safety, the safety of others, or the environment.
- ii. *Disruption to Learning*: Removal may be necessary if the student's behavior significantly disrupts instruction or the learning environment.
- iii. *Attempted Interventions*: Whenever possible, staff should use de-escalation techniques, behavior redirection, or other Tier 1 or Tier 2 interventions before considering removal. Severe behaviors that endanger safety may bypass prior interventions.

B. Procedure for Removal

- i. *Behavior Documentation*: The teacher or staff member documents the behavior leading to the removal, including antecedents, attempted interventions, and the incident itself. A clear, objective description of the behavior must be included.

- ii. *Safe Transition*: The student is removed to a designated safe space, such as the office or a designated calming area, by trained personnel. Efforts are made to ensure the student remains calm and safe during the transition. An escort will be provided if necessary.
- iii. *Notification*: Parents or guardians are notified as soon as possible about the removal. A detailed account of the behavior and any interventions attempted are shared.

C. Post-Removal Actions

- i. *Restorative Meeting*: A meeting involving the student, parents or guardians, teacher or other designated staff member, and administrator may be scheduled to review the behavior, its impact, and steps to prevent recurrence. The meeting emphasizes restoring relationships and understanding the root cause of the behavior.
- ii. *Behavior Support Plan (if needed)*: For recurring incidents, a behavior support plan is developed or reviewed, including targeted interventions and supports aligned with the student's needs. The plan may include strategies such as check-ins, mentoring, or additional behavioral learning supports.

D. Transition Back to the Classroom

- i. *Reintegration Plan*: The student returns to the classroom with appropriate support, which may include a reintegration checklist, a designated buddy, or frequent check-ins with a trusted adult. Expectations and routines are explicitly reviewed with the student.
- ii. *Ongoing Support and Monitoring*: Follow-up meetings with the student, teacher or other designated staff member, and parents/guardians are scheduled to evaluate progress as needed. Data from behavior observations are used to adjust interventions and supports.
- iii. *Focus on Positive Growth*: A strengths-based approach is applied to recognize and reinforce improvements in behavior.

5. Communication and Collaboration

Families are partners in addressing the student's behavior and supporting reintegration. School staff will provide clear and transparent communication about any incident, the student's plan for return, and available resources. Collaboration may also involve general education, special education, school psychologist, behavior specialists, school counselors, and/or social workers to ensure all supports align with the student's needs and strengths.

6. Required Training

The District will ensure that school employees are trained in behavioral awareness and intervention as required by this Policy and state law. The Superintendent is hereby delegated the authority and responsibility to develop or contract for such training and to ensure that the appropriate staff receive said training as required by state law.

7. Monitoring and Feedback

Parents, guardians, students, advocates and community members are encouraged to provide feedback on this Policy and the District's actions under this Policy. The Superintendent or designee is also directed to provide any feedback to the Board of Education as the Superintendent deems appropriate.

Legal Reference: Neb. Rev. Stat. § 79-262.01

Date of Adoption: June 23, 2025

Date of Reaffirmation: June 8, 2026