New Berlin Elementary

Student Handbook

2026-2027

"This handbook is subject to change due to any new laws passed by the General Assembly. The online version of the handbook will be the most updated for parents and students to review. The handbook can be revised at any time throughout the school year."

Welcome to New Berlin Elementary School

Welcome to New Berlin Elementary School! We are excited to have you and your child as part of our learning community. At NBE, we are committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment where every student feels valued, experiences success, and has the opportunity to learn and grow.

We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is essential to student success. Through open communication, collaboration, and mutual respect, we can work together to create a positive educational experience for every child.

The NBE Student Handbook has been developed to provide students and families with important information regarding school procedures, expectations, policies, and student rights and responsibilities. It is designed to answer many of the questions that may arise throughout the school year and serve as a helpful resource for families.

We encourage all parents and guardians to review the handbook with their children, discuss its contents, and keep it readily available for future reference. Familiarity with the information outlined in this handbook will help ensure a shared understanding of school expectations and promote a successful school year for everyone.

If you have questions or need clarification regarding any information in the handbook, please do not hesitate to contact the school office or building administration. We value your partnership and are always happy to assist.

Please note that this handbook supersedes all previous versions and any prior written or verbal statements regarding the policies and procedures addressed within it.

We look forward to a wonderful school year filled with learning, growth, and Pretzel Pride!

Together, we make NBE a great place to learn and grow!

Mrs. Chelsea McGlothlin – Principal

Contacting the Elementary School

Address: 600 N. Cedar Street, New Berlin, IL, 62670.
Office Hours: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm through the school year.
Phone: (217) 488-6054
Fax: (217) 488-6039
Website: www.pretzelpride.com
Principal: Mrs. Chelsea McGlothlin
Assistant Principal: Mrs. Liz Birch

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter / Section	Page
Chapter 1: Introductory Information & General Notices	8
School Operations During a Pandemic or Other Health Emergency	8
General School Information	9
Visitors	9
Equal Opportunity Statement and Sex Equity	10
Animals on School Property	10
School Volunteers	10
Toys/Personal Items	11
Invitations and Gifts	11
Emergency School Closings	11
Video and Audio Monitoring Systems	11
Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities	11
Special Education Services	11
Students with Food Allergies	12
Care of Students with Diabetes	12
Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention	12
Parent Organizations	12
Student Appearance	13
Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Grooming Behaviors, and Boundary Violations	13
Faith's Law Notifications: Employee Conduct Standards	15
Prevention of Anaphylaxis	15
Sexual Abuse Response and Prevention Resource Guide	16
Free and Reduced-Price Food Services: Meal Charge Notification	16
Chapter 2: Residency, Attendance, Grading & Promotion	17
Enrollment	17
Residency	17
Attendance	17
Student Absences	18
Pre-Arranged Absences	18
Appointments	18
Tardiness	19
Make-Up Work	19
Truancy	19
Excessive Absences	20
Release Time for Religious Instruction & Observance	20
Grading & Promotion	22
Final Grades – 4th & 5th Grades	22
Grading Scale	22
Honor Roll	23
Awards	23
Homework & Make-Up Work	23
Conferences	23
Exemption from PE Requirement	23
Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs	24
Chapter 3: Student Fees & Food Service	24
Fees	24
Fines, Fees, and Charges; Waiver of Student Fees	24

Food Services	25
Federal Free and Reduced Eligibility	25
Chapter 4: Transportation	25
Parent Transportation – “Car Line”	25
Bus Transportation	26
Bus Conduct	26
Parking	27
Chapter 5: Health & Safety	27
Wellness Policy	27
Child Abuse/Mandated Reporters	28
Nurse’s Office	28
Emergency Contact Information	28
Illness at School	28
Immunization, Health, Eye and Dental Examinations	28
Eye Examination	29
Dental Examination	29
Exemptions	29
Vision and Hearing Screening	29
Medication Procedures	31
Communicable Diseases	31
Head Lice	31
Guidance & Counseling	32
Safety Drill Procedures	32
Targeted School Violence Prevention Program	32
Chapter 6: Student Conduct & Discipline	32
Level I Acts of Misconduct	37
Discipline for Level I Acts of Misconduct	37
Level II Acts of Misconduct	37
Discipline for Level II Acts of Misconduct	37
Level III Acts of Misconduct	38
Discipline for Level III Acts of Misconduct	38
Level IV Acts of Misconduct	39
Discipline for Level IV Acts of Misconduct	39
Searches	40
Searches of the Person	40
Notice of Search	40
Cooperation with Police and Prosecutors	40
Custody of Prohibited Items When Discovered	40
Procedures in Disciplinary Actions	40
Out-of-School Suspension/Bus Suspension	40
Expulsion	42
Procedures in Other Disciplinary Options	42
Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment	42
School Dress Code/Student Appearance	45
Field Trips	46
Chaperone Guidelines for Field Trips	46
Walking Field Trips	46
Student Discipline	46
Access to Student Social Networking Passwords & Websites	46
Student Use of Electronic Devices	46
Corporal Punishment	36

Weapons Prohibition	36
Gang and Gang Activity Prohibited	48
Re-Engagement of Returning Students	36
Chapter 7: Internet, Technology & Publications	48
Internet Acceptable Use	48
Terms and Conditions	49
Internet Safety	51
Annual Notice to Parents about Educational Technology	51
Use of Artificial Intelligence	52
Chapter 8: Search & Seizure	52
Search and Seizure	52
School Property and Equipment as Well as Personal Effects Left There by Students	52
Chapter 9: Special Education	53
Education of Children with Disabilities	53
Discipline of Students with Disabilities	54
Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities	11
Request to Access Classroom	54
Chapter 10: Student Records & Privacy	55
Student Privacy Protections	55
Student Records	56
Student Biometric Information	58
Chapter 11: Parental Right Notifications	58
Teacher Qualifications	58
Testing Transparency	59
Annual Report Card	59
Unsafe School Choice Option	59
Classroom Assignments	59
Standardized Testing	59
Testing	59
Curriculum & Programs	60
Awards	23
Other Rewards/Activities	61
Homeless Child's Right to Education	61
Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs	24
Request to Examine Family Life and National Sex Ed Standards Materials	62
Parent or Guardian Opt-Outs	62
Sex Education Instruction	63
Sexual Offender Notification Law	65
Sex Offender and Violent Offender Community Notification Law	65
School Visitation Rights	65
Guidelines for Student Distribution of Non-School-Sponsored Publications	66
Pesticide Application Notice	66
Asbestos Policy	67

NBE Bell Schedules for all Dismissal Times

3:21 Arrival/ Dismissal Bells	
7:50AM	Doors open
8:10AM	Teachers to gym; Bell rings for announcements
3:10PM	Walkers Dismissal Bell
3:12PM	Car Riders Dismiss to Parents
3:12PM	Pre-K and Special Education Student Board Buses; 3-5 Bus Riders Follow
3:14PM	K-2 Board Buses
3:21PM	Final Bell

2:21 Arrival/ Dismissal Bells	
7:50AM	Doors open
8:10AM	Teachers to gym; Bell rings for announcements
2:10PM	Car Rider Dismissal Bell
2:12PM	Car Riders Dismiss to Parents
2:12PM	Pre-K and Special Education Student Board Buses; 3-5 Bus Riders Follow
2:14PM	K-2 Board Buses
2:21PM	Final Bell

1:00 Arrival/ Dismissal Bells	
7:50AM	Students go to the gym
8:10AM	Teachers to gym; Bell rings for announcements
12:47PM	Car Rider Dismissal Bell
12:49PM	Car Riders Dismiss to Parents
12:49PM	Pre-K and Special Education Student Board Buses; 3-5 Bus Riders Follow
12:57PM	K-2 Board Buses
1:00PM	Final Bell

11:45 Arrival/ Dismissal Bells	
7:50AM	Students go to the gym
8:10AM	Teachers to gym; Bell rings for announcements
11:40AM	Walkers Dismissal Bell
11:42 AM	Car Riders Dismiss to Parents
11:42AM	K-2nd Grade Bus Riders Dismiss
11:35AM	3rd-5th Grade Bus Riders Dismiss
11:45 AM	Final Bell

Student Rights and Responsibilities

The School Board, in support of the aims of public education, believes that behavior of students attending public schools shall reflect standards of good citizenship demanded of members of a democratic society. Self-discipline is one of the ultimate goals of education.

Chapter 1: Introductory Information & General Notices

1.00 SCHOOL OPERATIONS DURING A PANDEMIC OR OTHER HEALTH EMERGENCY

A pandemic is a global outbreak of disease. Pandemics happen when a new virus emerges to infect individuals and, because there is little to no pre-existing immunity against the new virus, it spreads sustainably. Your child's school and district play an essential role, along with the local health department and emergency management agencies, in protecting the public's health and safety during a pandemic or other health emergency.

During a pandemic or other health emergency, you will be notified in a timely manner of all changes to the school environment and schedule that impact your child. Please be assured that even if school is not physically in session, it is the goal of the school and district to provide your child with the best educational opportunities possible.

Additionally, please note the following:

1. All decisions regarding changes to the school environment and schedule, including a possible interruption of in-person learning, will be made by the superintendent in consultation with and, if necessary, at the direction of the Governor, Illinois Department of Public Health, local health department, emergency management agencies, and/or Regional Office of Education.
2. Available learning opportunities may include remote and/or blended learning. Blended learning may require your child to attend school on a modified schedule.
3. Students will be expected to participate in blended and remote instruction as required by the school and district. Parents are responsible for assuring the participation of their child. Students who do not participate in blended or remote learning will be considered truant.
4. All school disciplinary rules remain in effect during the interruption of in-person learning. Students are subject to discipline for disrupting the remote learning environment to the same extent that discipline would be imposed for disruption of the traditional classroom.
5. Students and parents will be required to observe all public health and safety measures implemented by the school and district in conjunction with state and local requirements.
6. During a pandemic or other health emergency, the school and district will ensure that educational opportunities are available to all students.
7. School personnel will work closely with students with disabilities and other vulnerable student populations to minimize the impact of any educational disruption.
8. Students who have a compromised immune system, live with an individual with a compromised immune system, or have a medical condition that may impact their ability to attend school during a pandemic or other public health emergency should contact school officials.
9. During a pandemic or other health emergency, teachers and school staff will receive additional training on health and safety measures.
10. In accordance with school district or state mandates, the school may need to conduct a daily health assessment of your child. Parents and students will be notified of the exact assessment procedures if this becomes necessary.
11. Parents should not send their child to school if their child exhibits any symptoms consistent with the pandemic or other health emergency.
12. Please do not hesitate to contact school or district officials if you have any concerns regarding your child's education, health or safety.

PRESS 4:180, Pandemic Preparedness; Management; and Recovery.

1.30: GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

This handbook contains all required notices and information and was developed with the guidance of the IPA Model Student Handbook. This handbook is a summary of the school's rules and expectations, and is not a comprehensive statement of school procedures. The Board's comprehensive policy manual is available for public inspection through the District's website www.pretzelpride.com or at the Board office, located at: 600 N. Cedar, New Berlin, IL. The School Board governs the school district, and is elected by the community. Current CUSD #16 School Board members are:

Stephanie Neuman, President
Bill Marr, Vice President
Jenny Mann, Secretary
Jerry Bishoff, Member
Jason Arndt, Member
Josh Beard, Member
Abby Griffith, Member

The School Board has hired the following administrative staff to operate New Berlin Elementary:
Suzanne Keller, Superintendent
Chelsea McGlothlin , Principal
Liz Birch, Assistant Principal

The school is located and may be contacted at:
600 N. Cedar Street, New Berlin, IL 62670
Phone: (217) 488-6054
Fax: (217) 488-6039
Website: pretzelpride.com

1.40 VISITORS

All visitors, including parents and siblings, are required to enter through the front door of the building and proceed immediately to the main office. Visitors should identify themselves and inform office personnel of their reason for being at school.
Visitors must sign in, identifying their name, the date and time of arrival, and the classroom or location they are visiting. Approved visitors must take a tag identifying themselves as a guest and place the tag to their outer clothing in a clearly visible location. Visitors are required to proceed immediately to their location in a quiet manner. All visitors must return to the main office and sign out before leaving the school.

Any person wishing to confer with a staff member should contact that staff member to make an appointment. Conferences with teachers are held, to the extent possible, outside school hours or during the teacher's conference/preparation period. Parents will not be permitted to go to the classroom during instructional time.

Visitors are expected to abide by all school rules during their time on school property. A visitor who fails to conduct himself or herself in a manner that is appropriate will be asked to leave and may be subject to criminal penalties for trespass and/or disruptive behavior.

No person on school property or at a school event shall perform any of the following acts:

1. Strike, injure, threaten, harass, or intimidate a staff member, board member, sports official or coach, or any other person.
2. Behave in an unsportsmanlike manner or use vulgar or obscene language.
3. Unless specifically permitted by State law, possess a weapon, any object that can reasonably be considered a weapon or looks like a weapon, or any dangerous device.

4. Damage or threaten to damage another's property.
5. Damage or deface school property.
6. Violate any Illinois law or municipal, local or county ordinance.
7. Smoke or otherwise use tobacco products.
8. Distribute, consume, use, possess, or be impaired by or under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug.
9. Be present when the person's alcoholic beverage, cannabis, other lawful product, or illegal drug consumption is detectible, regardless of when and/or where the use occurred.
10. Use or possess medical cannabis, unless he or she has complied with Illinois' Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Act and district policies.
11. Impede, delay, disrupt, or otherwise interfere with any school activity or function (including using cellular phones in a disruptive manner).
12. Enter upon any portion of school premises at any time for purposes other than those that are lawful and authorized by the board.
13. Operate a motor vehicle: (a) in a risky manner, (b) in excess of 20 miles per hour, or (c) in violation of an authorized district employee's directive.
14. Engage in any risky behavior, including roller-blading, roller-skating, or skateboarding.
15. Violate other district policies or regulations, or a directive from an authorized security officer or district employee.
16. Engage in any conduct that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the district or a school function.

Cross-reference: PRESS 8:30, *Visitors to and Conduct on School Property*

1.50 EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT AND SEX EQUITY

Equal educational and extracurricular opportunities are available to all students without regard to race, color, nationality, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, status as homeless, immigration status, order of protection status, or actual or potential marital or parental status, including pregnancy.

No student shall, based on sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity be denied equal access to programs, activities, services, or benefits or be limited in the exercise of any right, privilege, advantage, or denied equal access to educational and extracurricular programs and activities.

Any student or parent/guardian with a sex equity or equal opportunity concern should contact the building administration.

Cross-Reference:
PRESS 7:10, *Equal Educational Opportunities*
PRESS 2:260, *Uniform Grievance Procedure*

1.60 ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

In order to assure student health and safety, animals are not allowed on school property, except in the case of a service animal accompanying a student or other individual with a documented disability. This rule may be temporarily waived by the building principals in the case of an educational opportunity for students, provided that (a) the animal is appropriately housed, humanely cared for, and properly handled, and (b) students will not be exposed to a dangerous animal or an unhealthy environment.

1.70 SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

All school volunteers must complete the "Volunteer Information Form" and be approved by the school principal prior to assisting at the school. Forms are available in the school office. Some teachers utilize parent volunteers in the classroom. The individual teachers make this decision. Teachers who desire parent volunteers will notify parents. For school-wide volunteer opportunities, please contact the building principal. Volunteers are required to check in and out at the main office and receive a visitor badge before going to their destination.

Cross-Reference:PRESS 6:250, *Community Resource Persons and Volunteers*

TOYS/PERSONAL ITEMS

Toys or personal items should not be brought to school. The school is not responsible if personal items, toys, electronics are lost, broken or stolen. This includes but not limited to: Pokemon Cards, handheld video games, phones, watches, dolls, matchbox cars, etc. Your toys may be confiscated by administration and held for parent pickup.

1.80 INVITATIONS AND GIFTS

Party invitations or gifts for classmates should not be brought to school to be distributed unless all of the students in class are included. Similarly, cards and gifts from one student to another must not be brought to school. The school cannot provide names, addresses, or phone numbers of children attending CUSD #16 schools.

1.90 EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSINGS

In cases of bad weather and other local emergencies, please listen to any local radio or television station to be advised of school closings or early dismissals. The superintendent will send communications out to all parents through Thrillshare via text, call, and e-mail along with posting it on the district website. School closings for any reason will be announced as early as possible depending upon all the factors of inclement weather. For your child's safety, make certain your child knows ahead of time where to go in case of an early dismissal. If there are special arrangements, the office and the classroom teacher should be made aware of the change in the child's routine.

If we dismiss early for an emergency, all after-school functions are automatically canceled.

Cross-Reference*:* PRESS 4:170*, Safety*

Children will go outside for all recesses when the combined temperature and wind chill is 20 degrees or above unless it is raining, hailing, lightning, snowing. If the conditions are favorable for immediate thunderstorms or tornadoes, the students may also be kept indoors. If the wind chill drops below 20 degrees (feels like temperature) or the heat index rises above 95 degrees (feels like temperature), recess will be held indoors.

Parents may want to apply sunscreen in the morning before school on warm, sunny days since teachers will not be responsible for application. Throughout the winter/spring months please remember to send coats, gloves, and hats to school with your children every day. It is in the students' best interest to have these items at school at all times so that they may be used to keep them warm and dry. Students may be excluded from recess if they do not have appropriate clothing determined by school personnel.

1.100 VIDEO AND AUDIO MONITORING SYSTEMS

A video and/or audio monitoring system may be in use on school buses and a video monitoring system may be used in public areas of the school building. These systems have been put in place to protect students, staff, visitors and school property. If a discipline problem is captured on audiotape or videotape, these recordings may be used as the basis for imposing student discipline. If criminal actions are recorded, a copy of the tape may be provided to law enforcement personnel.

Cross-Reference: PRESS 4:110, *Transportation*

1.110 ACCOMMODATING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES

The Sangamon Area Special Education Cooperative provides services to eligible students in District 16. To access information regarding these services please contact the building principal. The Sangamon Area Special Education office can be reached at 217-786-3250. Behavioral management guidelines are established and available. Contact the elementary principal for additional information. The district's Policy for Behavioral Interventions for Students with Disabilities is available upon request at the elementary school office.

Cross Reference: PRESS 8:70*, Accommodating Individuals with Disabilities*

1.120 STUDENTS WITH FOOD ALLERGIES

State law requires our school district to annually inform parents of students with life-threatening allergies or life-threatening chronic illnesses of the applicable provisions of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and other applicable federal statutes, state statutes, federal regulations and state rules. If your student has a life-threatening allergy or life-threatening chronic illness, please notify the building Principal and School Nurse at 217-488-6054 immediately. A note or email must be on file in the nurse's office.

Federal law protects students from discrimination due to a disability that substantially limits a major life activity. If your student has a qualifying disability, an individualized Section 504 Plan will be developed and implemented to provide the needed support so that your student can access his or her education as effectively as students without disabilities.
Not all students with life-threatening allergies and life-threatening chronic illnesses may be eligible under Section 504. Our school district also may be able to appropriately meet a student's needs through other means.

Cross Reference: PRESS 7:285, *Food Allergy Management Program*

1.130 CARE OF STUDENTS WITH DIABETES

If your child has diabetes and requires assistance with managing this condition while at school and school functions, a Diabetes Care Plan must be submitted to the building principal. Parents/guardians are responsible for and must:

a. Inform the school in a timely manner of any change which needs to be made to the Diabetes Care Plan on file with the school for their child.
b. Inform the school in a timely manner of any changes to their emergency contact numbers or contact numbers of health care providers.
c. Sign the Diabetes Care Plan.
d. Grant consent for and authorize designated School District representatives to communicate directly with the health care provider whose instructions are included in the Diabetes Care Plan. For further information, please contact the building principal.

1.140 SUICIDE AND DEPRESSION AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Youth suicide impacts the safety of the school environment. It also affects the school community, diminishing the ability of surviving students to learn and the school's ability to educate. Suicide and depression awareness and prevention are important goals of the school district.
The school district maintains student and parent resources on suicide and depression awareness and prevention. Much of this information, including a copy of the school district's policy, is posted on the school district website. Information can also be obtained from the school office.

Cross-Reference: PRESS 7:290, *Suicide and Depression Awareness and Prevention*

If you need to share any information that threatens your safety or the safety of others, please contact the following resources: the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (988), the Crisis Text Line, and either the Safe2Help Illinois helpline or a local suicide prevention hotline.

1.160 PARENT ORGANIZATIONS

Parent organizations are invaluable resources to the District's schools. While parent organizations have no administrative

authority and cannot determine District policy, the School Board welcomes their suggestions and assistance.

Parent organizations may be recognized by the Board and permitted to use the District's name, a District school's name, or a District school's team name, or any logo attributable to the District provided they first receive the Superintendent or designee's express written consent. Consent to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos will generally be granted if the organization or club has by-laws containing the following:

1. The organization's or club's name and purpose, such as, to enhance students' educational experiences, to help meet educational needs of students, to provide extra athletic benefits to students, to assist specific sports teams or academic clubs through financial support, or to enrich extracurricular activities.

2. The rules and procedures under which it operates.
3. An agreement to adhere to all Board policies and administrative procedures.
4. A statement that membership is open and unrestricted, meaning that membership is open to all parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school, District staff, and community members.
5. A statement that the District is not, and will not be, responsible for the organization's or club's business or the conduct of its members, including on any organization or club websites or social media accounts.
6. An agreement to maintain and protect its own finances.
7. A recognition that money given to a school cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Booster clubs may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to the District to use at its discretion. The Board's legal obligation to comply with Title IX by providing equal athletic opportunity for members of both genders will supersede an organization or club's recommendation.

Permission to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos may be rescinded at any time and does not constitute permission to act as the District's representative. At no time does the District accept responsibility for the actions of any parent organization or booster club regardless of whether it was recognized and/or permitted to use any of the above-mentioned names or logos. The Superintendent shall designate an administrative staff member to serve as the recognized liaison to parent organizations or booster clubs. The liaison will serve as a resource person and provide information about school programs, resources, policies, problems, concerns, and emerging issues. Building staff will be encouraged to participate in the organizations.

Cross Reference: PRESS 8:90, *Parent Organizations and Booster Clubs*

1.170 STUDENT APPEARANCE

A student's appearance, including dress and hygiene, must not disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety. The school does not prohibit hairstyles historically associated with race, ethnicity, or hair texture, including, but not limited to, protective hairstyles such as braids, locks, and twists, or religious hairstyles, hair related religious practices, or facial hair worn in accordance with sincerely held religious beliefs, observance, or practice, including but not limited to, uncut hair or sidelocks, or beards, mustaches, or other facial hair.

The school will not prohibit students from wearing or accessorizing the student's graduation attire with items associated with the student's cultural, ethnic, or religious identity or any other protected characteristic or category identified in the Illinois Human Rights Act. Students who disrupt the educational process or compromise standards of health and safety must modify their appearance.
Cross Reference: PRESS 7:160, *Student Appearance*

1.180 AWARENESS AND PREVENTION OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE, GROOMING BEHAVIORS, AND BOUNDARY VIOLATIONS

Child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations harm students, their parent/guardian, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn.

Warning Signs of Child Sexual Abuse

Warning signs of child sexual abuse include the following.
Physical signs:

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or other genital infections

- Signs of trauma to the genital area, such as unexplained bleeding, bruising, or blood on the sheets, underwear, or other clothing
- Unusual weight gain or loss

Behavioral signs:

- Excessive talk about or knowledge of sexual topics
- Keeping secrets
- Not talking as much as usual
- Not wanting to be left alone with certain people or being afraid to be away from primary caregivers
- Regressive behaviors or resuming behaviors that the child had grown out of, such as thumb sucking or bedwetting
- Overly compliant behavior
- Sexual behavior that is inappropriate for the child's age
- Spending an unusual amount of time alone
- Trying to avoid removing clothing to change or bathe

Emotional signs:

- Change in eating habits or unhealthy eating patterns, like loss of appetite or excessive eating
- Signs of depression, such as persistent sadness, lack of energy, changes in sleep or appetite, withdrawing from normal activities, or feeling "down"
- Change in mood or personality, such as increased aggression
- Decrease in confidence or self-image
- Anxiety, excessive worry, or fearfulness
- Increase in unexplained health problems such as stomach aches and headaches
- Loss or decrease in interest in school, activities, and friends
- Nightmares or fear of being alone at night
- Self-harming behaviors or expressing thoughts of suicide or suicidal behavior
- Failing grades
- Drug or alcohol use

Warning Signs of Grooming Behaviors

School and District employees are expected to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels.
Prohibited grooming is defined as (i) any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, (ii) by an employee with direct contact with a student, (iii) that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples of grooming behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Sexual or romantic invitations to a student
- Dating or soliciting a date from a student
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog with a student
- Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
- Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with a student
- Failing to respect boundaries or listening when a student says "no"
- Engaging in touching that a student or student's parents/guardians have indicated as unwanted
- Trying to be a student's friend rather than filling an adult role in the student's life
- Failing to maintain age-appropriate relationships with students
- Talking with students about personal problems or relationships
- Spending time alone with a student outside of their role in the student's life or making up excuses to be alone with a student
- Expressing unusual interest in a student's sexual development, such as commenting on sexual characteristics or sexualizing normal behaviors
- Giving a student gifts without occasion or reason
- Spending a lot of time with a student
- Restricting a student's access to other adults

Warning Signs of Boundary Violations

School and District employees breach employee-student boundaries when they misuse their position of power over a student in a way that compromises the student's health, safety, or general welfare. Examples of boundary violations include:

- Favoring a certain student by inviting the student to "hang out" or by granting special privileges
- Engaging in peer-like behavior with a student
- Discussing personal issues with a student
- Meeting with a student off-campus without parent/guardian knowledge and/or permission
- Dating, requesting, or participating in a private meeting with a student (in person or virtually) outside of a professional role
- Transporting a student in a school or private vehicle without administrative authorization
- Giving gifts, money, or treats to an individual student
- Sending a student on personal errands
- Intervening in a serious student problem instead of referring the student to an appropriately trained professional
- Sexual or romantic invitations toward or from a student
- Taking and using photos/videos of students for non-educational purposes
- Initiating or extending contact with a student beyond the school day in a one-on-one or non-group setting
- Inviting a student to an employee's home
- Adding a student on personal social networking sites as contacts when unrelated to a legitimate educational purpose
- Privately messaging a student
- Maintaining intense eye contact with a student
- Making comments about a student's physical attributes, including excessively flattering comments
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog
- Making sexually suggestive comments directed toward or with a student
- Disclosing confidential information
- Self-disclosure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Full frontal hugs
- Invading personal space

If you believe you are a victim of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, or boundary violations, or you believe that your child is a victim, you should immediately contact the Building Principal, a school counselor, or another trusted adult employee of the School.

Additional Resources include:
National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673)
National Sexual Abuse Chatline at online.rainn.org
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE (2873)

[1] Beginning July 1, 2027, Public Act 104-831 requires any student and parent/guardian handbook provided by the district to include employee-student guidelines established for: transporting a student; taking or possessing a photo or video of a student; and meeting with a student or contacting a student outside of the employee's professional role.
Cross Reference:
PRESS 4:165, *Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and Grooming Behaviors*
PRESS 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards*
PRESS 5:120-AP2,E, *Expectations and Guidelines for Employee-Student Boundaries*

1.185 Faith's Law Notifications: Employee Conduct Standards

School districts are required to include in their student handbook the District's Employee Code of Professional Conduct. These standards, in part, define appropriate conduct between school employees and students. A copy of these standards can be found on the District's website or requested from the Superintendent's office.

Cross Reference: PRESS 5.120, *Employee Ethics; Code of Professional Conduct; and Conflict of Interest*
PRESS 5:120-AP2, *Employee Conduct Standards*

1.190 Prevention of Anaphylaxis

While it is not possible for the School or District to completely eliminate the risks of an anaphylactic emergency, the District maintains a comprehensive policy on anaphylaxis prevention, response, and management in order to reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for anaphylactic reactions. Parent(s)/guardian(s) and students who desire more information or who want a copy of the District's policy may contact the Building Principal.

Cross Reference:
PRESS 7:285, *Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program*
PRESS 7:285-AP, *Administrative Procedure – Anaphylaxis Prevention, Response, and Management Program*

1.200 Sexual Abuse Response and Prevention Resource Guide

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) maintains a resource guide on sexual abuse response and prevention. The guide contains information on and the location of children's advocacy centers, organizations that provide medical evaluations and treatment to victims of child sexual abuse, organizations that provide mental health evaluations and services to victims and families of victims of child sexual abuse, and organizations that offer legal assistance to and provide advocacy on behalf of victims of child sexual abuse. This guide can be accessed through the ISBE website at www.isbe.net or you may request a copy of this guide by contacting the school's office.

1.210 Free and Reduced-Price Food Services: Meal Charge Notification

The following notification is provided to all households of students at the beginning of each school year as federally required notification regarding eligibility requirements and the application process for the free and reduced-price food services that are listed in Board policy 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services, and 4:140, Waiver of Student Fees. This notification is also provided to households of students transferring to the District during the school year. For more information, see www.fns.usda.gov/school-meals/unpaid-meal-charges, and/or contact the Building Principal or designee.

Free and Reduced-Price Food Services Eligibility

When the parents/guardians of students are unable to pay for their child(ren)'s meal services, meal charges will apply per a student's eligibility category and will be processed by the District accordingly.
A student's eligibility for free and reduced-price food services shall be determined by the income eligibility guidelines, family-size income standards, set annually by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, and distributed by the Il. State Board of Education.

Meal Charges for Meals Provided by the District

The Building Principal and District staff will work jointly to prevent meal charges from accumulating. Every effort to collect all funds due to the District will be made on a regular basis and before the end of the school year. Contact your Building Principal or designee about whether your child(ren)'s charges may be carried over at the end of the school year, i.e., beyond June 30th.
Unpaid meal charges are considered delinquent debt when payment is overdue as defined by Board policy 4:45, Insufficient Fund Checks and Debt Recovery and the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act (105 ILCS 123/). The District will make reasonable efforts to collect charges classified as delinquent debt, including repeated contacts to collect the amounts and, when necessary, requesting that the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) apply for meal benefits to determine if the student qualifies for such benefits under Board policy 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services. The District will provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student who requests one, regardless of the student's ability to pay or negative account balance.
When a student's funds are low and when there is a negative balance, reminders will be provided to the staff, students, and their parent(s)/guardian(s) at regular intervals during the school year. State law allows the Building Principal to contact parents(s)/guardian(s) to attempt collection of the owed money when the amount owed is more than the amount of five lunches or $20.00. If a parent/guardian regularly fails to provide meal money for the child(ren) that he/she is responsible for in the District and does not qualify for free meal benefits or refuses to apply for such benefits, the Building Principal or designee will direct the next course of action. Continual failure to provide meal money may require the District to notify the Ill. Dept. of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and/or take legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges, up to and including seeking an offset under the State Comptroller Act, if applicable.

Cross Reference:
PRESS 4:130-E, Exhibit – Free and Reduced-Price Food Services; Meal Charge Notifications
PRESS 8:30, Visitors to and Conduct on School Property

CHAPTER 2: RESIDENCY, ATTENDANCE, GRADING & PROMOTION

ENROLLMENT

Students who are five years old on or before September 1, are eligible to attend Kindergarten during the current school year. Students new to the district will be placed by the former public school's permanent records or by staff testing. Parents/guardians of students enrolling in the district for the first time will be required to provide a certified copy of the child's birth certificate. A copy will be made for the student's file, and the original will be returned to the parent/guardian. Additionally, proof of residence (see following section) and proof of required health information (see Chapter 5) must be provided.

RESIDENCY

Student Enrollment & County Residency – to be enrolled in Community Unit School District #16, students must reside full time in this school district with their natural parent(s) or legal guardian(s). Students and their parent(s)/guardian(s) must be full-time CUSD #16 residents. A resident is defined as an individual who is a full-time occupant of a dwelling located in CUSD #16 and who, on any given school day, is likely to be at their stated address when not at work or school. A person who owns property in the school district, but does not reside in the school district, is not considered a resident.

Proof of Residence – Proof of residence is required when a student initially enrolls in a school and whenever a change of residence occurs, and should be provided to the office of the appropriate attendance center. If the school office has questions about the validity of a student's residence, then residency must be verified by the District Office *before* a student will be enrolled at the appropriate attendance center.

1. A lease or rental agreement consisting of written evidence that the agreement is valid and current, and a current utility bill (gas, electric, water, home/telephone, or cable). Records must include the name and street address of the parent/guardian, OR
2. A current residential property tax statement or deed, and a current utility bill (gas, electric, water, home telephone, or cable). Records must include the name and street address of the parent/guardian, OR
3. A third-person affidavit of residence or residency approval form must be completed with the school system. The affidavit/form shall be completed and signed by the parent/guardian, as well as the legal owner or lesser of the property where the student and parent/guardian reside. The affidavit/residency form will be in effect until the parent/guardian provides the required proof of residence, but no longer than the end of the current school year.

Verification of Residency – A school system representative may visit the address given by any parent/guardian to verify residency. The property address given must be the actual location where the student and parent/guardian live full-time.

Consequences for Violating the Policy – Students who are illegally enrolled shall be withdrawn from school. The parent/guardian shall be charged tuition for the period of time that a student is illegally enrolled in Community Unit School District #16, together with all court and legal expenses incurred by the Board of Education in collecting school tuition. Charges shall be filed for providing false information on a legal document.

Students in Transitional Living Arrangements - Students that lack permanent or adequate housing have educational rights to help remove barriers to their educational success. The McKinney –Vento Assistance Act provides these students the ability to enroll in school, receive transportation and other available services. If you are in need of referrals or assistance please contact your student's school office or social worker.

2.10 ATTENDANCE

Illinois law requires that whoever has custody or control of any child between six (by September 1st) and seventeen years of age shall assure that the child attends school in the district in which he or she resides, during the entire time school is in session (unless the child has already graduated from high school). Illinois law also requires that whoever has custody or control of a child who is enrolled in the school, regardless of the child's age, shall assure that the child attends school during the entire time school is in session.

2.20 STUDENT ABSENCES

Absences should be kept to a minimum. Success in school is dependent upon regular attendance. Students with excessive absences miss class instruction and discussion, which are necessary for achieving that success.

Subject to specific requirements in State law, the following children are not required to attend public school: (1) any child attending a private school (including a home school) or parochial school, (2) any child who is physically or mentally unable to attend school (including a pregnant student suffering medical complications as certified by her physician), (3) any child lawfully and necessarily employed, (4) any child over 12 and under 14 years of age while in confirmation classes, (5) any child absent because of religious reasons, including to observe a religious holiday, for religious instruction, or because his or her religion forbids secular activity on a particular day(s) or time of day, and (6) any child 16 years of age or older who is employed and is enrolled in a graduation incentives program.

There are two types of absences: excused and unexcused. Excused absences include: illness, observance of a religious holiday, death in the immediate family, family emergency, situations beyond the control of the student as determined by the school board, circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, behavioral, emotional or physical health or safety, attending a military honors funeral to sound TAPS, or other reasons as approved by the principal. All other absences are considered unexcused. Pre-arranged excused absences must be approved by the principal. One week advance notice is encouraged.

Additionally, a student will be excused for up to 5 days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings. The Board of Education, in its discretion, may excuse a student for additional days relative to such leave or deployment. A student and the student's parent/guardian are responsible for obtaining assignments from the student's teachers prior to any excused absences and for ensuring that such assignments are completed by the student prior to his or her return to school. ***Cross-reference:PRESS 7:70, Attendance and Truancy***

PRE-ARRANGED ABSENCES

A PRE-ARRANGED absence is one approved by the school administration in advance of the absence. Some examples of pre-arranged absences might be Take Your Child to Work Day or a previously scheduled appointment. There will be no excused pre-arranged absences during state testing. These pre-arranged absences require approval from the school to be approved as excused absences. These forms should be submitted and approved 7 days in advance. Please note that we feel student attendance is very important as we can not replicate a lesson that is taught by the teacher. The administration will discuss the situation with the parent/guardian.

A pre-arranged absence form needs to be signed by the attendance secretary, student's classroom teacher, the parent(s), and finally approved by the principal. These forms may be picked up in the office or printed from the school website. Assignments may be provided in advance. It is not possible to re-create lessons and activities missed. The missed assignment(s) must be submitted by the deadline. One day for each day absent, plus one additional day is allowed to complete homework after the absence. For example, a student who is absent for 3 days of school has 4 school days to complete makeup work. If the above stated conditions are met, all work completed within the time allotment will be graded and recorded. Failure to meet these conditions will result in the absence being treated as an unexcused absence.
Cross Reference: PRESS 7:80, Release Time for Religious Instruction/Observation

APPOINTMENTS

Parents are encouraged to make all student medical and dental appointments so that students arrive at school before 8:30 am, or leave after 2:30 p.m., to ensure that students are present at school for an entire school day. Parents must pick students up **in the office** for appointments. Dr. notes will be required for all dental, orthodontist, vision, doctor appointments, etc. in order for the absence to be excused. The notes should be given or faxed to the front office upon return to school. Our fax number is (217)488-6039. After **9 absences**, a Dr. note will be required or the absence will be considered unexcused.

TARDINESS

Students are expected to be in the classroom ready to work when the 8:10 bell rings. Tardiness disrupts the learning process for the student, teacher and fellow students. When tardiness occurs beyond 4 occurrences, students will be subject to lunch detentions, withdrawal of privileges, parent conference, referral to the Truancy Officer and/or other appropriate consequences.

2.40 MAKE-UP WORK

If a student's absence is excused or if a student is suspended from school, he/she will be permitted to make up all missed work, including homework and tests, for equivalent academic credit. Students who are unexcused from school will be expected to make up missed work.

Diagnostic Procedures for Identifying Student Absences and Support Services to Truant or Chronically Truant Students

State law requires every school district to collect and review its chronic absence data and determine what systems of support and resources are needed to engage chronically absent students and their families to encourage the habit of daily attendance and promote success. This review must include an analysis of chronic absence data from each attendance center.

Furthermore, State law provides that school districts are encouraged to provide a system of support to students who are at risk of reaching or exceeding chronic absence levels with strategies and are also encouraged to make resources available to families such as those available through the State Board of Education's Family Engagement Framework to support and engage students and their families to encourage heightened school engagement and improved daily school attendance.

"Chronic absence" means absences that total 10% (18 Days) or more of school days of the most recent academic school year, including absences with and without valid cause, and out-of-school suspensions.

The School and District use the following diagnostic procedures for identifying the causes of unexcused student absences:

- Interviews with the student, his or her parent/guardian and any school officials who may have information about the reasons for the student's attendance problems
- Possible referral to Social Worker for Tier 2 supports

2.50 TRUANCY

Student attendance is critical to the learning process. Truancy is therefore a serious issue and will be dealt with in a serious manner by the school and district.

Students who miss more than 1% but less than 5% of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause (a recognized excuse) are truant. Students who miss 5% or more of the prior 180 regular school days without valid cause are chronic truants. Students who are chronic truants will be offered support services and resources aimed at correcting the truancy issue.

If chronic truancy persists after support services and other resources are made available, the school and district will take further action, including:

- Referral to the truancy officer
- Reporting to officials under the Juvenile Court Act
- Referral to the State's Attorney
- Appropriate school discipline

A student who misses 15 consecutive days of school without valid cause and who cannot be located or, after exhausting all available support services, cannot be compelled to return to school is subject to being administratively withdrawn from school.

A parent or guardian who knowingly and willfully permits a child to be truant is in violation of State law.

Cross Reference: PRESS 7:70, *Attendance and Truancy*

EXCESSIVE ABSENCES

Students with more than 10 days of absence per year will be reported to the Sangamon County Truancy Office unless the student has a valid excuse for each absence. All doctor's notes must be submitted immediately following the student's return to school. Doctor's notes must include the time the student was seen in the doctor's office, that the student is unable to attend school that day, and in cases of prolonged illness, must note all days that the student is unable to attend school. The principal, school nurse, and attendance secretary will review the attendance monthly to determine the validity of the excused absences when a student's total is over 10. The team will determine if a student's excuse(s) is/are valid and determine whether make up work will be allowed.

ABSENCES AND AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES STUDENTS WHO ARE ABSENT DURING THE LAST HALF OF A SCHOOL DAY MAY NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY SCHOOL ACTIVITY SCHEDULED FOR THAT DAY - Exceptions may be made, by the principal, in cases of a doctor's appointment or other obligation like a funeral. Students absent on Friday may participate in a Saturday activity, but the Friday absence will be reviewed on Monday.

2.30 RELEASE TIME FOR RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION & OBSERVANCE

A student will be released from school, as an excused absence, to observe a religious holiday or for religious instruction. The student's parent/guardian must give written notice to the building principal at least 5 calendar days before the student's anticipated absence(s). Students excused for religious reasons will be given an opportunity to make up any examination, study, or work requirement.

26.27 NBE Attendance Procedures

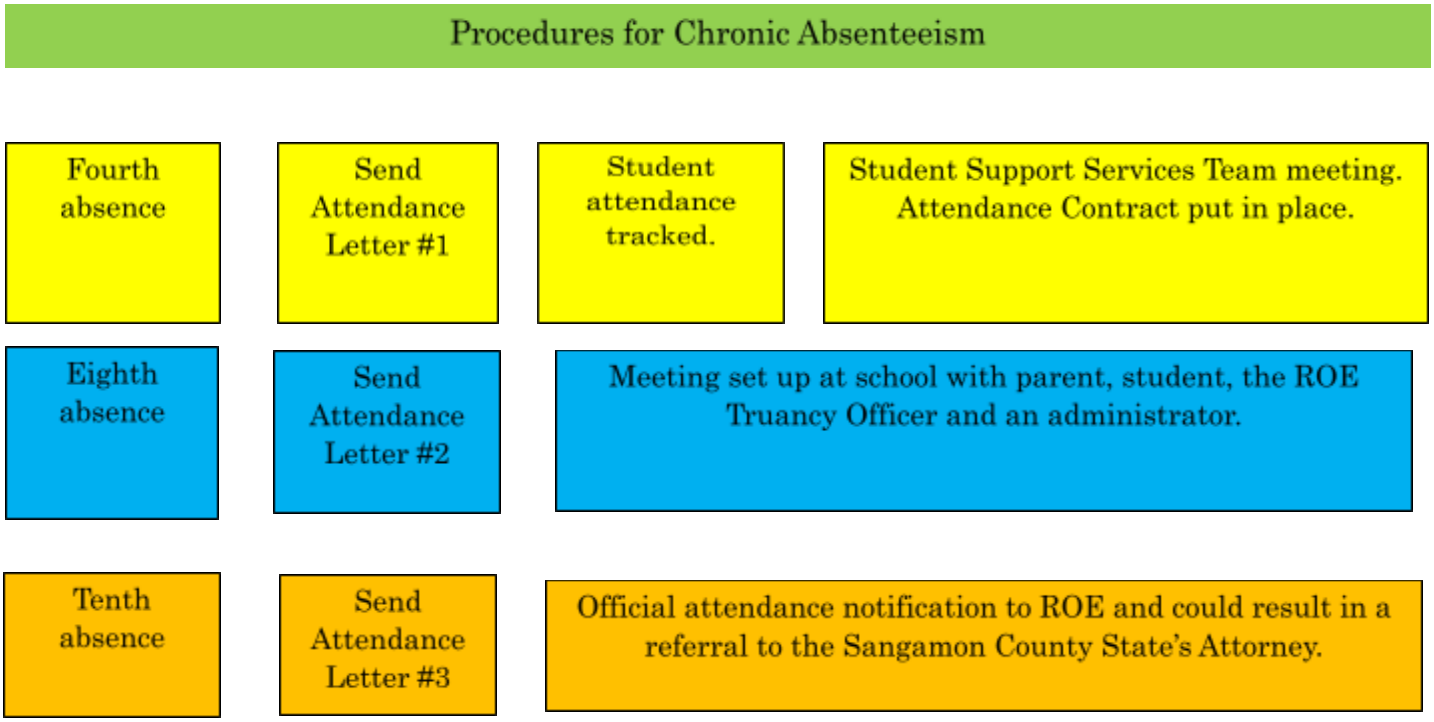
Students are much more likely to succeed in academics if they have consistent school attendance.

If a student is absent, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to call the Elementary Office by 8 AM to report the student's absence. Any student absent from school without a call from a parent will be contacted before 10 AM to confirm the student's absence and inquire for the reason for the absence. Absences may be excused by a parent/guardian up to and including the fourth day. After the fourth absence, a doctor's note or legal document (court, etc.) will be required. Student Absences will be limited to 4 days verified by a parent. The Illinois State Board of Education considers any student absence over 9 days - excused or unexcused - as a chronic absence. Student absences are designated as excused, excused and exempt from truancy reporting, or unexcused.

Absence Examples and Designations			
Excused/Parent Request Up to 4 Days	**Excused as per School Code and Exempt from Truancy Reporting**	**Excused as per CUSD #16 School Board and Exempt from Truancy Reporting**	**Unexcused** Parental approval to miss school does not necessarily mean that the school will approve the absence.
Illness	Mental/Behavioral Health (5)	Illness for 3 Consecutive Days of Absence w/Dr. Note	Any parent request over the allotted 4 days that does not fall into the exempt category

Attendance at a funeral for someone that is not an immediate family member.	Observance of a religious holiday or event not provided by the school calendar - parent must provide written notice 5 calendar days prior to the absence.	Death in the Immediate Family and attendance at the funeral of the family member.	Any Mental Health Day over the allotted 5 days
Family Emergency	Attending a Civic Event	Circumstances that cause reasonable concern to the parent/guardian for the student's mental, emotional, or physical health or safety	Any Planned Absence Day over the allotted 5 Days
		The Board of Education, in its discretion, may excuse a student for additional days relative to military leave or deployment.	Any religious holiday taken without 5 days written notice by the parent.
	5 days in cases where the student's parent/guardian is an active duty member of the uniformed services and has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat-support postings	Situations beyond the control of the student as approved by administration and for students that have maintained good attendance	Oversleeping, missing the bus, and/or parental tardiness.
	Attending a military honors funeral to sound TAPS	Planned Absences (5) - dependent upon administrative approval for students that have maintained good attendance	Car trouble or repair
		Attendance at a school field trip pending eligibility	Skip Day
		Injury/illness at school and sent home by the school nurse.	

Attendance report data is analyzed every Friday by an administrator and the Administrative Assistant. Students that are identified as having chronic absenteeism will be monitored through the steps below.



2.60 GRADING & PROMOTION

Reports – The elementary will have 4 formal grading terms covering approximately 9 weeks of instruction. Report cards will be available through Skyward at the end of the first week following the close of each grading period. Upon posting of the report, parents are encouraged to contact the school if any questions arise concerning the notice. The main purpose of the report is to notify parents about student progress so that parents, students, and teachers might work more closely to implement corrective measures that will improve that progress.

Grading System- A Standards Based Grading and Reporting System will be used for all subjects in K-3rd grade. The 4th and 5th grade will use a percentage based grading system to mimic the upper grades. Student progress will be reported using the following performance levels:

4 – Exceeds Expectations
Student is consistently performing above academic expectations
3 – Meets Expectations
Student is consistently performing/attaining all academic expectations
2 – Approaching Expectations
Student is progressing but not consistently performing/attaining academic expectations
1 – Significantly Below Expectations
Student is not progressing and/or is not attaining academic expectations

Final Grades - 4th & 5th Grades
Credit is granted based on the average of the T1, T2, T3, and T4 grades to create an annual grade for promotion.

Grading Scale
The grade scale used in CUSD #16 Schools to determine final grades is as follows:

A 92-100	C 72-77
A- 90-91	C- 70-71
B+ 88-89	D+ 68-69
B 82-87	D 62-67
B- 80-81	D- 60-62
C+ 78-79	F 0-59

The decision to promote a student to the next grade level is based on successful completion of the curriculum, attendance, performance on standardized tests and other testing. A student who receives a majority of 1's for any subject will need to meet with the teacher and administration to discuss placement. All data will be considered, and the school will make the final determination based on the child's academic needs. A student will not be promoted based upon age or any other social reason not related to academic performance.

HONOR ROLL

The honor roll consists of 4th and 5th grade students who attain all A/B grades on their report card. Honorable Mention/ Prestigious Pretzel Awards are given to students who have shown great work ethic K-5.

AWARDS

Students will be recognized for their accomplishments throughout the school year. Those awards might include, but are not limited to:

- Attendance
- Spelling Bee-the top two spellers from each grade level (4-5) who attends the Sangamon County Spelling Bee
- Young Authors, Book It
- Salty Dough Awards Program
- IPA Student Recognition Award/Breakfast - 5th Grade
- Honor Roll
- Academic Recognition
- Pretzel Summer Reading Challenge
- Behavior Incentives/ Out of the Blue Character Awards
- Awards given at Individual Teacher Discretion

2.70 HOMEWORK & MAKE-UP WORK

Homework is used as a way for students to practice what they have learned in the classroom. The time requirements and the frequency of homework will vary depending on a student's teacher, ability and grade level. If a student's absence is excused or if a student is suspended from school, he/she will be permitted to make up all missed work, including homework and tests, for equivalent academic credit. Students who are unexcused will need to make up work that was missed during their absence within the same amount of time that they were absent. Example: 1 unexcused absence equals 1 day to make up work for full credit.

CONFERENCES

Parent-Teacher conferences are set for Wednesday and Thursday, September 24 & 25, 2025 . There will be No School on Friday, September 26, 2025. We will send more information later about choices for time preference. In the case of blended and/or separated families, we will schedule one conference asking that all involved meet to discuss their child's progress. Upon request, teachers may arrange a separate conference with the non-custodial parent if time in the conference schedule is available. Sign up for conferences will be done with each individual teacher.

2.80-K8 EXEMPTION FROM PE REQUIREMENT

In order to be excused from participation in physical education, a student must present an appropriate excuse from his or her parent/guardian or from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act. The excuse may be based on medical or religious prohibitions. An excuse because of medical reasons must include a signed statement from a person licensed under the Medical Practice Act that corroborates the medical reason for the request. An excuse based on religious reasons must include a signed statement from a member of the clergy that corroborates the religious reason for the request.

Students with an Individualized Education Program may also be excused from physical education courses for reasons stated in the handbook.

Special activities in physical education will be provided for a student whose physical or emotional condition, as determined by a person licensed under the Medical Practices Act, prevents his or her participation in the physical education course.

State law prohibits the School District from honoring parental excuses based upon a student's participation in athletic training, activities, or competitions conducted outside the auspices of the School District. ***Cross Reference:PRESS 7:260, Exemption from Physical Education***

2.100 HOME AND HOSPITAL INSTRUCTION

A student who is absent from school, or whose physician, physician assistant or licensed advanced practice registered nurse anticipates his or her absence from school, because of a medical condition may be eligible for instruction in the student's home or hospital. Appropriate educational services from qualified staff will begin no later than five school days after receiving a written statement from a physician, physician assistant, or licensed advanced practice registered nurse. Instructional or related services for a student receiving special education services will be determined by the student's individualized education program.For information on home or hospital instruction, contact Administration. ***Cross Reference: PRESS 6:150, Home and Hospital Instruction***

CHAPTER 3: STUDENT FEES & FOOD SERVICE

Fees

The student registration fee is due when you register your child. The fee for students at New Berlin Elementary is $85 and can be sent to the District office at 600 North Cedar.

3.10 Fines, Fees, and Charges; Waiver of Student Fees

The school district due to the inability of their parents or guardians to pay fees or certain charges. Students whose parent or guardian is unable to afford student fees may receive a fee waiver. A fee waiver applies to all fees related to school, instruction, and extracurricular activities.

Applications for fee waivers may be obtained from the school office and may be submitted by a parent or guardian of a student who has been assessed a fee. As student is eligible for a fee waiver if at least one of the following prerequisites is met:

1. The student currently lives in a household that meets the same income guidelines, with the same limits based on household size, that are used for the federal free meals programs;
2. The student's parent is a veteran or active-duty military personnel with income at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.
3. The student is homeless, as defined by the Mc-Kinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.

The building principal will give additional consideration where one or more of the following factors are present:

· An illness in the family;
· Unusual expenses such as fire, flood, storm damage, etc.;
· Unemployment;
· Emergency situations; or
· When one or more of the parents/guardians are involved in a work stoppage.

The building principal will notify the parent/guardian promptly as to whether the fee waiver request has been granted or denied. Questions regarding the fee waiver application process or an appeal of the District's decision to deny a fee waiver should be addressed to the Building Principal. Pursuant to the Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights Act, the school is required to provide a federally reimbursable meal or snack to a student who requests one, regardless of whether the student has the ability to pay for the meal or snack or owes money for earlier meals or snacks and the school is prohibited from publicly identifying or stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for or owes money for a meal or snack.

Fines for loss or damage to school property are waived for students who meet certain eligibility guidelines.

3.15 Vandalism
The school district will seek restitution from students and their parents/guardians for vandalism or other students acts that cause damage to school property.

Cross-reference:
PRESS 7:170, *Vandalism*

3.20 FOOD SERVICES

School breakfast and lunch will be served daily. Breakfast will begin at 7:50 a.m. and end at 8:10 a.m. Meals should be paid for in advanced either though Family Access or by check, made payable to CUSD #16. ***All family members may be included on a single check, even if they attend different schools. Student lunch account information is posted on Family Access***. The cost of breakfast is $2.00 ($0.30 for reduced), the cost of lunch is $3.00 ($0.40 for reduced), and extra milk is $0.75. All payments should be made to CUSD #16. All family members may be included on a single check, even if they attend different attendance centers. Each student will be given a lunch card which can be scanned by the computer. Classroom teachers will keep and distribute cards. Account statements are posted on family access. In addition, a courtesy call through Thrillshare will be made when an account reaches a negative balance of $5.00. If a student's account balance exceeds -$25.00, a letter will be sent home and the student will receive the basic reimbursable meal. The student's lunch account will be charged full price. If the balance reaches -$50.00, the District Office will issue a certified letter advising of the account status. If the negative balance is not addressed by the parent or guardian within five business days the issue will be sent to Administrative Review for further determination. Please keep your student's lunch account up to date.

FEDERAL FREE AND REDUCED ELIGIBILITY
Free and Reduced Household Eligibility applications are available to those families who meet the Federal guidelines. **The forms must be completed every school year and are available in the school offices, after July 1st.** The forms are to be filled out completely before returning them to the school office. Those students who qualify for free/reduced breakfast/lunch programs are required by Federal Law to get a full tray meal. Students that participate in the free/reduced programs who only take milk will be charged $.50 for milk. If the balance remains negative, the parents will receive a letter in the mail from the cafeteria. Please keep your student's lunch account up to date! Free lunch and reduced lunches are available by application to those families who meet the federal guidelines. **The forms must be completed annually and are available in the school office.** The forms are to be filled out completely before returning them to the school office. If you have any questions regarding your child's lunch balances or any questions concerning the cafeteria, please contact Heather Pidcock in the New Berlin cafeteria at 488-6054 ext. 518 or via email at hpidcock@pretzelpride.com. ***Cross Reference: PRESS 4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services***

CHAPTER 4: TRANSPORTATION

PARENT TRANSPORTATION – "Car Line"
Students who arrive/depart by parent transportation are called "car line." Students should not arrive at school prior to 7:50 a.m. There will be no supervision prior to that time, and students will not be able to enter the building. Please use the driveway for the West Entrance (the main entrance with the awning) and drop off students on the sidewalk side of the vehicle. Students may enter the main doors.

We are asking that parents remain in their vehicles during dismissal. We will bring students to your cars. Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or unattended in the horseshoe drive from 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you are picking up your student(s) during dismissal and need to park, please park in the South parking lot and walk up to the flag pole to meet your student.

During dismissal times, please refrain from crossing in the crosswalk directly in front of the school for safety issues of our students.

4.10 BUS TRANSPORTATION

All New Berlin Elementary students are eligible for transportation to and from school by bus. Please refer to Board Policy for additional information as needed.

Bus assignments will be sent via Family Access approximately one week prior to the first day of student attendance. Students are not permitted to ride a bus other than the bus to which they are assigned. Changes to existing transportation by bus will be accepted by completing the Transportation Information Tab in Family Access for your student. Please note that changes become effective the next school day. ***Students will only be allowed to ride the bus assigned to him/her in the transportation section on Family Access.***

While students are on the bus, they are under the supervision of the bus driver. In most cases, bus discipline problems can be handled by the bus driver. In the case of a written disciplinary referral, student bus problems will be investigated and handled by the building principal or assistant principal.

4.15 BUS CONDUCT

Students are expected to follow all school rules while on the bus. Students may be suspended from riding the school bus for up to 10 consecutive school days for violating school rules or for engaging in other gross disobedience or misconduct.

1. Violating any school rule or school district policy.
2. Willful injury or threat of injury to a bus driver or to another rider.
3. Willful and/or repeated defacement of the bus.
4. Repeated use of profanity.
5. Repeated willful disobedience of a directive from a bus driver or other supervisor.
6. Such other behavior as the building principal deems to threaten the safe operation of the bus and/or its occupant.

The school board may suspend the student from riding the school bus for a period in excess of 10 days for safety reasons. The district's regular suspension procedures shall be used to suspend a student's privilege to ride a school bus.

A student who is suspended from riding the school bus and who does not have alternative transportation to school shall be allowed the opportunity to make up all missed work for equivalent academic credit. It is the responsibility of the student's parent or guardian to notify the school that the student does not have alternative transportation to school.

In the interest of the student's safety and in compliance with State law, students are also expected to observe the following:

1. Dress properly for the weather. Make sure all drawstrings, ties, straps, etc. on all clothing, backpacks and other items, are shortened or removed to lessen the likelihood of them getting caught in bus doors, railings or aisles.
2. Arrive on time at the bus stop, and stay away from the street while waiting for the bus.
3. Stay away from the bus until it stops completely and the driver signals you to board. Enter a single file without pushing. Always use the handrail.
4. Take a seat right away and remain seated facing forward. Keep your hands, arms, and head inside the bus.
5. Talk quietly on the bus. No shouting or creating loud noises that may distract the driver. Tablets, iPods®, iPads®, smartphones, and other electronic devices must be silenced on the bus unless a student uses headphones. All devices should be put in their backpack when arriving at school. The school is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items.
6. Help keep the bus neat and clean. Keep belongings out of the aisle and away from emergency exits. Eating and drinking are not allowed on the bus.

7. Always listen to the driver's instructions. Be courteous to the driver and other students. Sit with your hands to yourself and avoid making noises that would distract the driver or bother other passengers. Remain seated, keeping your hands, arms, and head inside the bus at all times.
8. Wait until the bus pulls to a complete stop before standing up. Use the handrail when exiting the bus.
9. Stay out of the danger zone next to the bus where the driver may have difficulty seeing you. Take five giant steps away from the bus and out of the danger zone, until you can see the driver and the driver sees you. Never crawl under a bus.
10. If you must cross the street after you get off the bus, wait for the driver's signal and then cross in front of the bus. Cross the street only after checking both ways for traffic.
11. Never run back to the bus, even if you dropped or forgot something.

Video and audio cameras may be active on buses to record student conduct and may be used for the purposes of investigation into misconduct or accidents on the bus. For questions regarding school transportation issues, contact:
Seth Hill, Transportation Director, (217) 488-6054 ext. 235.
PRESS 4:110, Transportation, PRESS 7:220, Bus Conduct, PRESS 4:170-AP3, School Bus Safety Rules, PRESS 7:220, Bus Conduct. PRESS 7:220-AP, Electronic Recordings on School Buses

4.20-K8 PARKING

The school has two main locations available for school visitor parking, located to the west of the school. Those dropping off and picking up children may do so in the horseshoe drive directly in front of the main entrance. Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or unattended in the horseshoe drive from 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you are picking up your student(s) during dismissal and need to park, please park in the South parking lot. Parking is permitted in designated parking spots. Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or located in the bus lanes between 7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on school days. Vehicles MAY NOT be parked or located in fire lanes at ANY TIME. Bus lanes and fire lanes are clearly marked. Vehicles located in these locations may be ticketed and/or towed by the police.

Railway Safety (4.25) MSH Update 8.2026

The following railway safety messages are provided in accordance with State law.

(1) Cross tracks only at designated pedestrian or roadway crossings and observe and obey all warning signs and signals.
(2) Never walk down a train track; it is illegal and dangerous. By the time a locomotive engineer sees a trespasser or vehicle on the tracks, it is too late to stop even when the emergency brakes are activated.
(3) The only safe place to cross is at a designated public crossing, equipped with crossbucks, flashing red lights, or gates. Crossing anywhere else is trespassing, which can result in a ticket and fine.
(4) Do not cross tracks immediately after a train passes. Additional trains may be approaching when blocked by the first. Trains can travel at any time and in either direction. Wait until both directions can be clearly observed.
(5) Flashing red lights signal that a train or rail equipment is approaching from either direction, and a fine can be charged for ignoring such signals. Never walk around or stop between lowered gates at a crossing. Do not cross the tracks until the red lights stop flashing and it is safe to do so.

(6) Rails and recreation do not mix.

CHAPTER 5: HEALTH & SAFETY

WELLNESS POLICY

The Board of Education of Community Unit School District #16 is committed to providing a learning environment that supports and promotes wellness, good nutrition, and an active lifestyle. Furthermore, the Board recognizes the positive relationship between good nutrition, physical activity, and the capacity of students to develop and learn. The entire school environment shall be aligned with healthy school goals to positively influence students' beliefs and habits and promote health and wellness, good nutrition, and regular physical activity.

CHILD ABUSE/MANDATED REPORTERS

All school personnel, including teachers and administrators, are required by law to immediately report any and all suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services.***PRESS 5:90, Abused and Neglected Child Reporting***

NURSE'S OFFICE

1. All students should obtain permission from the regular classroom teacher for a visit to the nurse's office.

2. Special class teachers, like music, PE, library, etc., will not send students to the nurse except in the case of an injury or emergency.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

It is necessary that there be current emergency information on file for each child. This information is of great value to the child in the event he or she becomes ill or is injured at school. This information is included on the CUSD #16 online registration form. **This information must include emergency phone numbers. When parents have changes, it is important that they notify the school so the most updated numbers are readily available.**

ILLNESS AT SCHOOL

Illness or injury at school may require that a student returns home. If this is the case, parents will be contacted by a school employee to explain the circumstances. The parents should then make timely arrangements for getting the student home. In case the parents cannot be reached, the school will only contact the person or persons listed as the student's emergency contacts. Parents are to give this information to the school when they register. It is imperative that the student's emergency contact information be kept updated. If you know of any reason for a change, please notify the office.

If your child has a fever, please keep them home until they have been fever free (temperature of less than 100.4) for 24 hours without fever reducers. If they have been vomiting or have diarrhea, they should also remain at home until they have been retaining food or diarrhea free for over 24 hours. Please stress to your child the importance of good hand washing to prevent the spread of germs.

Accidents - Every accident in the school building, on the school grounds, or at any event sponsored by the school must be reported immediately to the adult in charge. Accident reports are available in the office. The school will make every effort to inform the parents of any accident or illness occurring at school that may need care or observation at home; and, for safety reasons, no student will be sent home unless a responsible adult is contacted and arrangements made.

Prevention of Anaphylaxis - While it is not possible for the School or District to completely eliminate the risks of an anaphylactic emergency, the District maintains a comprehensive policy on anaphylaxis prevention, response, and management in order to reduce these risks and provide accommodations and proper treatment for anaphylactic reactions. Parent(s)/guardian(s)
and students who desire more information or who want a copy of the District's policy may contact the Building Principal.

5.10 IMMUNIZATION, HEALTH, EYE AND DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

All students are required to present appropriate proof of a complete health examination and up-to-date immunizations prior to:

1. Entering pre-K
2. Entering kindergarten or the first grade;
3. Entering the sixth and ninth grades; and
4. Enrolling in an Illinois school for the first time, regardless of the student's grade.

Proof of immunization against meningococcal disease is required for students in grades 6 and 12. A diabetes screening must be included as part of the health exam (though diabetes testing is not required). Students between the age of one

and seven must provide a statement from a physician assuring that the student was “risk-assessed” or screened for lead poisoning.
Failure to comply with the above requirements by the first day of school will result in the student’s exclusion from school until the required health forms are presented to the school, subject to certain exceptions. New students who register mid-term have 30 days following registration to comply with the health examination and immunization requirements. If a medical reason prevents a student from receiving a required immunization, the student must present an immunization schedule and a statement of the medical reasons causing the delay. The schedule and statement of medical reasons must be signed by an appropriate medical professional.

EYE EXAMINATION

All students entering kindergarten or an Illinois school for the first time must present proof by October 15 of the current school year of an eye examination performed within one year. Failure to present proof by October 15, allows the school to hold the student’s report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed eye examination, or (2) that an eye examination will take place within 60 days after October 15.

DENTAL EXAMINATION

All students entering kindergarten, second, sixth and ninth grades must present proof by May 15 of the current school year of having been examined by a licensed dentist within the last 18 months. Failure to present proof allows the school to hold the child’s report card until the student presents: (1) proof of a completed dental examination, or (2) that a dental examination will take place within 60 days after May 15.

EXEMPTIONS

A student will be exempt from the above requirements on:

1. Medical grounds if the student’s parent/guardian presents to the building principal a signed statement explaining the objection;
2. Religious grounds if the student’s parent/guardian presents to the building principal a completed Certificate of Religious Exemption;
3. Eye examination requirement if the student’s parent/guardian shows an undue burden or lack of access to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches who provides eye examinations or a licensed optometrist; or
4. Dental examination requirement if the student’s parent/guardian shows an undue burden or a lack of access to a dentist.

Cross Reference:PRESS 7:100, Health, Eye and, Dental Examinations; Immunizations; and Exclusion of Students

VISION AND HEARING SCREENING

CUSD#16 students will be screened annually in the required grades as stated in Section 675.110 of the Title 77 Illinois Administrative Code. Screening is not a substitute for a complete examination by a doctor. Students are not required to undergo screening (vision or hearing) if a physician signs a report indicating that a complete examination, eye and vision/ear and audiological evaluation, has been administered within the previous 12 months. Parents or legal guardians of a student may object to screening for their children on religious grounds. If a religious objection is made, a written and signed statement from the parent or legal guardian detailing such objection must be presented to the local school authority.

Taking medication during school hours or during school-related activities is prohibited unless it is necessary for a student’s health and well-being. When a student’s licensed health care provider and parent/guardian believe that it is necessary for the student to take a medication during school hours or school-related activities, the parent/guardian must request that the school dispense the medication to the child by completing a “School Medication Authorization Form.”

No school or district employee is allowed to administer to any student, or supervise a student’s self-administration of, any prescription or non-prescription medication until a completed and signed School Medication Authorization Form is

submitted by the student's parent/guardian. No student is allowed to possess or consume any prescription or non-prescription medication on school grounds or at a school-related function other than as provided for in this procedure.

5.20 STUDENT MEDICATION

Self-Administration of Medication

A student may possess and self-administer an epinephrine delivery system and/or an asthma inhaler or medication prescribed for use at the student's discretion, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form.

Students who are diabetic may possess and/or self-administer diabetic testing supplies, equipment, and insulin if authorized by the student's diabetes care plan, which must be on file with the school.

Students with epilepsy may possess and/or self-administer supplies, equipment and medication, if authorized by the student's seizure action plan, which must be on file with the school.

Students may self-administer (but not possess on their person) other medications required under a qualified plan, provided the student's parent/guardian has completed and signed a School Medication Authorization Form.

The school district shall incur no liability, except for willful and wanton conduct, as a result of any injury arising from a student's self-administration of medication, including asthma medication or epinephrine delivery system, or medication required under a qualifying plan. A student's parent/guardian must indemnify and hold harmless the school district and its employees and agents, against any claims, except a claim based on willful and wanton conduct, arising out of a student's self-administration of an epinephrine delivery system, asthma medication, and/or a medication required under a qualifying plan.

Administration of Medical Cannabis

In accordance with the Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Program, qualifying students are allowed to utilize medical cannabis infused products while at school and school events. Please contact the building principal for additional information. Discipline of a student for being administered a product by a designated caregiver pursuant to this procedure is prohibited. The District may not deny a student attendance at a school solely because he or she requires administration of the product during school hours.

Undesignated Medications

The school may maintain the following undesignated prescription medications for emergency use: (1) Asthma medication; (2) Epinephrine delivery system; (3) Opioid antagonists; and (4) Glucagon. No one, including without limitation, parents/guardians of students, should rely on the school or district for the availability of undesignated medication. This procedure does not guarantee the availability of undesignated medications. Students and their parents/guardians should consult their own physician regarding these medication(s).

Emergency Aid to Students

Nothing in this policy shall prohibit any school employee from providing emergency assistance to students, including administering medication.

Cross-References:
PRESS 7:270, *Administering Medicines to Students*
PRESS 7:270-AP1, *Dispensing Medication*
PRESS 7:270-E1, *School Medication Authorization Form*

MEDICATION PROCEDURES

1. Medications are administered at school in accordance with the Recommended Practices and Procedures Manual from the Illinois State Board of Education. Administering medications at school is discouraged. However, some pupils with long-term chronic illness or disability may require medication during the day. Only in exceptional cases in which failure to take medication could jeopardize the child's health and/or education, should medication be administered at school. All prescription medications that are brought to school must be sent to the nurse's office upon arrival. This medication will be stored in a locked cabinet. It is recommended that medications be delivered to the school by the parent.
2. All medications given at school, prescription and over the counter medication and supplements (which include essential oils), must be prescribed by a licensed prescriber. The medication must be brought to school in the original most up-to-date container as dispensed by the pharmacy or in the original over the counter packaging. No medication in "baggies" will be accepted. The CUSD#16 "Authorization For Administration of Prescription Medication" form must be completed by both the parent and the physician. Any change in the dosage or administration must have written authorization from the prescriber.
3. The morning doses of medications should be given at home.
4. The school reserves the right to have the time of medication administration at school adjusted to meet the schedule and availability of the nurse.
5. Questions concerning medications will be referred to your physician.
6. Self-managed and emergency medications will be evaluated individually by the school nurse (i.e. asthma inhalers, epi-pens, and medication to manage diabetes). It is recommended that spare medications and supplies be kept in the nurse's office for emergency use.
7. All CUSD #16 Medication and Health Forms are available on the website, in either school office or in the nurse's office.
8. The school not only has the right, but also the responsibility to refuse to administer any medication at school if properly qualified individuals are not available.
9. The school will ascertain from the parent and/or the physician the necessity for administering medication during school hours and will retain the discretion to reject requests that do not meet the medication guidelines. Medication sent to school without proper documentation will NOT be given.
10. Noon medication is not routinely given at school on early dismissals @ 11:45.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

The school will observe recommendations of the Illinois Department of Public Health regarding communicable diseases.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has a communicable disease.
2. In certain cases, students with a communicable disease may be excluded from school or sent home from school following notification of the parent or guardian.
3. The school will provide written instructions to the parent and guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the communicable disease.
4. A student excluded because of a communicable disease will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings to the school a letter from the student's doctor stating that the student is no longer contagious or at risk of spreading the communicable disease.

HEAD LICE

The presence of head lice does require your immediate attention and action.

1. Parents are required to notify the school nurse if they suspect their child has head lice.
2. Infested students will be sent home following notification of the parent or guardian.
3. The school will provide written instructions to parent or guardian regarding appropriate treatment for the infestation.
4. A student excluded because of head lice will be permitted to return to school only when the parent or guardian brings the student to school to be checked by the school nurse or building principal and the child is determined to be free of the head lice and eggs (nits). Infested children are prohibited from riding the bus to school to be checked for head lice.

5.30-K8 GUIDANCE & COUNSELING

The school provides social workers and school personnel who are available to counsel individuals or groups that have a particular need or simply want questions answered. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact any of these staff members with questions or concerns involving their children.

5.40 SAFETY DRILL PROCEDURES

Safety drills will occur at times established by the school board. Students are required to be silent and shall comply with the directives of school officials during emergency drills. There will be a minimum of three (3) evacuation drills, a minimum of one (1) severe weather (shelter-in-place) drill, a minimum of one (1) law enforcement lockdown drill to address a school shooting incident, and a minimum of one (1) bus evacuation drill each school year. There may be other drills at the direction of the administration. The law enforcement lockdown drill will be announced in advance and a student's parent/guardian may elect to exclude their child from participating in this drill. All other drills will not be preceded by a warning to students. ***Cross-Reference:PRESS 4:170, Safety PRESS 4:170-AP1, Comprehensive Safety and Crisis Program***

5.70 TARGETED SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM

Threats and acts of targeted school violence harm the District's environment and school community, diminishing students' ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Providing students and staff with access to a safe and secure environment is an important goal of the School and District. While it is not possible to completely eliminate threats, the School and District maintain a Targeted School Violence Prevention Program and a Threat Assessment Team to reduce these risks to its environment. Parents/guardians and students are encouraged to report any expressed threats or behaviors that may represent a threat to the community, School, or self. Reports can be made to any school administrator, law enforcement authorities, or the Safe2Help Illinois helpline (www.safe2helpil.com/).

Students and parents are urged to participate in behavioral threat assessment and intervention programs if the Behavioral Threat Assessment Team believes that intervention is necessary to prevent a student from harming themselves or others. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process by the threat maker(s) or parent/guardian(s), the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring learning environment for all.

For further information, please contact the Building Principal. ***Cross Reference: PRESS 4:190, Targeted School Violence Prevention Program***

CHAPTER 6: STUDENT CONDUCT & DISCIPLINE

6.20 SCHOOL DRESS CODE/STUDENT APPEARANCE

The attire and grooming of students is the responsibility of the students and their parents. Students are expected to wear clothing in a neat, clean, and well-fitting manner while on school property and/or in attendance at school sponsored activities. Students are to use discretion in their dress and are not permitted to wear apparel that causes a substantial disruption in the school environment.

- Student dress (including accessories) may not advertise, promote, or picture alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, violent behavior, or other inappropriate images.
- Student dress (including accessories) may not display lewd, vulgar, obscene, or offensive language or symbols, including gang symbols.

- Hats, coats, bandannas, sweat bands, sunglasses or slides may not be worn in the building during the school day. Sweatshirts are permitted as long as the hood remains off the head when inside the building.
- Hairstyles, dress, and accessories that pose a safety hazard are not permitted during physical education or recess.
- Clothing with holes, rips, and tears that is poorly fitting, showing skin and/or undergarments may not be worn at school.
- The length of shorts or skirts must be appropriate for the school environment. Tops with bare midriffs, halters, or spaghetti straps should not be worn.
- Appropriate footwear must be worn at all times. Tennis shoes are required for PE and recess. **Boots, Crocs, *Flip-flops or slides are not to be worn.***. Tennis shoes or closed toe shoes will be required to go outside. Students are encouraged to wear tennis shoes to school or at a minimum have tennis shoes available to change daily for PE and recess.
- If there is any doubt about dress and appearance, the building principal will make the final decision.
- Students whose dress causes a substantial disruption of the orderly process of school functions or endangers the health or safety of the student, other students, staff or others may be subject to discipline.

Students should avoid wearing expensive coats or clothing to school. Coats will be kept in a designated area and are not allowed to be worn in class. **New Berlin Elementary School is not responsible for missing or damaged items.**
Cross Reference: PRESS 7:160, Student Appearance

6.30 STUDENT BEHAVIOR

Students may be disciplined for gross disobedience or misconduct, including but not limited to the following:

1. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering tobacco or nicotine materials, including electronic cigarettes, e-cigarettes, vapes, vape pens or other vaping related products.
2. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, or selling alcoholic beverages. Students who are under the influence of an alcoholic beverage are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had alcohol in their possession.
3. Using, possessing, distributing, purchasing, selling or offering for sale:
    - a. Any illegal drug, controlled substance, or cannabis (including marijuana, hashish, and medical cannabis unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under Ashley's Law).
    - b. Any anabolic steroid unless it is being administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
    - c. Any performance-enhancing substance on the Illinois High School Association's most current banned substance list unless administered in accordance with a physician's or licensed practitioner's prescription.
    - d. Any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a physician or licensed practitioner, or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's or licensed practitioner's instructions. The use or possession of medical cannabis, even by a student for whom medical cannabis has been prescribed, is prohibited unless the student is authorized to be administered a medical cannabis infused product under Ashley's Law.
    - e. Any inhalant, regardless of whether it contains an illegal drug or controlled substance: (a) that a student believes is, or represents to be capable of, causing intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system; or (b) about which the student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student intended the inhalant to cause intoxication, hallucination, excitement, or dulling of the brain or nervous system. The prohibition in this section does not apply to a student's use of asthma or other legally prescribed inhalant medications.
    - f. "Look-alike" or counterfeit drugs, including a substance that is not prohibited by this policy, but one: (a) that a student believes to be, or represents to be, an illegal drug, controlled substance, or other substance that is prohibited by this policy; or (b) about which a student engaged in behavior that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the student expressly or impliedly represented to be an illegal drug, controlled substance or other substance that is prohibited by this policy.

- g. Drug paraphernalia, including devices that are or can be used to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances.
- h. Any substance inhaled, injected, smoked, consumed or otherwise ingested or absorbed with the intention of causing a physiological or psychological change in the body, including without limitation, pure caffeine in a tablet or powdered form.

Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they have the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession.

4. Using, possessing, controlling or transferring a “weapon” or violating the procedures listed below under the Weapons Prohibition section of this handbook procedure.
5. Using or possessing an electronic paging device.
6. Using a cellular telephone, smartphone, video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), or similar electronic device in any manner that disrupts the educational environment or violates the rights of others, including using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms, cheat, or otherwise violate student conduct rules. Unless otherwise banned under this policy or by the building principal, all cellular phones, smartphones and other electronic devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight during the regular school day unless: (a) the supervising teacher grants permission; (b) use of the device is provided in a student’s individualized education program (IEP); (c) it is used during the student’s lunch period; or (d) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.
7. Using or possessing a laser pointer unless under a staff member’s direct supervision and in the context of instruction.
8. Disobeying rules of student conduct or directives from staff members or school officials. Examples of disobeying staff directives include refusing a staff member’s request to stop, present school identification or submit to a search.
9. Engaging in academic dishonesty, including cheating, intentionally plagiarizing, wrongfully giving or receiving help during an academic examination, altering report cards and wrongfully obtaining test copies or scores.
10. Engaging in bullying, hazing or any kind of aggressive behavior that does physical or psychological harm to a staff person or another student or encouraging other students to engage in such behavior. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, any use of violence, intimidation, force, noise, coercion, threats, stalking, harassment, sexual harassment, public humiliation, theft or destruction of property, retaliation, hazing, bullying, or posting or distributing sexually explicit images.
11. Engaging in cyber-bullying, which means bullying through the use of technology or electronic communication. Prohibited conduct specifically includes, without limitation, assuming the identity or impersonation of another person for the purposes of bullying, distribution of electronic communications to more than one person or posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by more than one person for the purposes of bullying, posting or distribution of an unauthorized replica by electronic means if the posting or distribution creates any of the effects of bullying.
12. Engaging in any sexual activity, including without limitation, offensive touching, sexual harassment, indecent exposure (including mooning) and sexual assault.
13. Causing or attempting to cause damage to, stealing, or attempting to steal, school property or another person’s personal property.
14. Entering school property or a school facility without proper authorization.
15. In the absence of a reasonable belief that an emergency exists, calling emergency responders (calling 9-1-1); signaling or setting off alarms or signals indicating the presence of an emergency; or indicating the presence of a bomb or explosive device on school grounds, school bus or at any school activity.
16. Being absent without a recognized excuse.
17. Being involved in a gang or engaging in gang-like activities, including displaying gang symbols or paraphernalia.
18. Violating any criminal law, including but not limited to, assault, battery, arson, theft, gambling, eavesdropping, vandalism and hazing.

19. Engaging in any activity, on or off campus, that interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property.
20. Making an explicit threat on an Internet website against a school employee, a student, or any school-related personnel if the Internet website through which the threat was made is a site that was accessible within the school at the time the threat was made or was available to third parties who worked or studied within the school grounds at the time the threat was made, and the threat could be reasonably interpreted as threatening to the safety and security of the threatened individual because of his or her duties or employment status or status as a student inside the school.
21. Operating an unarmed aircraft system (AUS) or drone for any purpose on school grounds or at any school event unless granted permission by the building principal.
22. Sexting, which, for purposes of this procedure, is the act of creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing sexually explicit messages, images, or videos electronically, regardless of whether they are authentic or computer-generated, through the use of a computer, electronic communication device, or cellular phone. Sexting also includes creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing indecent visual depictions, non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images, and non-consensual dissemination of sexually explicit digitized depictions, as defined in State law.

For purposes of these rules, the term “possession” includes having control, custody, or care, currently or in the past, of an object or substance, including situations in which the item is: (a) on the student’s person; (b) contained in another item belonging to, or under the control of, the student, such as in the student’s clothing, backpack, or automobile; (c) in a school’s student locker, desk, or other school property; (d) at any location on school property or at a school-sponsored event; or (e) in the case of drugs and alcohol, substances ingested by the person.

Efforts, including the use of positive interventions and supports shall be made to deter students, while at school or a school-related event, from engaging in aggressive behavior that may reasonably produce physical or psychological harm to someone else.

No disciplinary action shall be taken against any student that is based totally or in part on the refusal of the student’s parent/guardian to administer or consent to the administration of psychotropic or psychostimulant medication to the student.

When and Where Conduct Rules Apply

The grounds for disciplinary action also apply whenever the student’s conduct is reasonably related to school or school activities, including but not limited to:

1. On, or within sight of, school grounds before, during, or after school hours or at any time;
2. Off school grounds at a school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school;
3. Traveling to or from school or a school activity, function, or event;
4. Anywhere, if the conduct interferes with, disrupts, or adversely affects the school environment, school operations, or an educational function, including but not limited to, conduct that may reasonably be considered to: (a) be a threat or an attempted intimidation of a staff member; or (b) endanger the health or safety of students, staff, or school property; or
5. During periods of remote learning.

Disciplinary Measures

School officials shall limit the number and duration of expulsions and out-of-school suspensions to the greatest extent practicable, and, where practicable and reasonable, shall consider forms of non-exclusionary discipline before using out-of-school suspensions or expulsions. School personnel shall not advise or encourage students to drop out of school voluntarily due to behavioral or academic difficulties. Potential disciplinary measures include, without limitation, any of the following measures:

1. Notifying parents/guardians.

2. Disciplinary conference.
3. Withholding of privileges.
4. Temporary removal from the classroom.
5. Return of property or restitution for lost, stolen or damaged property.
6. In-school suspension.
7. After-school study or Saturday study provided the student's parent/guardian has been notified. (If transportation arrangements cannot be made in advance, an alternative disciplinary measure will be assigned to the student.)
8. Community service.
9. Seizure of contraband; confiscation and temporary retention of the personal property that was used to violate school rules.
10. Suspension of bus riding privileges.
11. Suspension from school and all school activities for up to 10 days. A suspended student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
12. Expulsion from school and all school activities for a definite time period not to exceed 2 calendar years. An expelled student is prohibited from being on school grounds.
13. Transfer to an alternative program if the student is expelled or otherwise qualifies for transfer under State law.
14. Notifying juvenile authorities or other law enforcement whenever the conduct involves criminal activity, such as, illegal drugs (controlled substances), "look-alikes," alcohol or weapons or in other circumstances as authorized by the reciprocal reporting agreement between the District and local law enforcement agencies.

The above list of disciplinary measures is a range of options that will not always be applicable in every case. In some circumstances, it may not be possible to avoid suspending or expelling a student because behavioral interventions, other than a suspension or expulsion, will not be appropriate and available, and the only reasonable and practical way to resolve the threat and/or address the disruption is a suspension or expulsion.

Isolated Time Out, Time Out and Physical Restraint

Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The school may not use isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

Corporal Punishment

Corporal punishment is prohibited in all circumstances. Corporal punishment is defined as a discipline method in which a person deliberately inflicts pain upon a student in response to the student's unacceptable behavior or inappropriate language, with an aim or set an example for others. It includes slapping, paddling, or prolonged maintenance of students in physically painful positions, or intentional infliction of bodily harm. Corporal punishment does not include reasonable force as permitted by State law.

Weapons Prohibition

A student who is determined to have brought one of the following objects to school, any school-sponsored activity or event, or any activity or event that bears a reasonable relationship to school shall be expelled for a period of not less than one year but not more than 2 calendar years:

(1) A firearm, meaning any gun, rifle, shotgun, weapon as defined by Section 921 of Title 18 of the United States Code, firearm as defined in Section 1.1 of the Firearm Owners Identification Card Act, or firearm as defined in Section 24-1 of the Criminal Code of 1961. The expulsion period may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

(2) A knife, brass knuckles or other knuckle weapon regardless of its composition, a billy club, or any other object if used or attempted to be used to cause bodily harm, including "look alikes" of any firearm as defined above.

The expulsion requirement may be modified by the superintendent, and the superintendent's determination may be modified by the board on a case-by-case basis.

Gang & Gang Activity Prohibited

"Gang" is defined as any group, club or organization of two or more persons whose purposes include the commission of

illegal acts. No student on or about school property or at any school activity or whenever the student's conduct is reasonably related to a school activity, shall: (1) wear, possess, use, distribute, display, or sell any clothing, jewelry, paraphernalia or other items which reasonably could be regarded as gang symbols; commit any act or omission, or use either verbal or non-verbal gestures, or handshakes showing membership or affiliation in a gang; or (2) use any speech or commit any act or omission in furtherance of the interest of any gang or gang activity, including, but not limited to, soliciting others for membership in any gangs; (3) request any person to pay protection or otherwise intimidate, harass or threaten any person; (4) commit any other illegal act or other violation of district policies, (5) or incite other students to act with physical violence upon any other person.

Re-Engagement of Returning Students

The building principal or designee shall meet with a student returning to school from an out-of-school suspension, expulsion or alternative school setting. The goal of this meeting shall be to support the student's ability to be successful in school following a period of exclusion and shall include an opportunity for students who have been suspended to complete or make-up missed work for equivalent academic credit.

Cross-references:
PRESS 7:190, *Student Behavior*
PRESS 7:190-AP2, *Gang Activity Prohibited*

LEVEL I ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

LEVEL I ACTS OF MISCONDUCT are minor misbehaviors which impede the orderly operation of the classroom, school, and/or bus. Such misbehaviors can usually be handled by an individual staff member, but sometimes require the intervention of other school support personnel.

Level I misbehaviors include the following:

A. classroom disturbance
B. littering
C. hallway misconduct
D. disrespect and/or insubordination
E. dishonesty

DISCIPLINE FOR LEVEL I ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Disciplinary Procedures:

There is immediate intervention by the staff member who is supervising the student or who observes the misbehavior. If the violation occurs in the classroom setting, the teacher may invoke the Classroom Management Plan as approved by the building principal. Repeated misbehavior may require a parent/teacher conference or a parent conference with a counselor, and/or administrator, and/or support personnel.

An appropriate record of the offense and disciplinary action is maintained by the staff member prior to movement to Level II.

Disciplinary Options:

- Verbal reprimand
- Conference with student
- Conference with parents or guardian (by phone or in person)
- Consequences as stipulated in the approved classroom management plan
- Behavioral contract
- Counseling
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Detention

LEVEL II ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Level II involves misbehaviors which are frequent enough and serious enough to disrupt the learning climate of the school. Those infractions which result from the continuation of Level I misbehaviors require the intervention of personnel on the administrative level because the execution of Level I

disciplinary options has failed to correct the situation.

These include such misbehaviors as:

A. Continuation of unmodified Level I Acts of Misconduct
B. Bus misconduct
C. Lunchroom disturbance
D. Theft ($5.00 or less)
E. Verbal Aggression
F. Gross disrespect and/or Insubordination
G. Cheating
H. Minor vandalism

DISCIPLINE FOR LEVEL II ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Disciplinary Procedures:

The student is referred to the principal or dean for appropriate disciplinary action.

The principal meets with the student and determines the most appropriate consequence for the misconduct.

A copy of the Discipline Referral and Report Form which indicates actions taken will be given to the staff member making the office referral. An appropriate record of the offense and disciplinary action is maintained by the principal or dean.

Disciplinary Options:

- Conference with the student
- Conference with parents/guardian (by phone or in person)
- Counseling by administrator or counselor
- Temporary removal from class and or playground
- Withdrawal of privileges
- Referral to outside agency or school district support services
- Suspension of bus privileges (maximum 10 days)
- Detention

LEVEL III ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Level III involves acts which seriously disrupt the learning climate of the school. These acts of misconduct can usually be handled by the disciplinary mechanism in the school. The corrective measures which the school or district uses will be determined by the extent of the resources available for remediating the situation in the best interest of all students.

These acts include the following:

A. Continuation of unmodified Level II Acts of Misconduct
B. Possession of tobacco and/or related products including E-cigarettes
C. Use of tobacco and/or related products including E-cigarettes
D. Vandalism, except minor vandalism
E. Throwing objects
F. Inflicting injury
G. Theft (more than $5.00, but less than $100.00)
H. Physical Aggression
I. Possession/distribution of pornography materials
J. Gross defiance and/or verbal abuse of school personnel
K. Sexual harassment
L. Participating in gang activities
M. Soliciting others for membership in any gang
N. Computer misuse/Internet misuse/Misuse of electronic devices
O. Intimidation/harassment
P. Bullying/hazing
Q. Profanity, obscene remarks, gestures
R. Conduct (either verbal or written) which substantially threatens to or disrupts the educational process
S. Bus misconduct–involving physical aggression and/or vandalism

T. Possession of stolen property
U. Leaving building without permission

DISCIPLINE FOR LEVEL III ACTS OF MISCONDUCT
Disciplinary Procedures:
The principal initiates disciplinary action by investigating the infraction and conferring with staff, the student, and the student's parents about the misconduct and subsequent disciplinary actions to be taken. A copy of the Discipline Referral and Report Form which indicates action taken will be given to the staff member making the office referral. School officials will contact law enforcement officials if and when appropriate. An appropriate record of the offense and disciplinary action is maintained by the principal.

Disciplinary Options:

- Temporary removal from class and or playground
- Alternative programs
- Financial restitution (in cases where damage or loss is incurred)"aer" (where available, maximum 5 days each offense) (maximum 10 days)
- Suspension of bus privileges (maximum 10 days)
- Expulsion from the school bus
- Loss of computer privileges
- Referral to law enforcement
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Detention

LEVEL IV ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Level IV acts involve actions which are so serious that they always require administrative actions which result in at least temporary removal of the student from the school. Level IV Acts of Misconduct may involve the intervention of law enforcement authorities and action by the Board of Education.

These include:

A. Continuation of unmodified Level III Acts of Misconduct
B. Physical Aggression causing injury
C. Possession, use, under the influence, delivery or sale of alcohol, cannabis (including marijuana, medical marijuana and hashish), any controlled substance, illegal drugs, inhalants, or look-alike or counterfeit drugs. Additionally: any anabolic steroid or any prescription drug when not prescribed for the student by a licensed physician or when used in a manner inconsistent with the prescription or prescribing physician's Instructions.
D. Possession of drug paraphernalia, including devices that are, or can be used, or have been modified to: (a) ingest, inhale, or inject cannabis or controlled substances into the body; and/or (b) grow, process, store, or conceal cannabis or controlled substances. (Students who are under the influence of any prohibited substance are not permitted to attend school or school functions and are treated as though they had the prohibited substance, as applicable, in their possession).
E. Arson and or setting fires
F. Possession or use of weapon(s) or look alike
G. False fire alarm
H. Bomb threat
I. Theft (equal to or greater than $100.00)
J. Assault and battery of school personnel
K. Gang violence
L. Threats of violence against the student population or personnel, or threats to inflict damage to school property through the use of any type of weapon, incendiary (fire related) or explosive device
M. Possession and/or use of items or materials depicting and/or advocating violence, hate or destruction

NOTE: An accumulation of four referrals during one school year of Levels II, III and/or IV Acts of Misconduct may be sufficient cause for a referral to the Superintendent and or Board of Education.

DISCIPLINE FOR LEVEL IV ACTS OF MISCONDUCT

Disciplinary Procedures:

The principal verifies the offense, confers with the staff member(s) involved, and meets with the student. The student is immediately removed from his/her school routine. In drug related cases and/or other serious cases when appropriate, law enforcement officials may be called and the student(s) may be arrested. When it has been determined that a level IV act of misconduct has occurred, every reasonable effort will be made to contact the parent(s) or guardian as soon as possible. Representatives of the school district will advise the family in securing adequate counseling for the offenders who are to be retained in school following the serving of discipline. A complete and accurate report is submitted to the superintendent.

Disciplinary Options:

1. In-school suspension
2. Out-of-school suspension (maximum 10 days)
3. Alternative programs
4. Expulsion
5. Expulsion from the school bus
6. Referral to law enforcement

SEARCHES

To maintain order and security in the school, the building principal, his/her designee, and other appropriate school authorities may inspect and search lockers and other places and areas such as desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school, as well as personal effects left in those places and areas by students, without notice to or the consent of the student, and without a search warrant.

Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places and areas or in their personal effects left in these places and areas. School authorities may request the assistance of law enforcement officials for the purpose of conducting inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots and other school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

If a search conducted in accordance with this paragraph produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law, local ordinance, or the school's policies or rules, such evidence may be seized by school authorities and disciplinary action may be taken. School authorities may also turn over such evidence to law enforcement authorities.

SEARCHES OF THE PERSON

The building principal and his/her designee may search the pockets of outerwear clothing and any object in the possession of the student such as a purse, satchel, backpack, or briefcase, if circumstances exist which cause a reasonable person to believe that such a search will lead to the discovery of one or more of the prohibited items named above. The building principal or his/her designee shall not require a student to remove any article of clothing and shall not "pat down" the body of any student, except under circumstances which create a probable cause that the student has hidden or concealed in student's clothing, on the student's body, or in any object possessed by the student, any of the prohibited items named above

NOTICE OF SEARCH

The student's parent shall be notified if any search leads to the discovery of any prohibited items. The notice to the parent shall be made by letter through the U.S. mail or by personal delivery.

COOPERATION WITH POLICE AND PROSECUTORS

Representatives of the school district will in good faith and with due diligence report to and cooperate with the police or other persons responsible for investigating and prosecuting persons suspected of violating criminal law.

CUSTODY OF PROHIBITED ITEMS WHEN DISCOVERED

Representatives of the School District will turn over to appropriate law enforcement officials any of the above named prohibited items when discovered on or in the possession of the student, when such turnover is requested by the law enforcement officials. Except when turned over to appropriate law enforcement officials, any prohibited item named above, when discovered, shall remain in the possession of the School District in sealed envelopes or similar sealed packages until such items are no longer needed for any disciplinary or legal proceedings.

PROCEDURES IN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

To ensure that the student receives fair treatment consistent with the fundamental requirements of due process, the procedures in disciplinary actions are as follows:

I. OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION/BUS SUSPENSION

A. The student must be told what he/she is accused of and what the basis of the accusation is. A student must be given the opportunity to present information on his/her own behalf prior to suspension. The student may be suspended effective immediately after the opportunity given to the student to present information.

B. The suspension shall be reported immediately to the parents or guardians of each suspended student, the Board of Education through the Superintendent of Schools and the building principal. The notice of suspension to the parents shall be made by letter served by the U.S. Mail or by personal delivery. A copy of the notice will be sufficient notification to all others.

C. The out-of-school suspension or bus suspension shall not exceed a period of 10 consecutive school days. Students who are suspended from school are Required to complete any assignments or tests administered while the student is serving an out-of-school suspension. Students will receive applicable credit for work that is completed. Homework must be turned in on the day of reinstatement. Students are required to take missed tests on the day of reinstatement. (It is the responsibility of the student to make arrangements with his/her instructors to get make-up work to earn credit.) The out-of-school suspension shall also suspend the student from all school sponsored extracurricular activities, including athletics, commencing immediately and ending at midnight on the last school day of the out-of-school suspension, except a suspended student may be present on school property with advance permission of the building principal and if accompanied by his/her parent or guardian.

D. The suspension notice to parents or guardians shall give a full statement of the reasons for the suspension, including the acts of the student which constitute gross disobedience or misconduct, and notice to the parents or guardians of their right to review. The procedure for review, if requested, will be as follows:

1. A review of the suspension will be made by the following persons in the order named:
    a. The principal of the building in which the student is enrolled
    b. The superintendent of schools for the school district
    c. The Board of Education
2. After the parent has reviewed the suspension with the building principal and the superintendent, the parent or guardian is entitled to request a hearing on the suspension before the Board of Education. A request for hearing before the Board of Education shall be made by the parent or guardian within 15 days after the receipt of the written notice of suspension. The hearing before the Board of Education shall be within 45 days from the date the suspension was ordered. The parent or guardian, the student, and any representative of the parent or guardian or student, may appear before the Board of Education and may present evidence to the Board of Education. At the conclusion of the hearing, the Board of Education may take such action as it finds appropriate. Any hearings before the Board of Education shall be held in executive session for the protection of the student involved.

3. The action taken as found appropriate by the Board of Education shall be final and subject to judicial review only as permitted by law. The Dean of students, assistant principals, principals, and the superintendent of the school district are authorized to order suspension of students. After suspension, a student may be reinstated by their building principal, superintendent, or the Board of Education. Reinstatement after suspension may be ordered at any level of review. If a suspension is set aside and the student reinstated, the student will be entitled to make up all school work and otherwise placed in good standing as if the suspension had never been ordered.

II. EXPULSION

A. Expulsion is an out-of-school suspension of a student for a period of time in excess of 10 consecutive school days, not to exceed two school years. A student can be expelled only upon a finding by the Board of Education that a student is guilty of gross disobedience or misconduct.

B. Expulsion will take place only after the parents or guardians have been notified by personal service or by registered or certified mail to appear at a meeting of the Board of Education or with a hearing officer appointed by it, to discuss their child's behavior. The notice shall state the time, date, place, and purpose of the meeting, and generally describe the acts of the student allegedly constituting gross disobedience or misconduct.

C. At the meeting of the Board of Education or with the hearing officer appointed by it, the student and the parents or guardian shall be entitled as follows:
   1. To personally appear.
   2. To have a legal representative present.
   3. To have a reasonable opportunity to confront or cross-examine persons making statements alleging that any acts of the student constitute gross disobedience or misconduct.
   4. To present evidence or statements for and on behalf of the student in defense or mitigation of any allegations that acts of the student constitute gross disobedience or misconduct.
   5. To have a fair and reasonable hearing.

D. If a hearing officer is appointed by the Board, the hearing officer shall report to the Board of Education a written summary of the evidence heard. At the conclusion of the meeting or hearing, the Board of Education or the hearing officer appointed by it shall state the reasons for dismissal and the date on which the expulsion is to become effective. The Board of Education may take such actions as it finds appropriate.

E. A pupil may be readmitted to school after expulsion only by official action of the Board of Education. Reinstatement should occur only after a parental conference involving appropriate school personnel.

F. The action of the Board of Education to expel a student, if found appropriate by the Board, shall be final, and subject to judicial review only as permitted by law.

III. PROCEDURES IN OTHER DISCIPLINARY OPTIONS

A. Except as set forth with respect to out-of-school suspensions, bus suspensions, and expulsion, the parent or guardian shall be entitled to the following rights of review (in order named) for all other disciplinary options, including those relating to Attendance Policies:
   1. Examination of the school records for the student.
   2. Copy of any written report related to the disciplinary matter in question.
   3. Conference with the person who ordered the disciplinary action.
   4. Preparation and placement in the temporary records of the student, a written response of the parent or guardian, not to exceed one typewritten page.
   5. Conference with the principal of the building in which the student is enrolled.
   6. Conference with Superintendent of Schools

B. After the parent or guardian has exhausted the remedies set forth above, the parent or guardian may pursue any other remedy provided by law.

6.40 PREVENTION OF AND RESPONSE TO BULLYING, INTIMIDATION, AND HARASSMENT

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important district and school goals.

Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, national origin, military status, unfavorable discharge status from the military service, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender-related identity or expression, ancestry, age, religion, physical or mental disability, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, order of protection status, status of being homeless, actual or potential marital or parental status, pregnancy, parenting status, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is prohibited in each of the following situations:

1. During any school-sponsored education program or activity.

2. While in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities.

3. Through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.

4. Through the transmission of information from a computer that is accessed at a non-school-related location, activity, function, or program or from the use of technology or an electronic device that is not owned, leased, or used by the school district or school if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

Bullying includes cyber-bullying and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property;

2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health;

3. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Cyberbullying means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. Cyberbullying includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying. Cyberbullying also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the building principal, nondiscrimination coordinator, district complaint manager or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. All school staff members are available for help with a bully or to make a report about bullying. Anyone, including

staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the district complaint manager or any staff member. Anonymous reports are also accepted by phone call or in writing.

Nondiscrimination Coordinator:
Chelsea McGlothlin
cmcglothlin@pretzelpride.com

Complaint Managers:
Chelsea McGlothlin
cmcglothlin@pretzelpride.com

A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the school's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as bullying for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.

Students and parents/guardians are also encouraged to read the following school district policies - *7:20, Harassment of Students Prohibited and 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment.[1]*

Consistent with federal and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights, the school shall make diligent efforts to notify a parent or guardian within 24-hours after the school's administration is made aware of a student's involvement in an alleged bullying incident. The term "bullying incident" includes individual instances of bullying, as well as all threats, suggestions, or instances of self-harm determined to be a result of bullying. Notification to a parent or guardian shall include, as appropriate, the availability of social work services, counseling, school psychological services, other interventions, and restorative measures.

6.40 E1 Exhibit - Aggressive Behavior Reporting Letter and Form

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Please be advised that your child engaged in behavior that, if repeated, could escalate into aggressive behavior, such as bullying. Illinois law requires school districts to notify the parent or guardian of a child who demonstrated behaviors that put him or her at risk for aggressive behavior.

The School Board policy on student behavior prohibits a student while at school or a school-related activity from: (1) engaging in any kind of bullying or aggressive behavior that causes physical or psychological harm to someone else, and/or (2) urging other students to engage in such conduct.

This early notification is intended to help all of us work together to avoid repetition of the behavior.

Student_____ Incident date_____

Incident location_____ Incident time_____

Reported by_____ Reporting date_____

Description of the behavior: (*Reporters, be specific. Describe what happened, what harm resulted, the child's explanation, and any known or suspected causes for what happened.*)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Follow-up conference: I or someone from my office will telephone you to schedule an in-person meeting or telephone conference to discuss what occurred and ways to help your child, (1) be aware of how others were affected by the behavior, and (2) to understand boundaries and manage conflict.

The following consequence(s) or intervention(s) is/are recommended:

Counseling or other support services for your child.
Providing opportunities for all individuals involved in an incident to reach a resolution.
Enabling your child to make amends for the harm caused.
Suggesting your child receive non-District affiliated services.
The District is committed to helping those involved learn from this experience.

6.60 FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are a privilege for students. Students must abide by all school policies during transportation and during field-trip activities, and shall treat all field trip locations as though they are school grounds. Failure to abide by school rules and/or location rules during a field trip may subject the student to discipline.

Teachers will provide parent notice of field trips that the grade level will be attending in advance, including any walking field trips. Parents grant permission for field trips when completing online registration. Students may be prohibited from attending field trips for any of the following reasons:

- Failure to receive appropriate permission from parent/guardian or teacher:
- Failure to complete appropriate coursework;
- Behavioral or safety concerns;
- Denial of permission from administration;
- Other reasons as determined by the school.

School policy is that all students ride school transportation to and from the location(s) of the trip. An exception may be made for an emergency as deemed by the staff member in charge.

CHAPERONE GUIDELINES FOR FIELD TRIPS

Field trips are an extension of classroom learning. They offer experiences which enhance the learning of our students. Providing a safe environment for our students is an added responsibility for teachers and for chaperones. Chaperones for

field trips will be designated by classroom teachers based on supervision needs and available space. Field trip chaperones are selected by the teacher and will be asked to supervise a small group of children for safety and behavior, under the direction of the classroom teacher. Chaperones may be asked to pay any individual fees related to the field trip. **Chaperones will need to drive themselves to and from a field trip destination, unless there is a safety concern**. Parents are not allowed to transport children to and/or from a field trip.

All volunteers are required by law to have a basic background check prior to volunteering directly with students. Teachers will explain rules and guidelines to chaperones prior to the field trip. Chaperones may not bring their other children on the field trip so they are able to focus on the students in the classroom to provide a safe environment.
Cross-references: PRESS 6:240, Field Trips, PRESS 6:240-AP, Field Trip Guidelines

WALKING FIELD TRIPS

Students are to be supervised by school personnel to and from the location(s) of the field trip. All students will need to be picked up from the school after the walking field trip. Students will need to be signed out in the elementary office.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

Copies of all School District policies on student behavior are available online through the School District's website or in the school office. Additionally, see the appendix of this Handbook for the entire CUSD #16 Board of Education policy 7:190 on Student Behavior.

6.70 ACCESS TO STUDENT SOCIAL NETWORKING PASSWORDS & WEBSITES

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.
Cross Reference: PRESS 7:140-E, Letter to Parents/Guardians Regarding the Right to Privacy in the School Setting

6.80 STUDENT USE OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES

The use of electronic devices and other technology at school is a privilege, not a right. Students are prohibited from using electronic devices, except as provided herein. An electronic device includes, but is not limited to, the following: cell phone, smart phone, audio or video recording device, personal digital assistant (PDA), ipod©, ipad©, laptop computer, tablet computer or other similar electronic device. Cell phones, smartwatches and other electronic devices are not allowed during the school day, except with the express permission of the building principal.

During the school day, time electronic devices must be kept powered-off and stored in a backpack: (a) permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member; (b) use of the device is provided in a student's individualized education program (IEP); or (c) it is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Cell phones or other personal electronic devices may be used by the owner on the bus. Earbuds or headphones should be used. If the item creates a disturbance or becomes a behavior issue, the privilege may be revoked.

Electronic devices may never be used in any manner that disrupts the educational environment, violates student conduct rules or violates the rights of others. This includes, but is not limited to, the following: (1) using the device to take photographs in locker rooms or bathrooms; (2) cheating; and (3) creating, sending, sharing, viewing, receiving, or possessing an indecent visual depiction or non-consensual dissemination of private sexual images (i.e., sexting).

If a cell phone or other electronic device is confiscated for improper use, a parent or guardian will need to make arrangements to come to school to pick up the item. The item will not be sent home with a sibling, friend, or other individual besides the parent or guardian. Improper use may include, but is not limited to, showing or sharing

content that is sexually explicit, violent, or profane, or creating a disturbance with the electronic device.

The school and school district are not responsible for the loss, theft or damage to any electronic device brought to school.

Students in violation of this procedure are subject to the following consequences:

1. First offense – The device will be confiscated by school personnel. A verbal warning will be assigned. The student will receive the device back at the end of the day in the school office.
2. Second offense – The device will be confiscated. A detention will be assigned. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office.
3. Third offense – The device will be confiscated. A detention will be assigned. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office. Additionally, the student will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the next 10 school days. If the student is found in possession of the device during this 10-day period, the student will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the remainder of the school year. The student will also face consequences for insubordination.
4. Fourth and subsequent offense – The device will be confiscated. The student will be assigned a detention and will be prohibited from bringing the device to school for the remainder of the school year. The student's parent/guardian will be notified and required to pick up the device in the school office. The student will also face consequences for insubordination.

School officials may conduct an investigation or require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates a school disciplinary rule or policy. In the course of an investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order to allow school officials to make a factual determination.

Cross-references: PRESS 7:190-AP5, Student Handbook, Electronic Devices

CHAPTER 7: INTERNET, TECHNOLOGY & PUBLICATIONS

7.10 INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE

All use of the District's *electronic networks* shall be consistent with the District's goal of promoting educational excellence by facilitating resource sharing, innovation, and communication. These procedures do not attempt to state all required or prohibited behavior by users. However, some specific examples are provided. The failure of any user to follow these procedures will result in the loss of privileges, disciplinary action, and/or legal action.

Cross Reference: PRESS 7:310, Restrictions on Publications.

Terms and Conditions

The term *electronic networks* includes all of the District's technology resources, including, but not limited to:

1. The District's local-area and wide-area networks, including wireless networks (Wi-Fi), District-provided Wi-Fi hotspots, and any District servers or other networking infrastructure;
2. Access to the Internet or other online resources via the District's networking infrastructure or to any District-issued online account from any computer or device, regardless of location;
3. District-owned and District-issued computers, laptops, tablets, phones, or similar devices.

Acceptable Use - Access to the District's electronic networks must be: (a) for the purpose of education or research, and be consistent with the District's educational objectives, or (b) for legitimate business use.

Privileges - Use of the District's electronic networks is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in a cancellation of those privileges, disciplinary action, and/or appropriate legal action. The system administrator or Building Principal will make all decisions regarding whether or not a user has violated these procedures and may deny, revoke, or suspend access at any time. His or her decision is final.

Unacceptable Use - The user is responsible for his or her actions and activities involving the electronic networks. Some examples of unacceptable uses are:

a. Using the electronic networks for any illegal activity, including violation of copyright or other intellectual property rights or contracts, or transmitting any material in violation of any State or federal law;

b. Using the electronic networks to engage in conduct prohibited by board policy;
c. Unauthorized downloading of software or other files, regardless of whether it is copyrighted or scanned for malware;
d. Unauthorized use of personal removable media devices (such as flash or thumb drives);
e. Downloading of copyrighted material for other than personal use;
f. Using the electronic networks for private financial or commercial gain;
g. Wastefully using resources, such as file space;
h. Hacking or attempting to hack or gain unauthorized access to files, accounts, resources, or entities by any means;
i. Invading the privacy of individuals, including the unauthorized disclosure, dissemination, and use of information about anyone that is of a personal nature, such as a photograph or video;
j. Using another user's account or password;
k. Disclosing any network or account password (including your own) to any other person, unless requested by the system administrator;
l. Posting or sending material authored or created by another without his/her consent;
m. Posting or sending anonymous messages;
n. Creating or forwarding chain letters, spam, or other unsolicited messages;
o. Using the electronic networks for commercial or private advertising;
p. Accessing, sending, posting, publishing, or displaying any abusive, obscene, profane, sexual, threatening, harassing, illegal, or knowingly false material;
q. Misrepresenting the user's identity or the identity of others; and
r. Using the electronic networks while access privileges are suspended or revoked.

Network Etiquette - The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Be polite. Do not become abusive in messages to others.
b. Use appropriate language. Do not swear, or use vulgarities or any other inappropriate language.
c. Do not reveal personal information, including the addresses or telephone numbers, of students or colleagues.
d. Recognize that the District's electronic networks are not private. People who operate District technology have access to all email and other data. Messages or other evidence relating to or in support of illegal activities may be reported to the authorities.
e. Do not use the networks in any way that would disrupt its use by other users.
f. Consider all communications and information accessible via the electronic networks to be private property.

No Warranties - The District makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The District will not be responsible for any damages the user suffers. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, missed-deliveries, or service interruptions caused by its negligence or the user's errors or omissions. Use of any information obtained via the Internet is at the user's own risk. The District specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

Indemnification - By using the District's electronic networks, the user agrees to indemnify the District for any losses, costs, or damages, including reasonable attorney fees, incurred by the District relating to, or arising out of, any violation of these procedures.

Security - Network security is a high priority. If the user can identify or suspect(s) a security problem on the network, the user must promptly notify the system administrator or Building Principal. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Keep user account(s) and password(s) confidential. Do not use another individual's account without written permission from that individual. Attempts to log-on to the network as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk may be denied access to the networks.

Vandalism - Vandalism will result in cancellation of privileges and other disciplinary action. Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy data of another user, the Internet, or any other network. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of malware, such as viruses and spyware.

Telephone Charges - The District assumes no responsibility for any unauthorized charges or fees, including telephone charges, texting or data use charges, long-distance charges, per-minute surcharges, and/or equipment or line costs.

Copyright Web Publishing Rules - Copyright law and District policy prohibit the re-publishing of text or graphics found on the Internet or on District websites or file servers/cloud storage without explicit written permission.

a. For each re-publication (on a website or file server) of a graphic or a text file that was produced externally, there must be a notice at the bottom of the page crediting the original producer and noting how and when permission was granted. If possible, the notice should also include the web address of the original source.
b. Students engaged in producing web pages must provide library media specialists with email or hard copy permissions before the web pages are published. Printed evidence of the status of *public domain* documents must be provided.
c. The absence of a copyright notice may not be interpreted as permission to copy the materials. Only the copyright owner may provide the permission. The manager of the website displaying the material may not be considered a source of permission.
d. The *fair use* rules governing student reports in classrooms are less stringent and permit limited use of graphics and text.
e. Student work may only be published if there is written permission from both the parent/guardian and student.

Use of Email - The District's email system, and its constituent software, hardware, and data files, are owned and controlled by the District. The District provides email to aid students in fulfilling their duties and responsibilities, and as an education tool.

a. The District reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of any account on its system, without prior notice or permission from the account's user. Unauthorized access by any student to an email account is strictly prohibited.
b. Each person should use the same degree of care in drafting an email message as would be put into a written memorandum or document. Nothing should be transmitted in an email message that would be inappropriate in a letter or memorandum.
c. Electronic messages transmitted via the District's Internet gateway carry with them an identification of the user's Internet *domain*. This domain is a registered name and identifies the author as being with the District. Great care should be taken, therefore, in the composition of such messages and how such messages might reflect on the name and reputation of the District. Users will be held personally responsible for the content of any and all email messages transmitted to external recipients.
d. Any message received from an unknown sender via the Internet, such as spam or potential phishing emails, should either be immediately deleted or forwarded to the system administrator. Downloading any file attached to any Internet-based message is prohibited unless the user is certain of that message's authenticity and the nature of the file so transmitted.
e. Use of the District's email system constitutes consent to these regulations.***Cross Reference:PRESS 6:235, Access to Electronic Networks***

<u>Internet Safety</u>

Internet access is limited to only those *acceptable uses* as detailed in these procedures. Internet safety is supported if users will not engage in *unacceptable uses*, as detailed in these procedures, and otherwise follow these procedures.

Staff members will supervise students while students are using District Internet access to ensure that the students abide by the *Terms and Conditions* for Internet access contained in these procedures.

Each District computer with Internet access has a filtering device that blocks entry to visual depictions that are: (1) obscene, (2) pornographic, or (3) harmful or inappropriate for students, as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act and as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

The system administrator and Building Principals shall monitor student Internet access.

Annual Notice to Parents about Educational Technology

Vendors Under the Student Online Personal Protection Act

School districts throughout the State of Illinois contract with different educational technology vendors for beneficial K-12 purposes such as providing personalized learning and innovative educational technologies, and increasing efficiency in school operations.

Under Illinois' Student Online Personal Protection Act, or SOPPA (105 ILCS 85/), educational technology vendors and other entities that operate Internet websites, online services, online applications, or mobile applications that are designed, marketed, and primarily used for K-12 school purposes are referred to in SOPPA as *operators*. SOPPA is intended to ensure that student data collected by operators is protected, and it requires those vendors, as well as school districts and the Illinois State Board of Education, to take a number of actions to protect online student data.

Depending upon the particular educational technology being used, our District may need to collect different types of student data, which is then shared with educational technology vendors through their online sites, services, and/or applications. Under SOPPA, educational technology vendors are prohibited from selling or renting a student's information or from engaging in targeted advertising using a student's information. Such vendors may only disclose student data for K-12 school purposes and other limited purposes permitted under the law.

In general terms, the types of student data that may be collected and shared include personally identifiable information (PII) about students or information that can be linked to PII about students, such as:

- Basic identifying information, including student or parent/guardian name and student or parent/guardian contact information,
- Username/password, student ID number
- Demographic information
- Enrollment information
- Assessment data, grades, and transcripts
- Attendance and class schedule
- Academic/extracurricular activities

Cross Reference: PRESS 7:345-AP, E2, Student Data Privacy; Notice to Parents About Educational Technology Vendors

7.50 Use of Artificial Intelligence

"Artificial intelligence" or "AI" is intelligence demonstrated by computers, as opposed to human intelligence. "Intelligence" encompasses the ability to learn, reason, generalize, and infer meaning. Examples of AI technology include ChatGPT and other chatbots and large language models.

AI is not a substitute for schoolwork that requires original thought. Students may not claim AI generated content as their own work. The use of AI to take tests, complete assignments, create multimedia projects, write papers, or complete schoolwork without permission of a teacher or administrator is strictly prohibited. The use of AI for these purposes constitutes cheating or plagiarism.

In certain situations, AI may be used as a learning tool or a study aid. Students who wish to use AI for legitimate educational purposes must have permission from a teacher or an administrator. Students may use AI as authorized in their Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Students may not use AI, including AI image or voice generator technology, to violate school rules or school district policies.

In order to ensure academic integrity, tests, assignments, projects, papers, and other schoolwork may be checked by AI content detectors and/or plagiarism recognition software.

CHAPTER 8: SEARCH & SEIZURE

8.10 SEARCH AND SEIZURE

In order to maintain order safety and security in the schools, school authorities are authorized to conduct reasonable searches of school property and equipment, as well as of students and their personal effects. "School authorities" includes school liaison police officers.

Cross-reference: PRESS 7:140, Search and Seizure

SCHOOL PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT AS WELL AS PERSONAL EFFECTS LEFT THERE BY STUDENTS

School authorities may inspect and search school property and equipment owned or controlled by the school (such as lockers, desks, and parking lots), as well as personal effects left there by a student, without notice to or consent of the student. Students have no reasonable expectation of privacy in these places or areas or in their personal effects left there.

The building principal may request the assistance of law enforcement officials to conduct inspections and searches of lockers, desks, parking lots, and other school property and equipment for illegal drugs, weapons, or other illegal or dangerous substances or materials, including searches conducted through the use of specially trained dogs.

Students - School authorities may search a student and/or the student's personal effects in the student's possession (such as purses, wallets, knapsacks, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc.) when there is a reasonable ground for suspecting that the search will produce evidence the particular student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's student rules and policies. The search will be conducted in a manner that is reasonably related to its objective of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the student's age and sex, and the nature of the infraction.

School officials may require a student to cooperate in an investigation if there is specific information about activity on the student's account on a social networking website that violates the school's disciplinary rules or school district policy. In the course of the investigation, the student may be required to share the content that is reported in order for the school to make a factual determination.

Seizure of Property - If a search produces evidence that the student has violated or is violating either the law or the school or district's policies or rules, evidence may be seized and impounded by school authorities, and disciplinary action may be taken. When appropriate, evidence may be transferred to law enforcement authorities.

CHAPTER 9: SPECIAL EDUCATION

9.10 EDUCATION OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

It is the intent of the district to ensure that students who are disabled within the definition of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are identified, evaluated and provided with appropriate educational services.

The School provides a free appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment and necessary related services to all children with disabilities enrolled in the school. The term "children with disabilities" means children between ages 3 and the end of the school year the student turns 22 years old for whom it is determined that special education services are needed. It is the intent of the school to ensure that students with disabilities are identified, evaluated, and provided with appropriate educational services.

A copy of the publication “Explanation of Procedural Safeguards Available to Parents of Students with Disabilities” may be obtained from the school district office. To meet these requirements, CUSD #16 in cooperation with the Sangamon Area Special Education District (SASED), provides special education programs and services to all eligible children. Programs and services are designed to meet the needs of students who have disabilities, which adversely affect their success in a preschool or regular classroom setting. Once a student has progressed through all 3 Tiers of interventions with RtI, a referral may be made by parents, teachers, or other concerned individuals. After a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation, a committee of educational personnel determines the child's eligibility for programs and services.

When a child is eligible for special education, an Individual Education Program (IEP) is written which sets goals and recommends services specific to the child's unique needs. Parent/guardian consent is required prior to the evaluation and for special education placement. Parent participation is encouraged at every step. Special education referral forms may be obtained from your building principal. Also available upon request are the complete "Explanation of Procedural safeguards to Parents of Children with Disabilities" and ISBE Regulations governing special education. ***PRESS 7:340-AP1, School Student Records***

The following is a brief description of special education programs and services:

- Supportive Resource Services (SRS)-limited instruction for less than 50% of the school day
- Supportive Resource Classroom (SRC)-intensive instruction for more than 50% of the school day.
- Early Childhood Program (ECE)-for children ages 3-5 years
- Structured Classroom – Self-contained special education classroom for children needs best served in a smaller sized class/setting.
- Hearing Handicapped Program-Resource and consultative services
- Speech/Language Program

Additional services provided through Sangamon Area Special Education District include: Child Find Services, School Social Work Services, School Psychological Services, Psychiatric Diagnostic Services, Vocational Education Services, Physical and Occupational Therapy, Orientation and Mobility Training, and Audiologist Services.

A student who is eligible for special education may be excused from physical education courses in either of the following situations:

1. He or she (a) is in grades 3-12, (b) his or her IEP requires that special education support and services be provided during physical education time, and (c) the parent/guardian agrees or the IEP team makes the determination; or 2. He or she (a) has an IEP, (b) is participating in an adaptive athletic program outside of the school setting, and (c) the parent/guardian documents the student’s participation as required by the Superintendent or designee.

A student requiring adapted physical education will receive that service in accordance with the student’s Individualized Education Program.

Students with disabilities who do not qualify for an individualized education program, as required by the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and implementing provisions of this Illinois law, may qualify for services under Section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 if the student (i) has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, (ii) has a record of a physical or mental impairment, or (iii) is regarded as having a physical or mental impairment. For further information, please contact the building Principal. ***PRESS 6:120, Education of Children with Disabilities PRESS 6:120-AP1,E1 – Exhibit – Notice to Parents/Guardians Regarding Section 504 Rights***

9.20 DISCIPLINE OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Behavioral Interventions - Behavioral interventions shall be used with students with disabilities to promote and strengthen desirable behaviors and reduce identified inappropriate behaviors. The School Board will establish and maintain a committee to develop, implement, and monitor procedures on the use of behavioral interventions for children with disabilities.

Discipline of Special Education Students - The District shall comply with the Individuals With Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and the Illinois State Board of Education’s *Special Education* rules when disciplining special

education students. No special education student shall be expelled if the student's particular act of gross disobedience or misconduct is a manifestation of his or her disability.

Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical Restraint - Isolated time out, time out, and physical restraint shall only be used if the student's behavior presents an imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others, and other less restrictive and intrusive measures were tried and proven ineffective in stopping it. The School may not use isolated time out, time out, or physical restraint as discipline or punishment, convenience for staff, retaliation, as a substitute for appropriate educational or behavioral support, a routine safety matter, or to prevent property damage in the absence of imminent danger of serious physical harm to the student or others. The use of prone restraint is prohibited. ***Cross Reference:PRESS 7:190-AP4, Administrative Procedure- Use of Isolated Time Out, Time Out, and Physical RestraintPRESS 7:230, Misconduct by Students with Disabilities***

ACCOMMODATING INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Individuals with disabilities will be provided an opportunity to participate in all school-sponsored services, programs, or activities. Individuals with disabilities should notify the superintendent or building principal if they have a disability that will require special assistance or services and, if so, what services are required. This notification should occur as far in advance as possible of the school-sponsored function, program, or meeting.

9.50 REQUEST TO ACCESS CLASSROOM

The parent/guardian of a student receiving special education services, or being evaluated for eligibility, is afforded reasonable access to educational facilities, personnel, classrooms, and buildings. This same right of access is afforded to an independent educational evaluator or a qualified professional retained by or on behalf of a parent or child.

For further information, please contact the school principal.

Related Service Logs - For a child with an individualized education program (IEP), the school district must create related service logs that record the type of related services administered under the child's IEP and the minutes of each type of related service that has been administered. The school will provide a child's parent/guardian a copy of the related service log at the annual review of the child's IEP and at any other time upon request. ***Cross Reference: PRESS 6:120, Education of Children with Disabilities, PRESS 6:120-AP2,E1 – Exhibit – Request to Access Classroom(s) or Personnel for Special Education Evaluation/Observation Purposes***

CHAPTER 10: STUDENT RECORDS & PRIVACY

10.10 STUDENT PRIVACY PROTECTIONS

Surveys - All surveys requesting personal information from students, as well as any other instrument used to collect personal information from students, must advance or relate to the District's educational objectives, or assist students' career choices. This applies to all surveys, regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified or who created the survey.

Surveys by Third Parties - Before a school official or staff member administers or distributes a survey or evaluation created by a third party to a student, the student's parent/guardian may inspect the survey or evaluation, upon their request and within a reasonable time of their request. This applies to every survey: (1) that is created by a person or entity other than a district official, staff member, or student, (2) regardless of whether the student answering the questions can be identified, and (3) regardless of the subject matter of the questions.

Parents who object to disclosure of information concerning their child to a third party may do so in writing to the Building Principal.

Surveys Requesting Personal Information - School officials and staff members will not request, nor disclose, the identity of any student who completes any survey or evaluation (created by any person or entity, including the school or district) containing one or more of the following items:

1. Political affiliations or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
2. Mental or psychological problems of the student or the student's family.
3. Behavior or attitudes about sex.
4. Illegal, anti-social, self-incriminating, or demeaning behavior.
5. Critical appraisals of other individuals with whom students have close family relationships.
6. Legally recognized privileged or analogous relationships, such as those with lawyers, physicians, and ministers.
7. Religious practices, affiliations, or beliefs of the student or the student's parent/guardian.
8. Income other than that required by law to determine eligibility for participation in a program or for receiving financial assistance under such a program.

The student's parent/guardian may: (1) inspect the survey or evaluation upon, and within a reasonable time of, their request, and/or (2) refuse to allow their child to participate in the survey. The school will not penalize any student whose parent/guardian exercised this option.

Instructional Material - A student's parent/guardian may inspect, upon their request, any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum within a reasonable time of their request.

The term "instructional material" means instructional content that is provided to a student, regardless of its format, printed or representational materials, audio-visual materials, and materials in electronic or digital formats (such as materials accessible through the Internet). The term does not include academic tests or academic assessments.

Prohibition on Selling or Marketing Students' Personal Information - No school official or staff member may market or sell personal information concerning students (or otherwise provide that information to others for that purpose). The term *personal information* means individually identifiable information including: (1) a student or parent's first and last name, (2) a home or other physical address (including street name and the name of the city or town), (3) a telephone number, (4) a Social Security identification number or (5) driver's license number or State identification card.

Unless otherwise prohibited by law, the above paragraph does not apply: (1) if the student's parent/guardian have consented; or (2) to the collection, disclosure or, use of personal information collected from students for the exclusive purpose of developing, evaluating or providing educational products or services for, or to, students or educational institutions, such as the following:

1. College or other postsecondary education recruitment, or military recruitment.
2. Book clubs, magazines, and programs providing access to low-cost literary products.
3. Curriculum and instructional materials used by elementary schools and secondary schools.
4. Tests and assessments to provide cognitive, evaluative, diagnostic, clinical, aptitude, or achievement information about students (or to generate other statistically useful data for the purpose of securing such tests and assessments) and the subsequent analysis and public release of the aggregate data from such tests and assessments.
5. The sale by students of products or services to raise funds for school-related or education-related activities.
6. Student recognition programs.

Under no circumstances may a school official or staff member provide a student's personal information to a business organization or financial institution that issues credit or debit cards

A parent/guardian who desires to opt their child out of participation in activities provided herein or who desires a copy or access to a survey or any other material described herein may contact the Building Principal.

A complete copy of the District's Student and Family Privacy Rights policy may be obtained from the Superintendent's office or accessed on the District's website. ***Cross-References: PRESS 7:15, Student and Family Privacy Rights, PRESS 7:15-E, Notification to Parents of Family Privacy Rights***

10.10 STUDENT RECORDS

A school student record is any writing or other recorded information concerning a student and by which a student may be identified individually that is maintained by a school or at its direction or by a school employee, regardless of how or where the information is stored, except for certain records kept in a staff member's sole possession; records maintained by law enforcement officers working in the school; video and other electronic recordings (including electronic recordings made on school busses) that are created in part for law enforcement, security, or safety reasons or purposes, though such electronic recordings may become a student record if the content is used for disciplinary or special education purposes regarding a particular student. ***PRESS 7:340-AP1, School Student Records***

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Illinois Student Records Act afford parents/guardians and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's school records. They are:

1. **The right to inspect and copy the student's education records within 10 business days of the day the District receives a request for access.**

The degree of access a student has to his or her records depends on the student's age. Students less than 18 years of age have the right to inspect and copy only their permanent record. Students 18 years of age or older have access and copy rights to both permanent and temporary records. A parent/guardian or student should submit to the building principal a written request that identifies the record(s) he or she wishes to inspect. Within 10 business days, the building principal will make arrangements for access and notify the parent/guardian or student of the time and place where the records may be inspected. In certain circumstances, the District may request an additional 5 business days in which to grant access. The District charges $.35 per page for copying but no one will be denied their right to copies of their records for inability to pay this cost. These rights are denied to any person against whom an order of protection has been entered concerning the student.

2. **The right to have one or more scores received on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript.**

Parents/guardians or eligible students may have one or more scores on college entrance examinations included on the student's academic transcript. The District will include scores on college entrance examinations upon the written request of the parent/guardian or eligible student stating the name of each college entrance examination that is the subject of the request and the dates of the scores that are to be included.

3. **The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent/ guardian or eligible student beliefs are inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper.**

A parent/guardian or eligible student may ask the District to amend a record that is believed to be inaccurate, irrelevant, or improper. Requests should be sent to the building principal and should clearly identify the record the parent/guardian or eligible student wants changed and the specific reason a change is being sought.If the District decides not to amend the record, the District will notify the parent/guardian or eligible student of the decision and advise him or her of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent/guardian or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.

4. **The right to permit disclosure of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that the FERPA or Illinois School Student Records Act authorizes disclosure without consent.**

Disclosure without consent is permitted to school officials with legitimate educational or administrative interests. A school official is a person employed by the District as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board. A school official may also include a volunteer, contractor, or consultant who, while not employed by the school, performs an institutional service or function for which the school would otherwise use its own employees and who is under the direct control of the school with respect to the use and maintenance of personally identifiable information from education records (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, therapist, or educational technology vendor); or any parent/guardian or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility or contractual obligation with the district.Upon request, the District discloses education records without consent to officials of another school district in which a student has enrolled or intends to enroll, as well as to any person as specifically required by State or federal law. Before

information is released to these individuals, the parents/guardians or eligible student will receive prior written notice of the nature and substance of the information, and an opportunity to inspect, copy, and challenge such records. Academic grades and references to expulsions or out-of-school suspensions cannot be challenged at the time a student's records are being forwarded to another school to which the student is transferring. Disclosure is also permitted without consent to: any person for research, statistical reporting or planning, provided that no student or parent/guardian can be identified; to another school district that overlaps attendance boundaries with the District, if the District has entered into an intergovernmental agreement that allows for sharing of student records and information with the other district, any person named in a court order; appropriate persons if the knowledge of such information is necessary to protect the health or safety of the student or other persons; and juvenile authorities when necessary for the discharge of their official duties who request information before adjudication of the student.

5. The right to a copy of any school student record proposed to be destroyed or deleted.
The permanent record is maintained for at least 60 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. The temporary record is maintained for at least 5 years after the student transfers, graduates, or permanently withdraws. Temporary records that may be of assistance to a student with a disability who graduates or permanently withdraws, may, after 5 years, be transferred to the parent/guardian or to the student, if the student has succeeded to the rights of the parent/guardian. Student temporary records are reviewed every 4 years or upon a student's change in attendance centers, whichever occurs first.

6. The right to prohibit the release of directory information.
Throughout the school year, the District may release directory information regarding students, limited to:• Name
• Address
• Grade level
• Birth date and place
• Parent/guardian names, addresses, electronic mail addresses, and telephone numbers
• Photographs, videos, or digital images used for informational or news-related purposes (whether by a media outlet or by the school) of a student participating in school or school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics that have appeared in school publications, such as yearbooks, newspapers, or sporting or fine arts programs
• Academic awards, degrees, and honors
• Information in relation to school-sponsored activities, organizations, and athletics
• Major field of study
• Period of attendance in schoolAny parent/guardian or eligible student may prohibit the release of any or all of the above information by delivering a written objection to the building principal within 30 days of the date of this notice.

7. The right to request that military recruiters or institutions of higher learning not be granted access to your student's information without your prior written consent.

Federal law requires a secondary school to grant military recruiters and institutions of higher learning, upon their request, access to secondary school students' names, addresses, and telephone numbers, unless the student's parent/guardian, or student who is 18 years of age or older, submits a written request that the information not be released without the prior written consent of the parent/guardian or eligible student. If you wish to exercise this option, notify the building principal.

8. The right contained in this statement: No person may condition the granting or withholding of any right, privilege or benefits or make as a condition of employment, credit, or insurance the securing by any individual of any information from a student's temporary record which such individual may obtain through the exercise of any right secured under State law.

9. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with the requirements of FERPA.

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:U.S. Department of Education
Student Privacy Policy Office
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20202-8520

The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA is:
Family Policy Compliance Office

U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington DC 20202-4605
Cross-reference: PRESS 7:340, Student Records

10.30-E1 STUDENT BIOMETRIC INFORMATION

Before collecting biometric information from students, the school must seek the permission of the student's parent/guardian or the student, if over the age of 18. Biometric information means information that is collected from students based on their unique characters, such as a fingerprint, voice recognition or retinal scan. ***Cross-reference: PRESS 7:340, Student Records***

CHAPTER 11: PARENTAL RIGHT NOTIFICATIONS

11.10 TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS

Parents/guardians may request information about the qualifications of their student's teachers and paraprofessionals, including:

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

TESTING TRANSPARENCY

The State and District requires students to take certain standardized tests. A parent/guardian may request, and the District will provide in a timely manner, information regarding student participation in any assessments mandated by law or District policy, which shall include information on any applicable right you may have to opt your student out of such assessment.

ANNUAL REPORT CARD

Each year, the District is required to disseminate an annual report card that includes information on the District as a whole and each school served by the District, with aggregate and disaggregated information for each required subgroup of students including: student achievement on academic assessments (designated by category), graduation rates, district performance, teacher qualifications, and certain other information required by federal law. When available, this information will be placed on the District's website.

UNSAFE SCHOOL CHOICE OPTION

The unsafe school choice option provided in State law permits students to transfer to another school within the District in certain situations. This transfer option is unavailable in this District because the District has only one school or attendance center. A student, who would otherwise have qualified for the choice option, or the student's parent/guardian, may request special accommodations from the building principal. ***PRESS 4:170, Safety***

CLASSROOM ASSIGNMENTS

Each spring classroom teachers and the principal will begin compiling information for class lists for the following school year. Parent requests for teachers will not be accepted. Parents of multiples (twins, triplets, etc.) may request that the siblings are in the same class. However, as with all classroom assignments, the final decision will be made by administration. New class lists will be posted in August approximately one week prior to the first day of student attendance. The student enrollment form must be completed and returned and residency must be verified before a child will be placed on a class list.

Placement - Students new to the district will be placed by the former public school's permanent records or by staff testing.

11.20 STANDARDIZED TESTING

Students and parents/guardians should be aware that students in grades K-5 will take standardized tests throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to cooperate in preparing students for the standardized testing, because the quality of the education the school can provide is partially dependent upon the school's ability to continue to prove its success in the state's standardized tests. Parents can assist their students achieve their best performance by doing the following:

1. Encourage students to work hard and study throughout the year;
2. Ensure students get a good night's sleep the night before exams;
3. Ensure students eat well the morning of the exam, particularly ensuring they eat sufficient protein;
4. Remind and emphasize for students the importance of good performance on standardized testing;
5. Ensure students are on time and prepared for tests, with appropriate materials;
6. Teach students the importance of honesty and ethics during the performance of these and other tests;
7. Encourage students to relax on testing day.

Cross-Reference: PRESS 6:340, Student Testing and Assessment Programs

TESTING

A variety of testing is done at New Berlin Elementary School. Chapter and Unit tests are administered regularly in each academic subject. Benchmark screenings will be administered to kindergarten through 5th grade at least 3 times per year in the areas of reading/language arts and math. Third, fourth, and fifth grade students will take the state assessment, Illinois Assessment of Readiness (IAR), in the spring. The IAR will consist of one testing window each spring. Tests are given in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and mathematics at all of these grade levels. In addition, 5th grade students take the Illinois Science Assessment (ISA). All state testing will be completed electronically via a computer. The results will show how well our schools and districts are doing in meeting the Illinois Learning Standards. Individual student results of the IAR assessment will be reported to parents, and school results will appear on the district report card.

CURRICULUM & PROGRAMS

In addition to the core curriculum of Reading/Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies, NBE offers the following programs:

Art - Students in K-5 will have class each week. The focus is for them to learn and apply the elements and principles of art, the tools and processes used in creating art, and the history of art.

Band - Band instruction begins in 5th grade. Students may participate in at least one group lesson and a full band practice weekly. The bands may perform publicly.

English Language Learners (ELL) – When a student is identified on the Home Language Survey as having a primary language other than English spoken in the home, he/she will be screened for the appropriate ELL services. The school offers opportunities for resident English Learners to achieve at high levels in academic subjects and to meet the same challenging State standards that all children are expected to meet. Parents/guardians of English Learners will be informed how they can: (1) be involved in the education of their children; (2) be active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students; and (3) participate and serve on the District's Transitional Bilingual Education Programs Parent Advisory Committee.
For questions related to this program or to express input in the school's English Learners program, contact Administration.
PRESS 6:160, English Learners

Library - Students in K – 5 have 30 minutes weekly with the library aide. Students receive instruction to support literacy and have the opportunity to check out books to enjoy at home.

Music - Students in K – 5 have general music each week.

PE - Students in 1st – 5th grade have 30 minutes of PE every day. Kindergarten students have 30 minutes of supervised gross-motor play time every day.

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) - The process of providing interventions to students who are at risk for academic and social-emotional/behavioral problems is called MTSS. The MTSS process or the RTI process is a multi-step approach to providing services and interventions to students who struggle with learning and behavior in the school setting at increasing levels of intensity. All students are given a reading fluency and comprehension screening, and a math screening in the fall, winter and spring. In addition, students are screened for risk-factors related to social-emotional behaviors. All students who do not meet the set expectations on the screenings, who are below standards on the benchmark assessments, or who are referred by their classroom teacher are given further testing to determine if they are in need of interventions. If interventions are needed, students will receive these interventions during the regular school day, and parents will be informed of the interventions being provided. Interventions may be computer-based or in person with their classroom teacher, a Reading Specialist/Interventionists, or paraprofessional that is trained. The progress made by students at each stage of intervention is closely monitored. The information gained from an MTSS process is used by school personnel and parents to adapt instruction and to make decisions regarding the student's educational program.

Enrichment - Enrichment is provided daily through differentiated instruction in the classroom. Additionally, students are provided with varied and enriching lessons through Art and Music.

Social/Emotional Learning - All students will participate in a core curriculum to address the Illinois Learning Standards for Social & Emotional Learning. A research-based curriculum will be implemented with the leadership of the school social worker. Lessons will be delivered in a collaborative manner with both the classroom teacher and the social worker providing follow up and ongoing support for the learning. All students will take part in a survey three times a year to evaluate social emotional progress. Parents will be notified when this survey is happening in the classrooms.

Title I Schoolwide Program - A schoolwide program is a comprehensive reform strategy designed to upgrade the entire educational program in a Title I, Part A school. Its primary goal is to ensure that all students, particularly those who are low achieving, demonstrate proficient and advanced levels of achievement relative to the state's academic achievement standards. All children in the schoolwide building may participate in activities funded, consistent with the school's comprehensive schoolwide program plan, and the school does not need to demonstrate that those activities are supplemental to ones that would otherwise be provided by the school. NBE's Title 1 Schoolwide Plan is approved by the Board of Education and on file in the elementary office.

Per the Title 1 application, all students will be served in the areas of Reading and Language Arts, Math, and Social Emotional Learning standards. Students identified through a data-based screening process in these areas will be eligible for additional instruction and support with the Reading, Math, and/or Behavior specialists through classroom push-in instruction, as well as pull-out, focused small group and/or individual instruction with the appropriate specialist(s).

The school will work to ensure that the required school level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118 of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA. Please refer to Board Policy 6:170 on Title 1 Programs for more information. The Title 1 teacher or the Principal can provide a copy on-request.

AWARDS

Students will be recognized for their accomplishments throughout the school year. Those awards might include, but are not limited to:

- Attendance

- Spelling Bee-the top two spellers from each grade level (4-5) who attends the Sangamon County Spelling Bee
- Young Authors, Book It
- Salty Dough Awards Program
- IPA Student Recognition Award/Breakfast - 5th Grade
- Honor Roll
- Academic Recognition
- Pretzel Summer Reading Challenge
- Behavior Incentives
- Awards given at Individual Teacher Discretion

OTHER REWARDS/ACTIVITIES

Students have many opportunities throughout the school year to make a difference at NBE and be rewarded. At the end of Red Ribbon Week there are school wide activities promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle. Students will also be rewarded for good behavior throughout the year with other incentives such as quarterly PBIS Celebrations and classroom-based good-behavior celebrations.

11.30 HOMELESS CHILD'S RIGHT TO EDUCATION

When a child loses permanent housing and becomes a homeless person as defined by law, or when a homeless child changes his or her temporary living arrangements, the parent or guardian of the homeless child has the option of either:

1. Continuing the child's education in the school of origin for as long as the child remains homeless or, if the child becomes permanently housed, until the end of the academic year during which the housing is acquired; or
2. Enrolling the child in any school that non-homeless students who live in the attendance area in which the child or youth is actually living are eligible to attend.

Assistance and support for homeless families can be provided by the District Homeless Liaison, Amy King. She can be reached at 488-6012 ext. 1130 or aking@pretzelpride.com

Cross-References: PRESS 6:140, Education of Homeless Children, PRESS 6:140-AP, Education of Homeless Children

11.40 COMPLAINTS ABOUT CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, AND PROGRAMS, REQUEST TO EXAMINE MATERIALS, AND STATUTORY OPT-OUTS

Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs

Parents/guardians have the right to inspect any instructional material used as part of their child's educational curriculum.

A parent/guardian may request that his/her child be exempt from using a particular instructional material or program by completing a Curriculum Objection Form.

Request to Examine Family Life and National Sex Ed Standards Materials

A sample of the District's instructional materials and course outline for family life instructional materials are available from the classroom teacher for parent/guardian inspection.

The scope and sequence of instructional materials for the National Sex Ed Standards (NSES) is posted on the District's Internet website, along with the name and contact information, including an email address, of staff members who can respond to your inquiries.[2]

You may request to examine the above instructional materials by completing the "Request to Examine Materials and Statutory Opt-Outs" form.

Parent or Guardian Opt-Outs

No student is required to take or participate in the following classes or courses, and no disciplinary or academic penalty exists for refusing to take or participate in such a course or program.

- Family life (emotional, psychological, physiological, hygienic and social responsibilities, including evidence-based and medically accurate information regarding sexual abstinence).
- AIDS, including in grades 6 through 12, its prevention, transmission and spread.
- Comprehensive Personal Health and Safety and Sexual Health Education Program NSES Standards, including sexual abuse and sexual violence education.
- Donations and transplants of organs/tissue and blood organ/tissue transplantation, in grades 9 and/or 10.
- CPR, including training on how to properly administer CPR in accordance with standards of the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, or another nationally recognized certifying organization.
- How to use an AED.
- In grades pre-K through 8, instruction for recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse in accordance with *Erin's Law.*[3]

If you do not want your child to participate in these classes or courses, please complete the "Request to Examine Materials and Statutory Opt-Outs" form.

Cross References:PRESS 6:60-AP1, Comprehensive Health Education ProgramPRESS 6:60-AP1, E1, Notice to Parents/Guardians of Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness and Prevention Education; Requests to Examine Materials; Written Objection(s) and/or Opt-outs

[1]Schools are not required to notify parents/guardians of their rights as explained herein. Modify this procedure to align with the school and district's curriculum and grade levels and your school district's policy manual.

[2]Delete if NSES content is not offered by the school.

[3]Schools are required to provide parents/guardians with at least five days' notice before instruction is provided.

SEX EDUCATION INSTRUCTION

Students will not be required to take or participate in any class or course in comprehensive sex education if his or her parent or guardian submits a written objection. The parent or guardian's decision will not be the reason for any student discipline, including suspension or expulsion. Nothing in this section prohibits instruction in sanitation, hygiene or traditional courses in biology. Parents or guardians may examine the instructional materials to be used in any district sex education class or course.

Sexual Abuse Avoidance Education - We partner with the Sangamon County Child Advocacy Center to provide instruction in recognizing and avoiding sexual abuse. Written notice will be given to parents prior to the instruction, along with an optional Letter of No Consent.

Awareness and Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Grooming Behaviors, and Boundary Violations - Child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, and boundary violations harm students, their parent/guardian, the District's environment, its school communities, and the community at large, while diminishing a student's ability to learn.

Warning Signs of Child Sexual Abuse - Warning signs of child sexual abuse include the following:

Physical signs:

- Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or other genital infections
- Signs of trauma to the genital area, such as unexplained bleeding, bruising, or blood on the sheets, underwear, or other clothing
- Unusual weight gain or loss

Behavioral signs:

- Excessive talk about or knowledge of sexual topics
- Keeping secrets
- Not talking as much as usual

- Not wanting to be left alone with certain people or being afraid to be away from primary caregivers
- Regressive behaviors or resuming behaviors that the child had grown out of, such as thumb sucking or bedwetting
- Overly compliant behavior
- Sexual behavior that is inappropriate for the child's age
- Spending an unusual amount of time alone
- Trying to avoid removing clothing to change or bathe

Emotional signs:

- Change in eating habits or unhealthy eating patterns, like loss of appetite or excessive eating
- Signs of depression, such as persistent sadness, lack of energy, changes in sleep or appetite, withdrawing from normal activities, or feeling "down"
- Change in mood or personality, such as increased aggression
- Decrease in confidence or self-image
- Anxiety, excessive worry, or fearfulness
- Increase in unexplained health problems such as stomach aches and headaches
- Loss or decrease in interest in school, activities, and friends
- Nightmares or fear of being alone at night
- Self-harming behaviors or expressing thoughts of suicide or suicidal behavior
- Failing grades
- Drug or alcohol use

Warning Signs of Grooming Behaviors - School and District employees are expected to maintain professional and appropriate relationships with students based upon students' ages, grade levels, and developmental levels.
Prohibited grooming is defined as (i) any act, including but not limited to, any verbal, nonverbal, written, or electronic communication or physical activity, (ii) by an employee with direct contact with a student, (iii) that is directed toward or with a student to establish a romantic or sexual relationship with the student. Examples of grooming behaviors include, but are not limited to, the following behaviors:

- Sexual or romantic invitations to a student
- Dating or soliciting a date from a student
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog with a student
- Making sexually suggestive comments that are directed toward or with a student
- Self-disclosure or physical exposure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Sexual, indecent, romantic, or erotic contact with a student
- Failing to respect boundaries or listening when a student says "no"
- Engaging in touching that a student or student's parents/guardians have indicated is unwanted
- Trying to be a student's friend rather than filling an adult role in the student's life
- Failing to maintain age-appropriate relationships with students
- Talking with students about personal problems or relationships
- Spending time alone with a student outside of their role in the student's life or making up excuses to be alone with a student
- Expressing unusual interest in a student's sexual development, such as commenting on sexual characteristics or sexualizing normal behaviors
- Giving a student gifts without occasion or reason
- Spending a lot of time with a student
- Restricting a student's access to other adults

Warning Signs of Boundary Violations - School and District employees breach employee-student boundaries when they misuse their position of power over a student in a way that compromises the student's health, safety, or general welfare. Examples of boundary violations include:

- Favoring a certain student by inviting the student to "hang out" or by granting special privileges
- Engaging in peer-like behavior with a student
- Discussing personal issues with a student
- Meeting with a student off-campus without parent/guardian knowledge and/or permission
- Dating, requesting, or participating in a private meeting with a student (in person or virtually) outside of a professional role
- Transporting a student in a school or private vehicle without administrative authorization
- Giving gifts, money, or treats to an individual student
- Sending a student on personal errands
- Intervening in a serious student problem instead of referring the student to an appropriately trained professional
- Sexual or romantic invitations toward or from a student
- Taking and using photos/videos of students for non-educational purposes
- Initiating or extending contact with a student beyond the school day in a one-on-one or non-group setting
- Inviting a student to an employee's home
- Adding a student on personal social networking sites as contacts when unrelated to a legitimate educational purpose
- Privately messaging a student
- Maintaining intense eye contact with a student
- Making comments about a student's physical attributes, including excessively flattering comments
- Engaging in sexualized or romantic dialog
- Making sexually suggestive comments directed toward or with a student
- Disclosing confidential information
- Self-disclosure of a sexual, romantic, or erotic nature
- Full frontal hugs
- Invading personal space

If you believe you are a victim of child sexual abuse, grooming behaviors, or boundary violations, or you believe that your child is a victim, you should immediately contact the Building Principal, a school counselor, or another trusted adult employee of the School.
Additional Resources include:
National Sexual Assault Hotline at 800.656.HOPE (4673)
National Sexual Abuse Chatline at online.rainn.org
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Hotline at 1.800.25.ABUSE (2873)

11.110 SEXUAL OFFENDER NOTIFICATION LAW

State law requires that all school districts provide parents/guardians with information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth. State law prohibits a convicted child sex offender from being present on school property when children under the age of 18 are present, except for in the following circumstances as they relate to the individual's child(ren):

- To attend a conference at the school with school personnel to discuss the progress of their child.
- To participate in a conference in which evaluation and placement decisions may be made with respect to their child's special education services.
- To attend conferences to discuss issues concerning their child such as retention or promotion.

In all other cases, convicted child sex offenders are prohibited from being present on school property unless they obtain written permission from the superintendent or school board. Anytime that a convicted child sex offender is present on school property – including the three reasons above - he/she is responsible for notifying the principal's office upon arrival on school property and upon departure from school property. It is the responsibility of the convicted child sex offender to remain under the direct supervision of a school official at all times he/she is in the presence or vicinity of children. A

violation of this law is a Class 4 felony. ***PRESS 4:170, Safety Cross Reference: PRESS 4:175-AP1,E1. Informing Parents/Guardians About Offender Community Notification Laws***

11.120 SEX OFFENDER AND VIOLENT OFFENDER COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION LAW

State law requires that all school district provide parents/guardians with information about sex offenders and violent offenders against youth.

You may find the Illinois Sex Offender Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/.
Sexual Abuse Response and Prevention Resourse Guide
https://www.isbe.net/Documents/Faiths-Law-Resource-Guide.pdf
You may find the Illinois Statewide Child Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry on the Illinois State Police's website at: http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/.
Illinois Murderer and Violent Offender Against Youth Registry,
www.isp.state.il.us/cmvo/
Frequently Asked Questions Concerning Sex Offenders,
www.isp.state.il.us/sor/faq.cfm
PRESS 4:170, Safety Cross Reference: PRESS 4:175-AP1,E1. Informing Parents/Guardians About Offender Community Notification Laws

11.70 SCHOOL VISITATION RIGHTS

The School Visitation Rights Act permits employed parents/guardians, who are unable to meet with educators because of a work conflict, the right to time off from work under certain conditions to attend necessary school functions such as parent-teacher conferences, academic meetings and behavioral meetings. Letters verifying participation in this program are available from the school office upon request.

Guidelines for Student Distribution of Non-School-Sponsored Publications

A student or group of students seeking to distribute more than 10 copies of the same material on one or more days to students must comply with the following guidelines:

1. The student(s) must notify the Building Principal of the intent to distribute, in writing, at least 24 hours before distributing the material. No prior approval of the material is required.
2. The material may be distributed at times and locations selected by the Building Principal, e.g., before the beginning or ending of classes at a central location inside the building.
3. The Building Principal may impose additional requirements whenever necessary to prevent disruption, congestion, or the perception that the material is school-endorsed.
4. Distribution must be done in an orderly and peaceful manner, and may not be coercive.
5. The distribution must be conducted in a manner that does not cause additional work for school personnel. Students who distribute material are responsible for cleaning up any materials left on school grounds.
6. Students must not distribute material that:
    a. Will cause a material and substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
    b. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to, material that is libelous, slanderous or obscene, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
    c. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to the students' maturity level, including but not limited to, material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or sexting as defined by School Board policy and Student Handbook;
    d. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use;
    e. Is distributed in kindergarten through eighth grade and is primarily prepared by non-students, unless it is being used for school purposes. However, material from outside sources or the citation to such sources may be allowed, as long as the material to be distributed or accessed is primarily prepared by students; or
    f. Incites students to violate any Board policy.

7. A student may use the School District's Uniform Grievance Procedure to resolve a complaint.
8. Whenever these guidelines require written notification, the appropriate administrator may assist the student in preparing such notification.

A student or group of students seeking to distribute 10 or fewer copies of the same publication on one or more days to students must distribute such material at times and places and in a manner that will not cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities and in compliance with paragraphs 4, 5, 6, and 7.

11.80 PESTICIDE APPLICATION NOTICE

The New Berlin School District has developed an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program for controlling insects, rodents and weeds throughout the school district. The IPM focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. It may be necessary to use chemicals from time to time to control a pest problem.

Individuals may request prior notification of individual pesticide applications on school district property. Anyone who has requested to receive this notification will be notified through the district's automated calling system, at least two business days before a pesticide is applied for structural pests and four business days before a pesticide is applied to control lawn pests. If a chemical application must be made to control an emergency pest problem, notice will be provided as soon as possible after the application. Exemptions to this notification include cleaners and pesticides formulated as bait. **If you wish to be notified of pesticide applications, contact the District Office at (217)488-2040, ext. 397.** *PRESS 4:160-AP, Environmental Quality of Buildings and Grounds*

ASBESTOS POLICY

This notice is to inform building occupants of the potential hazard and locations of asbestos containing materials. It has been determined by the Illinois Department of Public Health and the United States EPA that asbestos is a potential health hazard, and precautions should be taken to avoid disturbing any asbestos containing materials.

Materials containing asbestos have been found in New Berlin Jr/Sr High School. Any evidence of disturbance or change in condition will be documented in the management Plan as required by law.

Cleaning and maintenance personnel who recognize the danger of asbestos are taking special precautions during work to properly guard against disturbance of the asbestos containing materials. All asbestos containing materials are inspected and evaluated periodically and additional measures will be taken when needed to protect the health of building occupants.

Reliable Environmental Solutions, Inc.
4211 Westgate Dr.
Springfield, IL. 62711

This handbook was compiled by the Principal & Assistant Principal of New Berlin Elementary School with the guidance of the IPA Model Student Handbook. Teachers and parents were invited to give input. The handbook is only a summary of board policies governing the district; School Board policies are available to the public at the district office. The last revision was completed in November 2026. It may be revised at any time during the school year.