



Board of Education

ACTION

TITLE: Consider Adopting Student Related Policy Changes
(Section 4 – Students)

DATE: July 21, 2025

RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATOR: Dr. Michael Farrell
Executive Director of Student Services

BACKGROUND/CONSIDERATIONS:

The administration desires to update the section Four (4): Students - of Fort Smith Public Schools Board Policies to reflect modifications of model policies provided by the Arkansas School Board Association (ASBA).

On May 30, 2025, the [Student Policy Review Committee](#) met to review and discuss the following recommendations made by the Arkansas School Board Association. Members of this review committee voted to bring these proposals as written to the Fort Smith School Board. Mr. Marshall Ney has subsequently reviewed and approved these recommendations from ASBA and the district's Student Policy Review Committee.

Clean and redline versions are being provided to enable the Board to see the specific changes that are being proposed. If approved, revisions to Policy 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.5F, 4.5F5, 4.7, 4.11, 4.17, 4.18, 4.20, 4.27, 4.35, 4.37, 4.43, 4.47, 4.48, 4.52, 4.56, 4.56.2, 4.56.3, 4.60, 4.64, and 4.65 will become effectively immediately.

4.2—ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS - The policy was updated to incorporate the changes regarding transferring military family dependents from Acts 501 and 728.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.3—COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS - The policy was updated to include a specific reference to the G.E.D. from Act 918.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.4—STUDENT TRANSFERS - The policy was updated to account for changes from Act 118.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.5—SCHOOL CHOICE - The policy was updated to account for changes from Acts 563, 732, and 913. Move school choice deadline from May 1 to June 1 (except Uniform Service Members – no date).

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.5F—SCHOOL CHOICE STAFFING CAPACITY RESOLUTION - The policy was updated to account for changes from Acts 563, 732, and 913. The School Choice Staffing Capacity Resolution will be submitted to the Board annually in the December Board Meeting.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.5F5—SCHOOL CHOICE REJECTION LETTER - The letter was updated to note the change in what determines a lack of capacity from Acts 732 and 913.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.7—ABSENCES - The policy was updated to incorporate the changes from Acts 340/341 and surrounding excused absences for children of fallen service members and fallen first responders from Act 794.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.11—EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY - The policy was updated to include the requirement to include a Title VI coordinator to prevent antisemitism from Act 721; and to recognize the court orders requiring that all districts use the 2020 sexual harassment regulations instead of the 2024 regulations.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.17—STUDENT DISCIPLINE - The policy was updated to incorporate the changes from positive behavioral support systems to multi-tiered behavioral intervention procedures from Act 804.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.18—PROHIBITED CONDUCT - The policy was updated to account for the court orders requiring that districts use the 2020 sexual harassment regulations instead of the 2024 regulations. Antisemitism was added as a prohibited conduct in accordance with Act 721. In addition, the Legal References were updated.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.20—DISRUPTION OF SCHOOL - The policy was updated to include the requirements regarding the removal of students from class under Act 565.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.27—STUDENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT - This policy was updated to recognize the court orders requiring that all districts use the 2020 sexual harassment regulations instead of the 2024 regulations. We delayed

releasing an update to this policy to make sure it did not require any additional changes from the legislative session. Due to the large number of changes that would be required to transition back to the previous version of the policy.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.35—STUDENT MEDICATIONS - The policy was updated to account for nasal spray epinephrine in addition to auto-injectable from Act 245.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.37—EMERGENCY DRILLS - A note was added to incorporate the requirement that updates to the emergency response plan must include a cardiac emergency response plan in accordance with Act 352.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.43—BULLYING - The policy was updated to incorporate changes from Act 805.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.47— POSSESSION AND USE OF ~~CELL PHONES AND OTHER PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES~~ - The body of the policy were entirely rewritten to incorporate the changes regarding personal electronic devices from Act 122. Upon approval by the School Board a copy of this policy will be submitted to Division of Elementary and Secondary Education.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.48—VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AND OTHER STUDENT MONITORING - The policy was updated to put things in place for when the audio recording devices are installed as required by Act 908. A.C.A. § 6-21-122 requires audio recording devices be installed in each locker room and changing room located on the District's property by the 2027-2028 school year. When the district installs the required audio recording devices, "audio recording devices" will be added to the policy.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.52—STUDENTS WHO ARE FOSTER CHILDREN - The deadline for applications for the Foster Student School Choice was updated due to Act 563.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.56—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES – SECONDARY SCHOOLS - The policy was updated to account for the changes in participation requirements for transfer students from Act 475.

[Red Line](#)

[Clean Line](#)

4.56.2—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS - The policy was updated to account for the requirements on participation eligibility from Act 475.

[Red Line](#)
[Clean Line](#)

4.56.3—EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY FOR PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS - This is a new policy to account for the requirements on participation eligibility by private school students from Act 644.

[Red Line](#)
[Clean Line](#)

4.60—STUDENT BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION AND RESTRAINT - The policy was updated to incorporate the transition from positive behavioral supports to multi-tiered behavioral interventions from Act 804.

[Red Line](#)
[Clean Line](#)

4.64—STUDENT USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE - The Legal References were updated to include A.C.A. § 25-1-128 and the requirement for districts to adopt policies governing the use of AI from Act 848.

[Red Line](#)
[Clean Line](#)

4.65—ANTISEMITISM PROHIBITED - This is a new policy to meet the requirements from Act 721 that all districts adopt policies addressing antisemitism.

[Red Line](#)
[Clean Line](#)

RECOMMENDATION:

The administration recommends the Board approve the changes to Board Policy 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.5F, 4.5F5, 4.7, 4.11, 4.17, 4.18, 4.20, 4.27, 4.35, 4.37, 4.43, 4.47, 4.48, 4.52, 4.56, 4.56.2, 4.56.3, 4.60, 4.64, and 4.65 as presented to be effective upon board approval. If the Board agrees, the motion would read:

Move to approve Board Policies 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.5F, 4.5F5, 4.7, 4.11, 4.17, 4.18, 4.20, 4.27, 4.35, 4.37, 4.43, 4.47, 4.48, 4.52, 4.56, 4.56.2, 4.56.3, 4.60, 4.64, and 4.65 as presented to be effective on board approval.